



INDIAN NATIONAL FINALS RODEO NEWS

Volume 1, Issue 1
May 14, 2010

180 Days Until The 2010 Indian National Finals Rodeo

INFR UPDATES

The Indian National Finals Rodeo celebrates its 35th year on November 9-13, 2010 in Las Vegas, NV at the South Point Casino Equestrian Event Center. The INFR Commissioners and headquarter personnel held their annual financial/operational planning and board meeting at the South Point Casino on April 19-22, 2010. The INFR Commission elected a new president. Richard Bowers. He will take the lead as outgoing president Stephen Fox steps down from the presidency. The topics covered by the INFR Commissioner as we approach the 35th year of INFR were the recognition of its long standing history, the implementation of a gold card at a national level and the planning for the next 5 year. The INFR Commissioners and INFR Headquarter Staff would like to thank Percy Hooper, a marketing consultant, who was kind enough to facilitate the meeting this past April 19-22.

The INFR is working on developing and planning a broadcasting component for both the INFR and 4 Tour Rodeos. We focused mostly on the feasibility of broadcasting. The INFR Commissioners and Headquarter staff are looking for an affordable broadcasting element to build the advertisement/sponsorship element and exposure of the Tour rodeos and Finals rodeo. The INFR also addressed issues of Tour Rodeo Judges, Stock Contracting at the INFR, Region issues, memberships, and the implementation of the Jr./Sr. events for this year. A meeting with South Point Equestrian Events Center management was held and plans for the November finals were discussed as both parties expressed the positive impact and growth of the INFR for 2010.

The INFR Commissioners would like to thank all its supporters for their continued support as the INFR moves into the 35th year of operation and look forward to seeing you all in November.

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RULE CHANGES IN THE 2010 RULEBOOK

- *One loop only in the timed events. One jump in the steer wrestling.
- *INFR judges at all tour rodeos. Prefer them at regional rodeos. The regions or tour committee is to collect \$4 per INFR judge used at the region rodeos.
- *Ground money is paid out.
- *Pay out changes.
- *Regions will acquire 5 % for region and tour rodeos.
- *We are bringing 32 contestants in each event to the INFR this year.
- *Unfilled regional qualification seats will be filled by the INFR Tour.
- *There are now timed event and riding event directors at the INFR.
- *The contract personnel: arena director, chute boss, arena usher, timed and riding event labor positions will be open for submission to all general members as of July 1, 2010.
- *Each region will be provided three access passes at the INFR.

INFR TOUR RODEO DATES

- Saddle Lake Stampede June 18-20, 2010
- Crow Native Days June 24-27, 2010
- Creek Nation Festival June 25-26, 2010
- Northern Cheyenne Pow-Wow and Rodeo July 1-3, 2010
 - North American Indian Days July 9-11, 2010
 - Samson Cree Celebration August 6-8, 2010
- Shoshone-Bannock Indian Festival August 13-15, 2010
 - Regional Finals Deadline September 26, 2010

Visit www.infr.org for more information including entry dates.

2009 INFR SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Ray Champ who is a full-time employee at Blackfeet Community College and also attending Montana State University-Billings online wants to attain his bachelor's degree in business management. Champ believes that education is a vital part of our society today especially for Native Americans. The business plans that he has for the future include becoming a full time announcer in the rodeo business.

Katelin Loring who has already earned her Bachelors Degree in Business Management at Arizona State University has enrolled in the Masters of Business Administration at University of Montana and plans to receive her Masters Degree in May of 2010. Loring would like to pursue a Ph. D upon the completion of her master's degree.

Jon Wells is a first year college student attending the Correctional Studies Program at the Lethbridge College. His educational goal is to complete the Correctional Studies Program with nothing less than a 3.0 GPA and receive a diploma in the spring of 2011. Upon graduation Wells plans on being employed as a probation officer for 3 years, where he would gain the experience and knowledge in the field.

Charles Pesicka is currently enrolled in Gillette College majoring in Welding. Pesicka chose welding as his major because he is a hands on person and he enjoys working outdoors and indoors and he really likes to weld. He also believes that welding is also a demanding job in this century and has been for many years. With a welding job, it can bring a person to good income and benefits.

Raynell Holgate is a fulltime student attending the University of Arizona. As a physiology student, she plans to use her degree to apply to medical school. Eventually, Holgate wants to receive her doctorate and become a certified physician. With a rich and beautiful culture, she believes that her people deserve the chance to equal services in health care and other aspects. Holgate wants to help make that difference.

Dan Connelly is currently enrolled as a full time student in his second semester at Blackfeet Community College in the Health and Physical Education Department. Upon successful completion of this program, Connelly will have earned an Associate of Applied Science degree where he plans on transferring to a four year institution to obtain a Bachelors degree in Sports Management.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: How much do the commissioners get paid?

A. The INFR has been a 501(c) 3 Non-Profit organization since 2007. 501(c) 3 organizations cannot be organized for the private gain of any person and cannot distribute "profits", gains or dividends to any person. Commissioners donate their time and service to the INFR.

Q. Can I enter rodeos in other regions if I buy a card and designate my local region?

A. Your INFR card allows you to enter ANY tour and region rodeo. You can also qualify for ANY region finals/championships if you attend 50% of their region rodeos. By designating a region, you are only designating which region you want the regional portion of your card fee to go.

Q. Are we required to use INFR certified judges at our region rodeos?

A. The INFR will provide INFR certified judges for all Tour rodeos. Region rodeos are encouraged to use INFR approved judges but are not required. If INFR approved judges are used at your region rodeo, your committee can collect a judging fee to offset the cost of the judges (see your rulebook). The reason for using "certified" judges is to benefit INFR contestants. INFR certified judges have completed a current INFR/PRCA judging seminar and have been approved to judge INFR rodeos by the PRCA head of officials. They also know the INFR rulebook and are held accountable to follow it. Cowboys and cowgirls deserve to have a fair chance every time they compete.



Stock Contractor Update

The INFR is proud to announce that the INFR Stock Contractor Association will once again be part of the 2010 INFR. Chancy Kittson, founder of the INFR Stock Contractor Association has been selected to be the 2010 INFR Livestock Superintendent. In 2009, Chancy proved that the plan he implemented for the first ever All-Indian rough stock at the INFR was a success.

Chancy is honored to be selected as the INFR Livestock Superintendent. He has many new ideas for this year's INFR. Chancy is eager to work with last year's and this year's new stock contractors to produce an even better INFR than last year. "Last year was outstanding, this year we want to be phenomenal!"

INFR Stock Contractor cards are available and the cost for this year's card is \$300.00 (US). Beginning May 5, Chancy will be in the INFR Office every Wednesday during office hours. He can also be reached on his cell phone 406-529-6243 or via email at chancy6@hotmail.com.

Important ground rule

Attention all barrel racers, at the 35th annual Indian National Finals Rodeo contestants will not be allowed to ride the same horse if you qualify in both the Junior Barrel Racing event and the Ladies Barrel Racing event. See rule B5.1.11.

REMINDER

Junior and Senior Card holders for those of you whose birth certificate we have not received, yet, please get them in ASAP.

Also for those of you going to Canada, you will need to get a passport or bring a tribal ID and a birth certificate.

JR/SR Update

This will be the first year in the history of the INFR that Jr and Sr events (Jr steer riding, Jr barrels, Jr breakaway roping, Sr team roping, Sr breakaway, Sr barrel racing maybe added if there is enough interest) will be an added attraction to the 2010 INFR. There will be \$5,000 added in each event with \$200 entry fees. There will be go-round buckles in each event, championship buckles and saddles will be awarded to the Champions.

The top three contestants from each region will qualify to the INFR. The Jr/Sr event will start off the 2010 finals on Tuesday, November 9th. Where there will be two go-rounds, with the top ten advancing to the final round on Saturday afternoon to determine the INFR champions.

The Jr/Sr board has held a couple conference call meetings to start getting some ground rules in place. Once they have them completed they will be posted on the website and in the newsletter.

With this being the first year for Jr/Sr events the board is working with the INFR and all rules and policies will be governed by the INFR rule book. We are sure that we have overlooked some things and ask the members for any comments they have to put them in writing and send to the INFR office or contact any of the Jr/Sr board of directors.

We hope everyone has a great 2010 rodeo season and we will see you at the 2010 INFR.

Ted Hoyt, Jr/Sr Board Member

Board Members Include: Robbie Whitehair, Shane Little Bear, Frank Lawrence, Paula Plenty, Boogie Jumper, Rawley Ben, and Ted Hoyt

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