

# BARREBACK



Bareback riding may be the most physically demanding event in a pro rodeo. Riders endure more abuse, suffer more injuries and carry away more long-term damage than all other rodeo cowboys.

To stay aboard the horse, the bareback rider uses a rigging made of leather and constructed to meet PRCA safety specifications. The rigging resembles a suitcase handle on a strap. It is placed on the horse's withers and secured with a cinch.

As the bronc and rider burst from the chutes, the rider must have both spurs touching the horse's shoulders until the horse's front feet hit the ground after the initial jump from the chutes. This is called "marking out". If the cowboy fails to do this, he is disqualified. The rider earns points for maintaining upper body control while moving his feet in a toes-turned-out rhythmic motion in time with the horse's bucking action for eight seconds. Making a qualified ride and earning a money-winning score requires more than just strength.