



THE AMERICAN CONTENDER TOURNAMENT: 2023/2024 INFO

In its second year, **The American Contender Tournament** operates as rodeo athletes' pathway to **The American Rodeo** - the richest one-day payday in rodeo providing an opportunity to earn \$1 Million.

Any rodeo athlete that lands outside the top 5 PRCA/WPRA ranking at the end of 2023 has the opportunity to compete at **The American Rodeo** by entering and competing in one or more of the 90+ The American Contender Tournament Event Qualifiers and earning an automatic qualification or points toward the Regional Semi-Finals in January 2024.

The American Contender Tournament is made up of multiple qualifying rounds in each of the eight disciplines of rodeo: Barrel Racing, Team Roping, Breakaway Roping, Tie Down Roping, Steer Wrestling, Saddle Bronc Riding, Bareback Riding and Bull Riding and runs from April 2023 through February 2024.

Rodeo athletes will have the opportunity to earn a spot at **The American Rodeo** by going through a clearly defined, highly competitive tournament-style format:

Round 1: The American Contender Tournament Qualifying Events consists of three regions (West, Central and East) where grassroots producers host qualifying events for Barrel Racing, Breakaway Roping, Steer Wrestling and Tie Down Roping to narrow down the field of competitors. Contenders of all levels and ages have two different ways to earn advancement positions from The American Contender Tournament Qualifying Events to The American Contender Tournament Regional Semi-Finals:

- 1. Automatic Advancement** is based on an athlete's placing in a Contender Tournament Qualifier Event. The number of total athlete entries in each qualifying event determines the number of automatic advancement positions available for that particular event.
- 2. Earning Points** at a Contender Tournament Qualifier Event to count towards one of three regional standings is the second way to qualify for the next round. The American Contender Tournament regional standings will be kept separately for each of the three regions. Like automatic advancement, points are also determined by total athlete event entries for each qualifying event. Athletes placing outside the automatic advancement places window, will be awarded points.





Automatic advancement positions and points for Contender Tournament Regional Standings are awarded specific to the stated region of the Contender Tournament Qualifying Event. As many as 95 AA positions advance to each Regional Semi-Final, while a minimum of 10 positions will advance on points. Athletes can enter as many Contender Qualifying Events as they want. For more information, see the points chart in the Rulebook, available for download on americanrodeo.com.

Last year's Contender Qualifying Events had over 2,500 participants. The American Contender Tournament Qualifying Events are being added weekly and can be found on americanrodeo.com.

Round 2: The American Contender Tournament Regional Semi-Finals consist of three live-streamed events with all eight disciplines, one held in each region (West, Central and East). Each Semi-Final will feature up to 100 top athletes from Regional Contender Events who will join the 2023's PRCA/WPRA world standings* 6 through 20 seeded athletes (5 in each region) to compete for the opportunity to advance to the The American Contender Tournament Regional Finals. Further enhancing competitive opportunities for rodeo athletes, three lucrative American Contender Tournament Open Team Ropings will run concurrent with each of the American Contender Tournament Regional Semi-Finals events in January 2024. Barrel Racing, Breakaway, Steer Wrestling and Tie-Down do not have additional buy-in fees unless competitors opt to compete in the **Redemption Round****, a last chance qualifier after Regional Semi-Finals.

Round 3: The American Contender Tournament Regional Finals consist of three nationally televised events in each region with the top 10 athletes advancing from the Regional Semi-Finals plus two athletes who have earned a spot through the Redemption Round. The Regional Semi-Finals and Regional Finals will be held in the same venue on consecutive days. Guaranteed prize money this year totals to \$540,000. Last season, 27 winning athletes left Regional Finals with \$10,000 each before they even got to Globe Life Field for The American Contender Tournament Finals.

Round 4: The American Contender Tournament Final will be nationally broadcast and live-streamed. The event will bring the Top 5 athletes in each discipline from each Regional Finals together to compete. Five top finishing athletes will advance to compete at The American Rodeo. Winning athletes are guaranteed a share of the \$360,000 prize money.





Round 5: The American Rodeo. Ultimately all roads lead to the richest single day in rodeo, The American Rodeo, as the chase for the \$1 million bonus culminates. The nationally broadcast event will turn all eyes toward Arlington, Texas as the top Contender athletes go head-to-head with the top 5 in the world standings for a winner-take-all showdown. Only Contender athletes are eligible to win the \$1 million bonus. If more than one wins their discipline, the bonus will be divided amongst them.

**The automatically seeded positions are determined by the previous year's PRCA/WPRA year-end standings. Athletes ranked 6-20 will be seeded into the Regional Semi-Finals (Round 2) while the Top 5 advance directly to the The American Rodeo (Round 5).*

***Redemption Rounds will be held after each **Tournament Regional Semi-Finals** event. All competing athletes will have the opportunity to enter the Redemption Round. The Top 2 athletes will advance to the Tournament Regional Finals. Redemption Rounds are only held in Breakaway Roping, Tie-Down Roping, Steer Wrestling, Team Roping and Barrel Racing.*

2024 EVENT SCHEDULE: **All times subject to change*

The American Contender Tournament Events (formerly known as The American Qualifiers)
April 2023 through January 2024

The American Contender Tournament Regional Semi-Finals and Finals

West Region - January 11-13, Las Vegas, Nevada, South Point Hotel & Casino Event Center

Central Region - January 18-20, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, Jim Norick Arena

East Region - January 25-27, Lexington, Kentucky, Alltech Arena

The American Contender Tournament Finals

The American Western Weekend

The American Performance Horseman

The American Rodeo

TICKETS:

Tickets for The American 2024 will go on sale in Fall 2023.





FAST FACTS SUMMARY:

- Each Contender athlete is eligible for their discipline's \$100,000 prize money as well as the million-dollar bonus at The American Rodeo. *Only Contenders competing at The American can win the million.*
- The American payout earnings rival that of the Kentucky Derby and The American is the first rodeo in the world that gives the underdog the opportunity to win more money in just one day than they could accumulate in a lifetime of rodeo competition.
- The American Contender Tournament Qualifying Events are only for Breakaway Roping, Barrel Racing, Steer Wrestling and Tie Down Roping; in order to narrow down the field. Any Roughstock and Team Roping athletes will be eligible to enter the Regional Semi-Finals to compete for their ticket to The American.
- Teton Ridge has added guaranteed prize money to Regional Semi-Finals and Regional Finals upwards of \$540,000.
- Final Payouts from 2022-2023's The American Contender Tournament and The American Western Weekend:
 - o The American Contender Tournament Regional Semi-Finals + Finals - \$869,325
 - o The American Contender Tournament Finals - \$360,000
 - o The American Rodeo - \$2,287,000
 - o The American Performance Horseman - \$1,000,000
 - o The American Western Weekend Total - \$3,647,000

CONNECT:

For any questions regarding athlete-related or competition topics, please email competition@tetonridge.com or text/call Paul Crain, Athlete Relations Lead 940-765-4641.

For the latest schedule of events and updates on The American Rodeo, please visit americanrodeo.com or follow us [@TheAmerican.TR](https://www.instagram.com/TheAmerican.TR) on Instagram [@TheAmericanTR](https://www.facebook.com/TheAmericanTR) on Facebook, TikTok and Twitter.

For more information about Teton Ridge, please visit tetonridge.com or [@tetonridge](https://www.instagram.com/tetonridge) on Instagram [@tetonridgeusa](https://www.facebook.com/tetonridgeusa) on Facebook.

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