



# National Youth Cattle Working Contest Program Bylaws

Adopted: January 22nd, 2026

## Article 1

### Name, Purpose & Objectives

- Section 1: **Name:** The name of this program shall be the National Youth Cattle Working Contest, hereinafter referred to as NYCWC.
- Section 2: **Mission:** The National Youth Cattle Working Contest is established to educate, challenge, and inspire the next generation of leaders in the beef industry. At the national level, youth participants have an opportunity to demonstrate cattle handling skills, teamwork, and industry knowledge in real-world scenarios.
- Section 3: **Objectives:** The objective of this program shall be to:
1. **Develop Skills** – Provide opportunities for youth to practice safe, humane, and industry-standard livestock handling.
  2. **Promote Best Practices** – Ensure all activities follow Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) guidelines.
  3. **Foster Career Readiness** – Prepare participants for leadership and careers in the beef industry.
  4. **Encourage Collaboration** – Engage partners to provide resources, facilities, livestock, and mentorship.
  5. **Recognize Achievement** – Reward excellence in stockmanship and stewardship at state and national levels.

## Article 2

### Steering Committee & Governance

- Section 1: **Composition:** The Steering Committee shall consist of the founding members who established the National Youth Cattle Working Contest (NYCWC). Membership is permanent and not dependent on professional affiliation unless a member chooses to step down. The Steering Committee will not exceed 10 members.
- Section 2: **Eligibility for Committee Members:** Any committee member may resign voluntarily. New/replacement members may only be added at the discretion of the Steering Committee.

Section 3: **Role & Responsibility:** The Steering Committee serves as an advisory and guiding body, providing strategic direction, oversight, and support for contest operations.

The Steering Committee shall serve as the long-term steward of the NYCWC, responsible for:

- Ensuring the NYCWC aligns with its mission and educational objectives.
- Collaborating with the Executive Committee on contest administration, logistics, and partnerships.
- Supporting the growth and continuity of the contest.
- Approving applications for new state participation in the contest.
- Reviewing eligibility for future host states to be voted on during the Annual Business Meeting.

A secretary and treasurer will be appointed within the Steering Committee with the following responsibilities:

- **Secretary** – Will be responsible for handling administrative duties relating to meetings of the Steering Committee, Executive Committee, and Annual Business Meeting, including creating and sending agendas, taking minutes, and recording results of votes.
- **Treasurer** – Will be responsible for maintaining financial accounts, handling reimbursements, and payment of invoices for the NYCWC.

Section 4: **Voting Authority Clarification:** Steering Committee members cannot vote on contest rules/procedures. Voting is exercised solely by state-designated representatives, as described in Article III. In cases where a voting state representative is also a member of the Steering Committee, their vote is cast only in their capacity as the state representative, not as a Steering Committee member.

Section 5: **Conflict of Interest:** Members of the Steering Committee shall not serve as coaches, chaperones, or team leaders. Steering Committee members shall prevent contact between judges for the national contest and state winning participants after their selection. These provisions are intended to preserve fairness, impartiality, and consistency.

Section 6: **Removal of a Committee Member:** Steering Committee members are required to attend at least one-half of all committee meetings during a contest year. Failure to attend at least one-half of the meetings without prior notification, and an approved excuse shall be considered a violation of a member's responsibilities. In the event of excessive absences as described above, or a violation of the conflict-of-interest policy, the Steering Committee may call a special meeting to vote on the member's status. A two-thirds

quorum of the Steering Committee is required, with a simple majority vote necessary to remove a member.

### **Article 3 Executive Committee**

- Section 1:     **Composition:** The Executive Committee shall consist of:
- **Past Chair** – A representative from the state that most recently hosted a NYCWC.
  - **Chair** – A representative from the state currently hosting or actively planning the NYCWC.
  - **Vice Chair** – A representative from the state designated to host or plan the next NYCWC.
- Section 2:     **Selection:** Executive Committee positions shall be determined based on host-state status. Officers shall serve a one-year term corresponding to their state’s role in hosting the NYCWC. Advancement from Vice Chair to Chair to Past Chair shall occur automatically as hosting responsibilities transition year to year. Executive Committee members may or may not be members of the Steering Committee.
- Section 3:     **Role & Responsibility:** The Executive Committee shall
- Serve as officers for the Steering Committee for the duration of their term.
  - Oversee venue selection, scheduling, and related communications among participating states.
  - Implement guidance of and manage responsibilities of the Steering Committee related to contest administration.
- Section 4:     **Voting Authority Clarification:** Executive Committee members cannot vote on contest rules/procedures. Voting is exercised solely by state-designated representatives. In cases where a voting state representative is also a member of the Executive Committee, their vote is cast only in their capacity as the state representative, not as a Steering Committee member.
- Section 5:     **Conflict of Interest:** Members of the Executive Committee shall not serve as coaches, chaperones, or team leaders. Executive Committee members shall prevent contact between judges for the national contest and state winning participants after their selection. The Chair will work to find a location that was not a state contest location during that calendar year for the national contest. These provisions are intended to preserve fairness, impartiality, and consistency.

## **Article 4 Meetings**

- Section 1: **Annual Business Meeting:** New business shall be conducted at an annual meeting held in conjunction with the national contest.
- Section 2: **Special Meetings:** Additional meetings of the Steering Committee and Executive Committee may be called as necessary for the purpose of planning, coordination, and execution of contest activities. No new business will be discussed in the absence of state representatives. New business is reserved for the above outlined Annual Business Meetings. Members shall receive notice of special meetings no later than 10 days in advance.
- Section 3: **State Representatives:** Each participating state in the NYCWC shall be entitled to one voting delegate at the annual meeting. The method of selection for the voting delegate is at the discretion of each state. This delegate must be identified at the start of the annual meeting. The Chair of the Executive Committee and Secretary of the Steering Committee are ineligible to serve as their state's voting delegate.
- Section 2: **Quorum and Voting:** A quorum for the Annual Business Meeting shall consist of a majority simple of the voting delegates representing participating states. Each participating state shall be entitled to one vote, selecting a voting delegate as specified in these bylaws. All actions and decisions of the Annual Business Meeting shall be approved by a majority vote of the voting delegates present and voting.
- Section 3: **Procedure:** Proceedings of the meeting shall be conducted in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order (Newly Revised, 12<sup>th</sup> Edition. 2020)

## **Article 5 Amendments and Proposals**

- Section 1: **Proposal of Amendments:** Proposed amendments to contest rules/procedures must be submitted in writing to the Steering Committee 30 days prior to the Annual Business Meeting.
- Section 2: **Adoption:** Amendments shall be adopted upon approval by a simple majority vote of members present at the Annual Business Meeting.
- Section 3: **Revision of Bylaws:** These Bylaws may be amended, repealed, or altered in whole or in part by a 2/3rds vote at the Annual Business Meeting.

Section 4: **Host State Proposals:** All host state proposals must be submitted to the Steering Committee 30 days prior to the Annual Business Meeting. Proposals must include location of the contest and name of delegate to serve on the Executive Committee. Host states are only eligible for nomination if they have participated in two consecutive national contests. The Steering Committee will review eligibility of the host state and will present all proposed locations for a simple majority vote at the Annual Business Meeting.

## **Article 6 Participation and Addition of New Teams**

Section 1: **Eligibility:** Participation in the NYCWC is open to states that meet the following criteria:

- Conducts a qualifying contest or selection process consistent with NYCWC rules and age eligibility.
- Adheres to Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) guidelines.
- Provides appropriate youth supervision and safety oversight.
- Agrees to comply with all national contest rules, procedures, and codes of conduct.
- A sponsorship requirement of \$1,000 per state is required to be eligible to participate. This funding is used to run the National Contest. Funding can come from various entities (Examples: Cattlemen's Association, Beef Council, University, feed stores, etc.).

Section 2: **New State Application:** Applications for a new state to participate shall be submitted by a state-level representative and reviewed by the Steering Committee. A copy of the state contest rules and application, found on the website nationalcwc.com, are due to the Steering Committee by June 1<sup>st</sup>. Approval shall require a majority agreement of the Steering Committee. States failing to participate in two consecutive national contests must reapply to be eligible for future national contests.

Section 3: **Ongoing Compliance:** Continued participation is contingent upon ongoing compliance with NYCWC rules, BQA standards, and policies adopted by the voting state representatives. Failure to comply may result in probation, suspension, or removal from participation as determined by the Steering Committee.

*This set of Bylaws was adopted by the Steering Committee on January 22, 2026.*