



## **2025 General Rules & Regulations for Gold Buckle Futurities**

Gold Buckle Futurities reserves the right to modify or update these rules at any time. Participants will be notified of any changes as they occur.

# **Gold Buckle Futurities General Rules & Regulations**

## Table of Contents

### **General Rules & Regulations**

Entry Information  
Age of Horse Designation  
Schedules  
Rider or Horse Change Form  
Payment Information  
Rider Changes & Injury to Rider or Horse  
Back Number Rules  
Dress Code  
Judge-Contestant Communication

### **Breakaway Roping**

Scoring System  
Credits & Scoring  
Re-Runs  
Review Process  
Legal Catch & Barrier  
Box Rules  
Penalties  
Breakaway Futurity (4 & Under)  
Breakaway Maturity (6 & Under)  
Intermediate Breakaway  
Limited Breakaway & Sidepots

### **Tie Down Roping**

Scoring System  
Credits & Scoring  
Re-Runs  
Review Process  
Legal Catch & Barrier  
Box Rules  
Penalties  
Tie Down Futurity (4 & Under)  
Tie Down Futurity (6 & Under)  
Intermediate Tie Down  
Limited Tie Down & Sidepots

### **Heading – Team Roping**

Scoring System  
Credits & Scoring  
New Steer Rule  
Review Process  
Legal Head Catch & Two Loop Rule  
Penalties  
Heading Futurity (4 & Under)  
Heading Maturity (6 & Under)  
Intermediate Heading  
Limited Heading  
Non-Pro Heading (within Limited class)

### **Heeling – Team Roping**

Scoring System  
Credits & Scoring  
New Steer Rule  
Review Process  
Penalties  
Legal Head Catch & Two Loop Rule  
Heeling Futurity (4 & Under)  
Heeling Maturity (6 & Under)  
Intermediate Heeling  
Limited Heeling  
Non-Pro Heeling (within Limited class)

### **General Disclosures**

#### **Incentives**

Elite Stallion Incentive Sidepot  
Elite Breeders Incentive Sidepot

#### **Year-End Recognition**

Super Horse Award  
Top Rider Award  
Leading Elite Stallions Sire Award  
Top Elite Breeders Breeder Award



## **2025 General Rules & Regulations for Gold Buckle Futurities**

Gold Buckle Futurities reserves the right to modify or update these rules at any time. Participants will be notified of any changes as they occur.

### **ENTRY INFORMATION**



## **2025 General Rules & Regulations for Gold Buckle Futurities**

Gold Buckle Futurities reserves the right to modify or update these rules at any time. Participants will be notified of any changes as they occur.

### **Entry Requirements**

To complete your entry, you must submit the following:

- Entry Form
- Entry Fee
- Copy of Horse Registration Certificate (front & back)
- Completed W-9 Form

Entries may be submitted online or by mail. Late fees apply after the pre-entry deadline. Mailed entries will not be accepted after the postmark deadline.

Horses by any sire are eligible to compete.

All horses attending a Gold Buckle Futurities event must have a negative Coggins and a health certificate.

Horses withdrawn due to medical or performance-related issues must be accompanied by a veterinarian-signed letter stating the reason for withdrawal.

### **Age of Horse Designation**

Futurity Class: Any horse 3-4 years of age as of January 1<sup>st</sup> of the current year.

Maturity Class: Any horse 3-6 years of age as of January 1<sup>st</sup> of the current year.

Limited: There is no age restriction on the Limited horses being shown at GBF events.

Non Pro: There is no age restriction on the Non-Pro horses being shown at GBF events.

### **Schedules**

Gold Buckle Futurities will release tentative schedules in advance to provide contestants with an overview of the event timeline. Schedules are subject to change based on the number of entries.

The finalized schedule will be published at least 1.5 weeks before the event.

## **Rider or Horse Change Form**

If a rider or horse change is needed for an entry in a Gold Buckle Futurities event, a Rider or Horse Change Form must be completed and submitted to the Gold Buckle Futurities office.

There are no rider or horse changes allowed once Round 1 starts in any class. The rider that started Round 1 must continue to ride the horse he or she entered initially on throughout all rounds.

There are no rider or horse changes allowed once the draw has been published. Once the draw is published, no more rider changes or adding of subclasses is allowed.

Forms must be submitted in person at the GBF office or emailed to the official GBF contact listed in the event guidelines.

The form must be fully completed and signed by the original rider, the new rider, and the horse owner (if different).

The new rider must meet all eligibility requirements for the event and division in which they are competing.

The Rider or Horse Change Form is available on the Gold Buckle Futurities website.

## **Payment Information**

All prize money checks for Gold Buckle Futurities events will be issued in the rider's name. Gold Buckle Futurities, LLC is not responsible for any financial arrangements between the rider and the horse's owner.

Tax information must be submitted to the GBF office before any payments are issued.

Prize money will be paid no later than one (1) week after the conclusion of the event.

### **Bounced Check Policy – Gold Buckle Futurities**

1. Returned Checks – Any check that does not clear the bank will be subject to a \$40 NSF fee, payable to Gold Buckle Futurities (GBF).
2. Payment Resolution – The owner of the NSF check must provide a valid credit card to GBF to cover all outstanding fees.
3. Withheld Payouts – All prize money will be held until the payment issue is fully resolved.

## **Rider Changes and Injury to Rider or Horse**

### **Injury to a Rider During a Round**

- If a rider is injured during Round 1, 2, or 3 of any class and can no longer physically compete, a substitute rider may be allowed to compete on the same horse.
- The substituted rider will only be eligible to compete for round money and will not be eligible to advance to the short go.

### **Injury to a Horse During a Round**

- If a horse sustains an injury during a round and cannot continue to compete, that horse will be scratched from all remaining rounds in that class.
- No substitutions are allowed for an injured horse within a class already in progress.

### **Injury to a Horse Entered in Multiple Classes**

- If a horse is injured in one class and cannot compete in any other classes it was entered in, a substitution horse may be allowed—but only if the affected class has not yet been held.
- The rider and/or owner must notify the GBF show secretary immediately and declare the substitution horse before the class begins.

### **Fall of a Horse During a Run**

- If a helping head or heel horse falls completely to the ground during a run, GBF management has the option to grant a re-run.
- If an exhibiting head or heel horse falls completely to the ground during a run, GBF management and judges will review the situation to determine if a re-run will be granted, provided the fallen horse is able to continue competing.

## **Back Number Rules**

All horses must wear the correct assigned back number before entering the box. Failure to display the correct back number or competing on a horse with an incorrect back number will result in a score of zero. Riders are solely responsible for ensuring their horse is wearing the correct back number. GBF staff will not be responsible for verifying back numbers before competition.

## **Dress Code**

All contestants participating in Gold Buckle Futurities events must adhere to the following official dress code while in the arena, warm-up areas, or competition grounds:

- Attire: A long-sleeved, collared, button-down western shirt is mandatory. T-shirts, sleeveless shirts, and tank tops are not permitted.
- Headwear: A cowboy hat must be worn at all times during competition. Caps are not allowed.
- Footwear: Contestants are required to wear cowboy boots. Tennis shoes or other non-western footwear are not permitted.

Failure to comply with this dress code will result in disqualification from the event.

## **Judge-Contestant Communication Prohibition**

To ensure fairness and uphold the integrity of the competition, judges are strictly prohibited from communicating with contestants during the event or within seven (7) days prior to the start of the competition.

This restriction applies to:

- In-person conversations
- Phone calls
- Text messages
- Emails
- Social media interactions

Any violation of this policy may result in disciplinary action, including potential disqualification of the judge from officiating current or future events.

**Intermediate Breakaway – Within Open Class**

- Earnings of \$50,000 or less in Breakaway Roping Events from Previous Year (*According to EquiStat Reports pulled from ARHFA, GBF, Royal Crown, Texas Best, and Platinum Medal Futurities on 12/31 of the Previous Year.*)
- No NFBR Qualifications in past five (5) years.
- Not ranked within the Top 50 of the World Standings from Previous Year

**Limited Breakaway**

- Earnings of \$10,000 or less in Breakaway Roping Events from Previous Year (*According to EquiStat Reports pulled from ARHFA, GBF, Royal Crown, Texas Best, and Platinum Medal Futurities on 12/31 of the Previous Year.*)
- No NFBR Qualifications.
- No Current WPRA Card (*Permits Accepted*).

**Intermediate Tie Down – Within Open Class**

- Earnings of \$50,000 or less in Tie Down Roping Events from Previous Year (*According to EquiStat Reports pulled from ARHFA, GBF, Royal Crown, Texas Best, and Platinum Medal Futurities on 12/31 of the Previous Year.*)
- No NFR Qualifications in past five (5) years.
- Not ranked within the Top 50 of the World Standings from Previous Year

**Limited Tie Down**

- Earnings of \$10,000 or less in Tie Down Roping Events from Previous Year (*According to EquiStat Reports pulled from ARHFA, GBF, Royal Crown, Texas Best, and Platinum Medal Futurities on 12/31 of the Previous Year.*)
- No NFR Qualifications in the past twenty (20) years
- Must be rated 10 or higher according to Ultimate Calf Roping (UCR) System.
- No Current PRCA Card. (*Permits Accepted*).

*\*According to EquiStat Reports pulled from ARHFA, GBF, Royal Crown, Texas Best, and Platinum Medal Futurities on 12/31 of the Previous Year.*

**RIDER CLASSIFICATIONS NUMBERS BASED ON NUMBER OF RIDER ON DATE OF ENTRIES OPENING FOR EACH EVENT**



**Intermediate Heading – Within Open Class**

- Open to 7.5 Headers and Below, unless the rider has won more than \$100,000 in Heading Events in the Previous Year\*
- Earnings Cap: Riders classified higher (8 Header and Above) may still be eligible if they have not surpassed earnings of \$50,000 in the Previous Year\*
- No NFR Qualifications from within past five (5) years.
- No Team Roping World Champions from the last ten (10) years.

**Limited Heading**

- Open to 6.5 Headers and Below, unless the rider has won more \$65,000 in Heading Events in the Previous Year\*

**Non Pro Heading – Within Limited Class**

- Open to 5.5 Headers and Below, unless the rider has won more than \$15,000 in Heading Events in the Previous Year\*

**Intermediate Heeling – Within Open Class**

- Open to 8 Heelers and Below, unless the rider has won more than \$100,000 in Heeling Events in the Previous Year\*
- Earnings Cap: Riders classified higher (8.5 Heeler and Above) may still be eligible if they have not surpassed earnings of \$50,000 in the Previous Year\*
- No NFR Qualifications from within past five (5) years.
- No Team Roping World Champions from the last ten (10) years.

**Limited Heeling**

- Open to 7.5 Heelers and Below, unless the rider has won more \$65,000 in Heeling Events in the Previous Year\*

**Non Pro Heeling – Within Limited Class**

- Open to 5.5 Heelers and Below, unless the rider has won more than \$15,000 in Heeling Events in the Previous Year\*

*\*According to EquiStat Reports pulled from ARHFA, GBF, Royal Crown, Texas Best, and Platinum Medal Futurities on 12/31 of the Previous Year.*

**RIDER CLASSIFICATIONS NUMBERS BASED ON NUMBER OF RIDER ON DATE OF ENTRIES OPENING FOR EACH EVENT**



## **2025 General Rules & Regulations for Gold Buckle Futurities**

Gold Buckle Futurities reserves the right to modify or update these rules at any time. Participants will be notified of any changes as they occur.

### **BREAKAWAY ROPING**

## Scoring System

Each maneuver is scored from +3 (Excellent) to -3 (Extremely Poor) in one-point increments.

Time Limit: 90 seconds per run.

Any score may be held for review by one (1) judge at the end of the round.

## Credits & Scoring

### *Scoring Criteria*

- Quiet in the Box: Horse enters the box calmly on a loose rein.
- Scoring in the Bridle: Horse stands in the box, looking straight ahead with minimal extra movement.

### *Running/Rating*

- Box Departure: Horse leaves the box flat and in a straight line, maintaining proper body and head position.
- Tracking: Horse does not run too close or lag behind while chasing the calf.
- Willingness: Horse tracks the calf with minimal rider assistance.

### *Stopping*

- Rate & Stop: Horse rates the calf and stops in a straight line.
- Correctness: Horse maintains proper timing and balance, avoiding excessive front-end impact. (Not hitting on front end excessively)

### *Overall Run*

- Eye Appeal: Smoothness and overall presentation of the run.
- Degree of Difficulty: Execution of the run considering the challenge presented.

## Re-Runs

Re-runs will be granted by the judges in the following cases:

1. Calf Ducks Back: If the calf unexpectedly turns back.
2. Calf Falls Before the Score Line: If the calf goes down before crossing the score line.
3. Interference: If a rider or horse is fouled by anything other than the arena conditions.

## **Review Process**

If there is a 5-point or greater difference between the judges' scores, a review will be automatically triggered to ensure scoring accuracy and consistency.

Reviews will be reviewed on the video.

During the review, in a multiple-judge format, each judge will have the opportunity to reassess the penalty in question. Until the review is complete, and a final decision is made, the penalty will remain on the score sheet as originally marked.

In a multiple-judge system, if at least one judge marks a major penalty, while at least one other judge does not, a review of the penalty is mandatory.

All reviews will take place on a drag. If the rider's score is adjusted, the announcer will announce the adjusted score once the drag is complete.

**Legal Catch:** Bell collar catch only. A legal catch occurs when the loop passes over the calf's head and tightens around the neck only. No other body parts (e.g., front leg, tail) may be in the loop when the rope breaks away from the saddle horn. Tie Requirements – The rope must be secured to the saddle horn with a nylon string at the very end of the rope. A cloth flag (minimum 6 inches in length) must be attached to the end of the rope. Loop Limit – Only one (1) loop may be carried. A dropped loop is considered a thrown loop. Rope Release Requirement – The rope must leave the contestant's hand to be considered a legal catch.

**Barrier:** A rope barrier with neck rope will be used. Two time keepers, a barrier judge, and field judge will be in the arena at all times. Score lengths will be subject to the event management committee.

**Box:** No person other than the competitor and the horse inside the box.

**Penalties**

| <i>3 POINTS</i>                      | <i>5 POINTS</i>                                                         | <i>10 POINTS</i>                                                                                                                        |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Using two hands in the box           | Moving hind end out of the corner (does not include riding up to reset) | Breaking the barrier (time score)                                                                                                       |
| Running into or stepping on the calf | Squatting in the box                                                    | Refusing to enter the box (locking up, turning around before entering, etc.)                                                            |
| Nervous in the box                   | Coming off the front end in the box                                     | Blatant disobedience at any time during the run, including:                                                                             |
| Turning head severely in the box     | Broken barrier (5 Pts. per Judge)                                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kicking</li> <li>• Biting</li> <li>• Bucking</li> <li>• Rearing</li> <li>• Striking</li> </ul> |
| Moving feet in the box               |                                                                         |                                                                                                                                         |
| Squatting in the box                 |                                                                         |                                                                                                                                         |
| Head shaking during the run          |                                                                         |                                                                                                                                         |
| Out of control during the run        |                                                                         |                                                                                                                                         |

| <i>0 SCORE</i>                                                        |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Failure to obtain legal catch                                         |
| Fall of horse or rider                                                |
| Excessive schooling at any point during the run                       |
| Failure to compete in the proper working order                        |
| Failure to get the horse into the box after <b>three (3) attempts</b> |
| Failure to position the horse in the corner after three (3) attempts  |
| Competitor striking the horse with the rope while in the box          |

**Breakaway Futurity (4 & Under)**

Open to any registered horse that is four (4) years old and under.

The Elite Stallion Incentive Sidepot is available for horses sired by an enrolled stallion with eligible offspring during the current competition year.

The Elite Breeders Incentive Sidepot is available for horses bred by an enrolled breeder during the current competition year, based on the breeder listed on the horse's registration certificate.

Four (4) judges will evaluate performances, with scores based on time and judging.

The competition will consist of two (2) full rounds, one (1) progressive round, and one (1) short go.

There is no limit on the number of horses a rider can enter.

The breakaway roping competition is limited to women contestants only.

The Short Round check will be awarded to the highest scoring run not placing in the aggregate.

Scoring guidelines and scorecards can be viewed at [www.goldbucklefuturities.com](http://www.goldbucklefuturities.com).

**Breakaway Maturity (6 & Under)**

Open to any registered horse that is six (6) years old and under.

The Elite Stallion Incentive Sidepot is available for horses sired by an enrolled stallion with eligible offspring during the current competition year.

The Elite Breeders Incentive Sidepot is available for horses bred by an enrolled breeder during the current competition year, based on the breeder listed on the horse's registration certificate.

Four (4) judges will evaluate performances, with scores based on time and judging.

The competition will consist of two (2) full rounds, one (1) progressive round, and one (1) short go.

There is no limit on the number of horses a rider can enter.

The breakaway roping competition is limited to women contestants only.

The Short Round check will be awarded to the highest scoring run not placing in the aggregate.

Scoring guidelines and scorecards can be viewed at [www.goldbucklefuturities.com](http://www.goldbucklefuturities.com).

### **Intermediate Breakaway**

To compete in the Intermediate Breakaway division, contestants must meet the following eligibility requirements:

- Earnings of \$50,000 or less in Breakaway Roping Events from Previous Year (According to EquiStat Reports pulled from ARHFA, GBF, Royal Crown, Texas Best, and Platinum Medal Futurities on 12/31 of the Previous Year.)
- No NFBR Qualifications in past five (5) years.
- Not ranked within the Top 50 of the World Standings from Previous Year

### **Limited Breakaway – 2 & Short Go**

To compete in the Limited Breakaway division, contestants must meet the following eligibility requirements:

- Earnings of \$10,000 or less in Breakaway Roping Events from Previous Year (According to EquiStat Reports pulled from ARHFA, GBF, Royal Crown, Texas Best, and Platinum Medal Futurities on 12/31 of the Previous Year.)
- No NFBR Qualifications.
- No Current WPRA Card (Permits Accepted).

### **Limited Breakaway Sidepots**

To be eligible for any sidepot, you must be entered in the Limited Breakaway division - sidepots cannot be entered individually.

13 & Under Sidepot – Open to contestants 13 years old and under. (*Age as of January 1<sup>st</sup>*)

50 & Over Sidepot – Open to contestants 50 years old and over. (*Age as of January 1<sup>st</sup>*)

Elite Stallion Incentive Sidepot – Open to horses sired by an enrolled Elite Stallion during the current competition year.



## **2025 General Rules & Regulations for Gold Buckle Futurities**

Gold Buckle Futurities reserves the right to modify or update these rules at any time. Participants will be notified of any changes as they occur.

### **TIE DOWN ROPING**



## Scoring System

Each maneuver is scored from +3 (Excellent) to -3 (Extremely Poor) in one-point increments.

Time Limit: 90 seconds per run.

Any score may be held for review by one (1) judge at the end of the round.

## Credits & Scoring

### *Scoring Criteria*

- Quiet in the Box: Horse enters the box calmly on a loose rein.
- Scoring in the Bridle: Horse stands in the box, looking straight ahead with minimal extra movement.

### *Running/Rating*

- Box Departure: Horse leaves the box flat and in a straight line, maintaining proper body and head position.
- Tracking: Horse does not run too close or lag behind while chasing the calf.
- Willingness: Horse tracks the calf with minimal rider assistance.

### *Stopping*

- Rate & Stop: Horse rates the calf and stops in a straight line.
- Correctness: Horse maintains proper timing and balance, avoiding excessive front-end impact. (Not hitting on front end excessively)

### Rope Work

- Horse pulls while the calf is being flanked and stops pulling while the rope ties the calf.
- Horse holds the calf in place without walking up or dragging, remaining alert and focused.

### *Overall Run*

- Eye Appeal: Smoothness and overall presentation of the run.
- Degree of Difficulty: Execution of the run considering the challenge presented.

## Re-Runs

Re-runs will be granted by the judges in the following cases:

1. Calf Ducks Back: If the calf unexpectedly turns back.
2. Calf Falls Before the Score Line: If the calf goes down before crossing the score line.
3. Interference: If a rider or horse is fouled by anything other than the arena conditions.

## Review Process

If there is a 5-point or greater difference between the judges' scores, a review will be automatically triggered to ensure scoring accuracy and consistency.

Reviews will be reviewed on the video.

During the review, in a multiple-judge format, each judge will have the opportunity to reassess the penalty in question. Until the review is complete, and a final decision is made, the penalty will remain on the score sheet as originally marked.

In a multiple-judge system, if at least one judge marks a major penalty, while at least one other judge does not, a review of the penalty is mandatory.

All reviews will take place on a drag. If the rider's score is adjusted, the announcer will announce the adjusted score once the drag is complete.

**Legal Catch:** Catch as catch can.

**Barrier:** A rope barrier with neck rope will be used. Two time keepers, a barrier judge, and field judge will be in the arena at all times. Score lengths will be subject to the event management committee.

**Box:** No person other than the competitor and the horse inside the box.

**Penalties**

| <i>3 POINTS</i>                      | <i>5 POINTS</i>                                                         | <i>10 POINTS</i>                                                                                                                        |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Using two hands in the box           | Moving hind end out of the corner (does not include riding up to reset) | Breaking the barrier (time score)                                                                                                       |
| Running into or stepping on the calf | Squatting in the box                                                    | Refusing to enter the box (locking up, turning around before entering, etc.)                                                            |
| Nervous in the box                   | Coming off the front end in the box                                     | Blatant disobedience at any time during the run, including:                                                                             |
| Turning head severely in the box     | Broken barrier (5 Pts. per Judge)                                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kicking</li> <li>• Biting</li> <li>• Bucking</li> <li>• Rearing</li> <li>• Striking</li> </ul> |
| Moving feet in the box               |                                                                         |                                                                                                                                         |
| Squatting in the box                 |                                                                         |                                                                                                                                         |
| Head shaking during the run          |                                                                         |                                                                                                                                         |
| Out of control during the run        |                                                                         |                                                                                                                                         |

| <i>0 SCORE</i>                                                        |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Failure to obtain legal catch (catch as catch can)                    |
| Fall of horse or rider                                                |
| Excessive schooling at any point during the run                       |
| Failure to compete in the proper working order                        |
| Failure to get the horse into the box after <b>three (3) attempts</b> |
| Failure to position the horse in the corner after three (3) attempts  |
| Rider touches the rope after the calf has been tied                   |
| Competitor striking the horse with the rope while in the box          |

**Tie Down Futurity (4 & Under)**

Open to any registered horse that is four (4) years old and under.

The Elite Stallion Incentive Sidepot is available for horses sired by an enrolled stallion with eligible offspring during the current competition year.

The Elite Breeders Incentive Sidepot is available for horses bred by an enrolled breeder during the current competition year, based on the breeder listed on the horse's registration certificate.

Four (4) judges will evaluate performances, with scores based on time and judging.

The competition will consist of two (2) full rounds, one (1) progressive round, and one (1) short go.

There is no limit on the number of horses a rider can enter.

The Short Round check will be awarded to the highest scoring run not placing in the aggregate.

Scoring guidelines and scorecards can be viewed at [www.goldbucklefuturities.com](http://www.goldbucklefuturities.com).

**Tie Down Futurity (6 & Under)**

Open to any registered horse that is six (6) years old and under.

The Elite Stallion Incentive Sidepot is available for horses sired by an enrolled stallion with eligible offspring during the current competition year.

The Elite Breeders Incentive Sidepot is available for horses bred by an enrolled breeder during the current competition year, based on the breeder listed on the horse's registration certificate.

Four (4) judges will evaluate performances, with scores based on time and judging.

The competition will consist of two (2) full rounds, one (1) progressive round, and one (1) short go.

There is no limit on the number of horses a rider can enter.

The Short Round check will be awarded to the highest scoring run not placing in the aggregate.

Scoring guidelines and scorecards can be viewed at [www.goldbucklefuturities.com](http://www.goldbucklefuturities.com).

### **Intermediate Tie Down**

To compete in the Intermediate Tie-Down division, contestants must meet the following eligibility requirements:

- Earnings of \$50,000 or less in Tie Down Roping Events from Previous Year (According to EquiStat Reports pulled from ARHFA, GBF, Royal Crown, Texas Best, and Platinum Medal Futurities on 12/31 of the Previous Year.)
- No NFR Qualifications in past five (5) years.
- Not ranked within the Top 50 of the World Standings from Previous Year

### **Limited Tie Down**

To compete in the Limited Tie-Down division, contestants must meet the following eligibility requirements:

- Earnings of \$10,000 or less in Tie Down Roping Events from Previous Year (According to EquiStat Reports pulled from ARHFA, GBF, Royal Crown, Texas Best, and Platinum Medal Futurities on 12/31 of the Previous Year.)
- No NFR Qualifications in the past twenty (20) years
- Must be rated 10 or higher according to Ultimate Calf Roping (UCR) System.
- No Current PRCA Card. (Permits Accepted).

### **Limited Tie Down Sidepots**

To be eligible for any sidepot, you must be entered in the Limited Tie Down division - sidepots cannot be entered individually.

13 & Under Sidepot – Open to contestants 13 years old and under. *(Age as of January 1<sup>st</sup>)*

50 & Over Sidepot – Open to contestants 50 years old and over. *(Age as of January 1<sup>st</sup>)*

Elite Stallion Incentive Sidepot – Open to horses sired by an enrolled Elite Stallion during the current competition year.



## **2025 General Rules & Regulations for Gold Buckle Futurities**

Gold Buckle Futurities reserves the right to modify or update these rules at any time. Participants will be notified of any changes as they occur.

### **HEADING – TEAM ROPING**

## Scoring System

Each maneuver is scored from +3 (Excellent) to -3 (Extremely Poor) in one-point increments.

Any score may be held for review by one (1) judge at the end of the round.

## Credits & Scoring

Judges will evaluate runs based on the following criteria:

1. Quiet in the box
2. Scoring in the bridle
3. Running and rating the cow
4. Controlling the cow while handling (Heading)
5. Matching the speed of the steer through the corner (Heeling)
6. Maintaining a tight rope through the face (Heading)
7. Controlled stop (Heeling)
8. Eye appeal

## New Steer Rule

1. The flagger or judges are the only officials who can determine if an exhibitor is granted a new steer.
2. If a steer stumbles leaving the chute and the barrier is broken, the contestant will be awarded a new steer at the judges discretion.
3. If the barrier is not broken, the contestant has the option to keep their score from the run or take a new steer.
4. If helper's horse falls, competitor will be granted a new steer.

## **Review Process**

If there is a 5-point or greater difference between the judges' scores, a review will be automatically triggered to ensure scoring accuracy and consistency.

Reviews will be reviewed on the video.

During the review, in a multiple-judge format, each judge will have the opportunity to reassess the penalty in question. Until the review is complete, and a final decision is made, the penalty will remain on the score sheet as originally marked.

In a multiple-judge system, if at least one judge marks a major penalty, while at least one other judge does not, a review of the penalty is mandatory.

All reviews will take place on a drag. If the rider's score is adjusted, the announcer will announce the adjusted score once the drag is complete.

## **Legal Head Catch**

1. A legal head catch consists of a slick horn, half head, or neck catch.

## **Illegal Head Catches**

1. If the header ropes any leg (horse or steer), it is an automatic disqualification.
2. Under no circumstances will the header be allowed to fish out a leg.

## **Two Loop Rule**

1. Gold Buckle Futurities allows a maximum of two loops per run—one head loop and one heel loop—in every class.



**Penalties**

| <i>1-3 POINTS</i>                  | <i>5 POINTS</i>                              | <i>10 POINTS</i>                                                                                                                                                           |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Using two hands in the box         | Moving hind end out of the corner (one time) | Moving hind end out of the corner (two times)                                                                                                                              |
| Nervous in the box                 | Running into the steer                       | Refusal to enter the box (turning tail to the box)                                                                                                                         |
| Turning head severely in the box   |                                              | Rearing in the box                                                                                                                                                         |
| Moving feet in the box             |                                              | Refusing to pull the steer (heading)                                                                                                                                       |
| Squatting in the box               |                                              | Blatant disobedience, including:                                                                                                                                           |
| Head shaking during the run        |                                              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kicking</li> <li>• Biting</li> <li>• Bucking</li> <li>• Rearing</li> <li>• Striking</li> <li>• Obvious insubordination</li> </ul> |
| Out of control during the run      |                                              |                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Refusing to face (heading)         |                                              |                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Not holding the stop (heeling)     |                                              |                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Quartering in the stop (heeling)   |                                              |                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Not gaining on the steer (heeling) |                                              |                                                                                                                                                                            |

| <i>5 SECONDS</i>   | <i>10 SECONDS</i>    |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| One hind leg catch | Breaking the barrier |

***0 SCORE***

Failure to obtain a legal head catch

Fall of horse or rider

Crossfire (AT FLAGGER DISCRESSION)

Excessive schooling

Failure to work in the proper working order

Failure to position the horse in the corner after three (3) attempts

Failure to get the horse into the box after three (3) attempts

Helper touching the horse with the rope while in the box

**Heading Futurity (4 & Under)**

Eligibility: Open to any registered horse that is four (4) years old and under.

Elite Stallion Incentive Sidepot: Available for horses sired by an enrolled stallion with eligible offspring during the current competition year.

Elite Breeders Incentive Sidepot: Available for horses bred by an enrolled breeder during the current competition year, based on the breeder listed on the horse's registration certificate.

Judging: Four (4) judges will evaluate performances, with scores based on time and judging.

Competition Format: Consists of two (2) full rounds, one (1) progressive round, and one (1) short go.

Entry Limits: There is no limit on the number of horses a rider can enter.

The Short Round check will be awarded to the highest scoring run not placing in the aggregate.

Scoring Guidelines: Full scoring details and scorecards can be viewed at [www.goldbucklefuturities.com](http://www.goldbucklefuturities.com).

Helper Requirements: Contestants are responsible for arranging their own helper. The helper horse may be of any age.

**Heading Maturity (6 & Under)**

Eligibility: Open to any registered horse that is six (6) years old and under.

Elite Stallion Incentive Sidepot: Available for horses sired by an enrolled stallion with eligible offspring during the current competition year.

Elite Breeders Incentive Sidepot: Available for horses bred by an enrolled breeder during the current competition year, based on the breeder listed on the horse's registration certificate.

Judging: Four (4) judges will evaluate performances, with scores based on time and judging.

Competition Format: Consists of two (2) full rounds, one (1) progressive round, and one (1) short go.

Entry Limits: There is no limit on the number of horses a rider can enter.

The Short Round check will be awarded to the highest scoring run not placing in the aggregate.

Scoring Guidelines: Full scoring details and scorecards can be viewed at [www.goldbucklefuturities.com](http://www.goldbucklefuturities.com).

Helper Requirements: Contestants are responsible for arranging their own helper. The helper horse may be of any age.

### **Intermediate Heading**

Eligibility: Open to 7.5 headers and below, unless the rider has won more than \$100,000 in that respective event in the previous year.

Earnings Cap: Riders classified higher (*8 Header and above*) may still be eligible if they have not surpassed \$50,000 in earnings, based on EquiStat reports from ARHFA, GBF, Royal Crown, Texas Best, and Platinum Medal futurities from reports drawn at the conclusion of the prior year.

NFR Qualification Restriction: No NFR qualifiers in the last 5 (five) years.

World Champion Restriction: No team roping world champions from the last ten (10) years are eligible.

### **Limited Heading**

Horse Eligibility: Open to registered horses of any age.

Roper Classification: Open to 6.5 headers and below, unless the rider has won more than \$65,000 in that respective event in the previous year.

Judging: Four (4) judges will evaluate performances, with scores based on time and judging.

Competition Format: Consists of two (2) full rounds, one (1) progressive round, and one (1) short go.

Entry Limits: There is no limit on the number of horses a rider can enter.

*Elite Stallion Incentive Sidepot* – Open to horses sired by an enrolled Elite Stallion during the current competition year.

### **Non Pro Heading (Offered Within Limited Class)**

Horse Eligibility: Open to registered horses of any age.

Non-Pro Classification: Open to 5.5 headers and below, unless the rider has won more than \$15,000 in that respective event in the previous year.

Judging: Four (4) judges will evaluate performances, with scores based on time and judging.

Competition Format: Consists of two (2) full rounds, one (1) progressive round, and one (1) short go.



## **2025 General Rules & Regulations for Gold Buckle Futurities**

Gold Buckle Futurities reserves the right to modify or update these rules at any time. Participants will be notified of any changes as they occur.

### **HEELING – TEAM ROPING**

## Scoring System

Each maneuver is scored from +3 (Excellent) to -3 (Extremely Poor) in one-point increments.

Any score may be held for review by one (1) judge at the end of the round.

## Credits & Scoring

- Judges will evaluate runs based on the following criteria:
- Quiet in the box
- Scoring in the bridle
- Running and rating the cow
- Controlling the cow while handling (Heading)
- Matching the speed of the steer through the corner (Heeling)
- Maintaining a tight rope through the face (Heading)
- Controlled stop (Heeling)
- Eye appeal

## New Steer Rule

### New Steer Rule

1. The flagger or judges are the only officials who can determine if an exhibitor is granted a new steer.
2. If a steer stumbles leaving the chute and the barrier is broken, the contestant will be awarded a new steer at the judges discretion.
3. If the barrier is not broken, the contestant has the option to keep their score from the run or take a new steer.
4. If helper's horse falls, competitor will be granted a new steer.

## **Review Process**

If there is a 5-point or greater difference between the judges' scores, a review will be automatically triggered to ensure scoring accuracy and consistency.

Reviews will be reviewed on the video.

During the review, in a multiple-judge format, each judge will have the opportunity to reassess the penalty in question. Until the review is complete, and a final decision is made, the penalty will remain on the score sheet as originally marked.

In a multiple-judge system, if at least one judge marks a major penalty, while at least one other judge does not, a review of the penalty is mandatory. All reviews will take place on a drag. If the rider's score is adjusted, the announcer will announce the adjusted score once the drag is complete.

**Penalties**

| <i>1-3 POINTS</i>                  | <i>5 POINTS</i>                              | <i>10 POINTS</i>                                                                                                                                                           |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Using two hands in the box         | Moving hind end out of the corner (one time) | Moving hind end out of the corner (two times)                                                                                                                              |
| Nervous in the box                 | Running into the steer                       | Refusal to enter the box (turning tail to the box)                                                                                                                         |
| Turning head severely in the box   |                                              | Rearing in the box                                                                                                                                                         |
| Moving feet in the box             |                                              | Refusing to pull the steer (heading)                                                                                                                                       |
| Squatting in the box               |                                              | Blatant disobedience, including:                                                                                                                                           |
| Head shaking during the run        |                                              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kicking</li> <li>• Biting</li> <li>• Bucking</li> <li>• Rearing</li> <li>• Striking</li> <li>• Obvious insubordination</li> </ul> |
| Out of control during the run      |                                              |                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Refusing to face (heading)         |                                              |                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Not holding the stop (heeling)     |                                              |                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Quartering in the stop (heeling)   |                                              |                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Not gaining on the steer (heeling) |                                              |                                                                                                                                                                            |

| <i>5 SECONDS</i>   | <i>10 SECONDS</i>    |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| One hind leg catch | Breaking the barrier |



| <i>0 SCORE</i>                                                       |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Failure to obtain a legal head catch                                 |
| Fall of horse or rider                                               |
| Crossfire (AT FLAGGER DISCRESSION)                                   |
| Excessive schooling                                                  |
| Failure to work in the proper working order                          |
| Failure to position the horse in the corner after three (3) attempts |
| Failure to get the horse into the box after three (3) attempts       |
| Helper touching the horse with the rope while in the box             |

### **Legal Head Catch**

2. A legal head catch consists of a slick horn, half head, or neck catch.

### **Illegal Head Catches**

3. If the header ropes any leg (horse or steer), it is an automatic disqualification.
4. Under no circumstances will the header be allowed to fish out a leg.

### **Two Loop Rule**

2. Gold Buckle Futurities allows a maximum of two loops per run—one head loop and one heel loop—in every class.

### **Heeling Futurity (4 & Under)**

Eligibility: Open to any registered horse that is four (4) years old and under.

Elite Stallion Incentive Sidepot: Available for horses sired by an enrolled stallion with eligible offspring during the current competition year.

Elite Breeders Incentive Sidepot: Available for horses bred by an enrolled breeder during the current competition year, based on the breeder listed on the horse's registration certificate.

Judging: Four (4) judges will evaluate performances, with scores based on time and judging.

Competition Format: Consists of two (2) full rounds, one (1) progressive round, and one (1) short go.

Entry Limits: There is no limit on the number of horses a rider can enter.

The Short Round check will be awarded to the highest scoring run not placing in the aggregate.

Scoring Guidelines: Full scoring details and scorecards can be viewed at [www.goldbucklefuturities.com](http://www.goldbucklefuturities.com).

Helper Requirements: Contestants are responsible for arranging their own helper. The helper horse may be of any age.

### **Heeling Maturity (6 & Under)**

Eligibility: Open to any registered horse that is six (6) years old and under.

Elite Stallion Incentive Sidepot: Available for horses sired by an enrolled stallion with eligible offspring during the current competition year.

Elite Breeders Incentive Sidepot: Available for horses bred by an enrolled breeder during the current competition year, based on the breeder listed on the horse's registration certificate.

Judging: Four (4) judges will evaluate performances, with scores based on time and judging.

Competition Format: Consists of two (2) full rounds, one (1) progressive round, and one (1) short go.

Entry Limits: There is no limit on the number of horses a rider can enter.

The Short Round check will be awarded to the highest scoring run not placing in the aggregate.

Scoring Guidelines: Full scoring details and scorecards can be viewed at [www.goldbucklefuturities.com](http://www.goldbucklefuturities.com).

Helper Requirements: Contestants are responsible for arranging their own helper. The helper horse may be of any age.

### **Intermediate Heeling**

Eligibility: Open to 8 Heelers and below, unless the rider has won more than \$100,000 in that respective event in the previous year.

Earnings Cap: Riders classified higher (*8.5 Heeler and above*) may still be eligible if they have not surpassed \$50,000 in earnings, based on EquiStat reports from ARHFA, GBF, Royal Crown, Texas Best, and Platinum Medal futurities from reports drawn at the conclusion of the prior year.

NFR Qualification Restriction: No NFR qualifiers in the last 5 (five) years.

World Champion Restriction: No team roping world champions from the last ten (10) years are eligible.

### **Limited Heeling**

Horse Eligibility: Open to registered horses of any age.

Roper Classification: Open to 7.5 Heelers and below, unless the rider has won more than \$65,000 in that respective event in the previous year.

Judging: Four (4) judges will evaluate performances, with scores based on time and judging.

Competition Format: Consists of two (2) full rounds, one (1) progressive round, and one (1) short go.

Entry Limits: There is no limit on the number of horses a rider can enter.

*Elite Stallion Incentive Sidepot* – Open to horses sired by an enrolled Elite Stallion during the current competition year.

### **Non Pro Heeling (Offered Within Limited Class)**

Horse Eligibility: Open to registered horses of any age.

Non-Pro Classification: Open to 5.5 heelers and below, unless the rider has won more than \$15,000 in that respective event in the previous year.

Judging: Four (4) judges will evaluate performances, with scores based on time and judging.

Competition Format: Consists of two (2) full rounds, one (1) progressive round, and one (1) short go.



## **2025 General Rules & Regulations for Gold Buckle Futurities**

Gold Buckle Futurities reserves the right to modify or update these rules at any time. Participants will be notified of any changes as they occur.

### **GENERAL DISCLOSURES**

## General Disclosures

- All decisions made by Gold Buckle Futurities, LLC (GBF) are final.
- GBF reserves the right to refuse entry to any participant.
- GBF may modify, add, or disregard any rule at its discretion.
- Event schedules may be adjusted due to entry numbers, time constraints, or weather conditions.
- Gold Buckle Futurities values its management team, stallion owners, enrolled breeders, contestants, and volunteers. Any disruption to the event or disrespectful behavior toward staff or personnel will result in expulsion from the event without a refund.
- Prize money will be issued to the rider. Contestants must submit tax information to the GBF office before any payments are processed.
- GBF reserves the right to cancel, transfer, or reschedule any event without prior notice or liability.
- If an event is canceled, all entry and stall fees will be refunded.



## **2025 General Rules & Regulations for Gold Buckle Futurities**

Gold Buckle Futurities reserves the right to modify or update these rules at any time. Participants will be notified of any changes as they occur.

### **INCENTIVES**

### **Elite Stallion Incentive Sidepot**

- No foal nominations required – All foals sired by an enrolled stallion are automatically eligible to compete in GBF-produced events.
- Horses sired by non-enrolled stallions may still compete at GBF events but will not be eligible for Elite Stallion Incentive payouts.
- Foal eligibility: If a stallion is paid up in 2024, all foals from the 2025 crop and prior years are eligible.
- Eligibility is determined by registration papers – Only foals with the enrolled stallion listed as the sire on their registration certificate qualify.
- Payout Structure: One (1) payout per seven (7) entries.
- 100% payback – All incentive funds go directly into payouts.
- Payout Distribution: 30% paid at Spring/Summer Events, 70% paid at Fall/Winter Events.
- Winnings split 50/50 between the competing horse and the enrolled stallion's slot owner.
- Junior Stallions: If a junior stallion is enrolled in an Elite Stallion slot, they may designate a senior stallion in their slot with written consent from the stallion's owner and GBF management.

*Definition: A junior stallion is a stallion whose oldest foal crop has not yet reached four (4) years of age.*

### **Elite Breeders Incentive Sidepot**

- No foal nominations required – All foals bred by an enrolled breeder are automatically eligible to compete in GBF-produced events.
- Riders competing on horses bred by an enrolled breeder are eligible to enter the Elite Breeders Incentive Sidepot.
- Eligibility is determined by registration papers – Only foals with the breeder slot owner listed as the breeder on their registration certificate qualify.
- Payout Structure: One (1) payout per seven (7) entries.
- Winnings split 50/50 between the competing horse and the Elite Breeders slot owner.



## **2025 General Rules & Regulations for Gold Buckle Futurities**

Gold Buckle Futurities reserves the right to modify or update these rules at any time. Participants will be notified of any changes as they occur.

### **YEAR END RECOGNITION**



### **Super Horse Award**

Gold Buckle Futurities will award the Super Horse Award at their World Finals event to the highest money-earning horse of the year that wins the most money in two or more events across all GBF-produced events during the current competition year.

The horse must win money in at least two different events to be eligible.

The award will be given to the horse that earns the most total money across two or more eligible events.

If no horse wins money in two events, the award will be presented to the horse that has won the most money all year long at all Gold Buckle Futurities produced events.

### **Top Rider Award**

The Top Rider Award will be presented to the rider who earns the highest total payout across all Gold Buckle Futurities events during the competition year.

To be eligible, the rider must compete in every GBF event held throughout the year.

### **Leading Elite Stallions Sire Award**

Gold Buckle Futurities will present the Leading Sire Award to the enrolled Elite Stallion whose offspring earn the highest total payout across all classes during the competition year.

To be considered for this award, the stallion must be enrolled in the Elite Stallion program.

### **Top Elite Breeders Breeder Award**

Gold Buckle Futurities will present the Top Breeder Award to the enrolled Elite Breeder whose bred horses earn the highest total payout in the Elite Breeders Incentive during the current competition year.