

Nevada Regional Common Ground Alliance
UTILITY LOCATE RODEO
OFFICIAL RULES AND REGULATIONS
October 11, 2025
College of Southern Nevada – Charleston Campus | Las Vegas, Nevada

DISCLAIMER

The information contained within this document is subject to change without notice. Please continue to check our website, www.nrcga.org/rodeo/, often for any updates or changes that may occur.

OUR GOAL

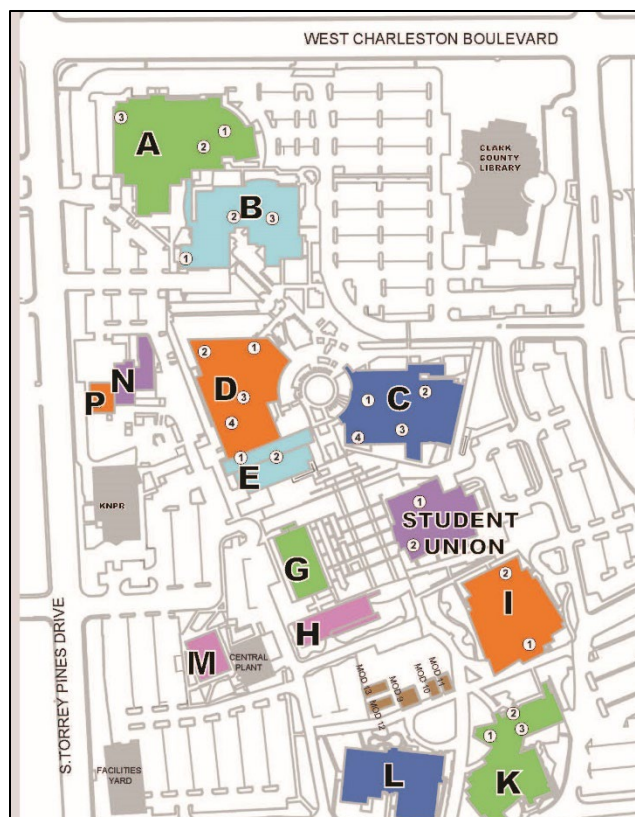
The intention of the NRCGA Utility Locate Rodeo is to recognize the profession of underground utility facility locating and to demonstrate the safety, skills and on-going educational efforts associated with high quality workmanship. At the end of the day of competition, the participants will say that it was fair and consistent in judging and the Rodeo was a pleasant and fun event.

ELIGIBILITY

- There are two ways to be eligible to compete: damage free or wild card.
 1. **Damage Free** – Locator must be damage free from May 1, 2024 through May 1, 2025 (no utility damages occurred due to your locating responsibilities). An unlimited number of locators from one company/municipality may compete under this eligibility requirement.
 2. **Wild Card** – If a utility damage occurred due to your locating responsibility between May 1, 2024 through May 1, 2025, you can still compete if your company/municipality recommends you under the “wild card” eligibility requirement. A company/municipality may send 1 locator as a wild card.

GENERAL RULES AND MEETING

- All competitors should register at the rodeo check-in at the Student Union between 7 a.m. and 8 a.m. on Saturday, Oct. 11, at the College of Southern Nevada – Charleston Campus, and must be present by 7:45 a.m. for a **Mandatory rules meeting. You must pick up your packets and sign waivers prior to the meeting.**
- **Mandatory rules meeting will take place in the Student Union at 8 a.m. sharp. Failure to report by 7:45 a.m. may result in total event disqualification.** See Master Judge immediately to discuss.
- Packets will include copies of rules, schedule, Jackpot Locate information, competitor number plate, and NRCGA-provided competitor cap.
- Competition will proceed in all weather conditions, except during thunderstorms. If thunderstorms occur, some events may be shortened or eliminated but scoring will not be adversely impacted.
- **Dress Code:** Competitors must wear their provided competitor number plate and cap at all times throughout the Rodeo. Competitors may wear any type of trousers, jeans or shorts (all clothing must be professional...no holes, etc.) Competitors may wear any type of work shoes



including boots or clean tennis shoes. Competitors must wear a safety vest with their number plate visibly attached to it during their actual competition at the event zones. With the exception to the competitor number plate, these items may be removed before and after your competitive sessions. Rodeo caps will be provided but you may wear a cap with a professional utility industry logo. This will be the only cap or hat substitution allowed. **You or your company must provide safety vests.**

- **Competitor number plate must be worn at all times during the hours of competition.**
- **Definitions:**
 - **Rodeo Wheel** – Placed in the “Event Area” as the competitors measuring point for all utilities within the specified event. It looks similar to the look of a wagon wheel, this set up has a center pin with a revolving tape measure attached to it. It has 8 lines and end points from the center pin. Each end point is a specific color. The color at the end point is considered the color of the line (i.e. yellow, orange, blue, red, purple, green, pink, black). The event site template colors correspond with the placement of each end point on every event site.
 - **Center Line of Facility** – Top-dead center of the target utility/facility as determined by the event site committee.
 - **Event Area** – Immediate area of a particular event zone. The boundaries will be identified by 4 or more traffic cones with Locate Rodeo flags attached to each cone. The “rodeo wheel” and/or other markings will also clearly identify the area.
 - **Out of bounds** – is defined as any time a competitor moves outside the boundaries of the event site defined by the traffic cones. If a competitor crosses the boundary the judge will throw a yellow flag at the site of the infraction and verbally warn the competitor he/she is out of bounds, this is a 10 point deduction. If the competitor doesn’t return within the event boundary immediately, he/she will be disqualified for that event and must stop all locating immediately.
 - **Competitors Locate** – Location of target utility facility as designated by the competitor with its measurement (location) as certified on the event template.
 - **Timing Out** – if the judge calls time, competitor must stop all activity, because time has exceeded 12 minutes (Jackpot Locate will be 3 minutes), then a time of 12 minutes and 01 second (Jackpot Locate will be 3 minutes and 01 second) will be entered.
 - Measurements on the event site template prior to the call of time will be entered and a 50-point deduction will be assessed to the competitor’s score for that event. Other deductions, listed under the Infractions section, will be applied.
 - **Calling “Time”** – this is when the competitor calls time by stating “I am finished,” as he/she believes the event has been completed
 - **Ghost Measurement** – measurement placed on any signal other than the intended target facility, this is a 100-point deduction

COMPETITION

- Three competitive divisions will be available:
 - Telecommunication
 - Gas
 - Power
- 30 slots for each division.
- Each division will be divided into 3 groups of 10 competitors or less.
- Individual event winners will receive awards.
- Top Winners in each division will receive awards, including a chance at the Jackpot Locate.
 - 100% of sponsorship money goes to winners.

Note: A competitor may only win one division. In the event a competitor scores the highest in more than one division, that competitor will represent the first chosen division they selected during registration and the

competitor with the second highest score of the remaining division will be considered the winner of that division take home the division prize and compete in the Jackpot Locate.

"THE JACKPOT LOCATE"

This event will be designed with a 3 minute meantime.

- All competitors will receive a copy of the map/plat of the event in your handout at the mandatory meeting.
- Locating equipment will be provided by sponsoring equipment manufacturers. Choose from the provided equipment; announce your equipment choice to the judge and the transmitter will be turned to the frequency of your choosing (all transmitters will be hooked up prior to competition). A competitor may change locate equipment during the Jackpot Locate as long as the equipment is made by the same manufacturer as their original selection. A list of provided locating equipment will be in the competitor's registration packet.
- Rodeo Coins and flags will be the only markers used and provided at event site.
- A judge will assist in taking measurements.
- An event volunteer will record measurements as the competitor calls them out.

GENERAL INFORMATION:

- Each event will be pre-determined by the Event Site Committee.
- Conductive locating, inductive locating or a combination of both is allowed.
- Use of a cell phone is prohibited while competing on an event site.
- The clock starts when the Judge says, "begin."
- Map/plat of underground utilities will be posted for Competitor. The competitor will have up to 13 minutes (3 minutes for Jackpot Locate) to view map/plat, find an access point and hook up, locate the facility (with Rodeo issued coins and/or flags only) then document measurements onto the provided template (as in the real world, the maps/plats shall serve as reference documents only...they are not guaranteed to be 100% accurate).
- Competitors may bring their own stopwatch. **The judge's stopwatch will be the official time.**
- Time updates will not be given out by a judge to the competitor.
- The Rodeo coins may be moved as many times as necessary without penalty. If competitor is using flags, they may not be "moved" once they are placed (a flag is considered "moved" if the competitor release their hand from the flag once it is placed in the ground and then moves that same flag to another spot). Points will be deducted if the flag is "moved." The competitor may place a coin to designate the exact location of the utility as determined by the competitor there is no deduction for moving the coins.
- All of this must be performed within the 13 minute timeframe (3 minutes for Jackpot Locate).
- Competitors will record their own measurements. The location of the Rodeo Coins as measured by the participant is the accuracy component in judging the event. A tape measuring instrument will be provided at each event zone attached to the center point of the wheel. All measurements must be recorded in feet and inches and legible.
- The competitor will pull and log the measurement from the center point of the wheel to the crossing point on any and all of the "spokes" of the wheel that the target utility crosses.
- Competitor must return Event site to original condition before calling time.
 - Rolling measuring tape up to its original position.
 - Return coins to the judges table and placed in the box they were taken from.
 - Flags returned to original position they were taken from.
- Before beginning and before calling time for the event the Competitor's bag must be properly closed and at the Judge's table.
- Once competitor has completed the Event, he/she must say "I am finished." Only then, the clock will stop.
- Time will be kept by the judge and the event leader, then be compared for the most accurate time.

- Time will be considered for tie-breaking only. In the event time does not break the tie, competitors who are tied will each receive the full prize, or share in the prizes for the place they are tied in.
- When the competitor has finished, he/she will give the completed template to the event zone scoring person and verify measurements while measurements are recorded by the event zone scoring person, into a computer, then proceed to a designated area or he/she may remain as a spectator.

ACCURACY

- Each competitor will begin each event with 1000 points.
- If a competitor calls time and fails to record any measurements on the template at all, he/she will receive a score of "0" for that event.
- If a competitor fails to record measurements on any single string or crossing where the Master Template indicates the targeted facility actually crosses, he/she will lose the amount of points associated with the actual Master Template measurement, i.e., "If a competitor fails to take a measurement on the Blue pin and the Master Template shows the targeted facility crossing the Blue pin at 6'2" (74 inches) from the Center pin, the competitor will take a 74 point infraction" "If the crossing happens to be 19'5" (234 inches) from the Center pin, the competitor will take a 234 point infraction."
- Infractions will be calculated in the negative if it is necessary for the calculation of the final scores.

ONE POINT INFRACTIONS

1. _____ Moving flags after initial placement. (1 point per flag movement.)
2. _____ Failure to replace all rodeo coins in the designated box on judge's table. This includes placing all rodeo tools or flags to their original location before calling for time. (1 point per coin/flag/tool.)
3. _____ Failure to retract tape measure.
4. _____ Failure to have locating instruments, tools and accessories secured in a properly closed carrying case or bag. (Case or bag must be at the judge's table before time starts and before time is called.)

FIVE POINT INFRACTIONS

1. _____ Failure to reconnect bonds on any access point.
2. _____ Breaking a string or displacing any spoke or hub of the event site wheel.
3. _____ Failure to wear safety vest while in the Event Site Area.
4. _____ Alteration of provided cap, competitor number plate or any other supplied materials. (Only Rodeo hats or industry related hats allowed while competing in event site.)

TEN POINT INFRACTIONS

1. _____ Strayed from out of bounds (1st Infraction).

FIFTY POINT INFRACTIONS

1. _____ Competitor opened undesignated access point.
2. _____ Failure to return utility record to Judge's table in the condition it as was received. If the judge calls time, competitor must stop all activity, because time has exceeded 13 minutes, then a time of 13 minutes and 01 seconds will be entered. Measurements on the event site template prior to the call of time will be entered and a 50 point deduction will be assessed to the competitor's score for that event by the scoring software. (This is called timing out, see definitions.)

ONE HUNDRED POINT INFRACTIONS

1. Occurs when a Ghost measurement is placed on any signal other than the intended target facility.

DISQUALIFICATIONS

1. _____ Aggressive behavior or unsportsmanlike conduct.
2. _____ Strayed from designated event boundaries and failed to return to immediately. (2nd infraction).
3. _____ Damage to any access point or facility including but not limited to peeling or removing wire coating or insulated jacket material.
4. _____ Using a cell phone while competing at event site.
5. _____ Competitor altering the event site in such a way as to hinder or help another competitor.
 - Failure to be present at the Mandatory Rules Meeting at 7:45am sharp on Saturday, Oct. 11, 2024.
 - Failure to be present at any other mandatory Meeting immediately following the Mandatory Rules Meeting.

MANDATORY RULES MEETING

- Unforeseen travel delays such as airport delays, etc. will be taken into consideration. If this occurs, you must contact Dawn Rivard, by phone (702-273-8523) as soon as you discover the problem. The information will then be discussed with the Master Judge(s) for final authorization. This information will be prioritized and either a call back from the competitor or phone number to re-contact the competitor will be required for final notification.
- No Competitor will be allowed access to his/her Events until it is their turn to Compete. Competitors may remain as a spectator in a designated area after he/she has completed an Event however, the Competitor shall not make hand gestures or other signs that would benefit or hurt another Competitor's chances. Any Competitor found in violation will be immediately disqualified for the entire Competition and asked to leave the Rodeo grounds.
- Any competitor that shares information with another, on any event will be disqualified.
- Any competitor that strays from designated areas and does not return after being warned by the judge will be disqualified.
- The competitor should finish the event site and a master judge will be called to the event site to verify a disqualification has occurred.
- Any competitor that removes his/her provided Rodeo Competitor Number Plate, at any time during the Rodeo, will be disqualified.
- Unprofessional behavior will result in disqualification.
- Entering CSN - Charleston campus grounds on or after Oct. 10, unless escorted by Rodeo staff, will result in disqualification.
- Attempts to gain access to campus records or any other information on the physical plant at CSN will result in disqualification.
- Intentional sabotage or tampering with equipment, event sites or other attempts at disruption will result in disqualification.
- A Judge is recused from judging an employee of his/her company or an employee of one of their contractors. An alternate judge will replace the recused judge. If a Judge fails to replace himself/herself and judges one of his/her company's employees, the Competitor involved will be disqualified for that particular event.

OTHER INFRACTIONS

- Any competitor exhibiting aggressive behavior, verbal or physical, including throwing equipment will be disqualified by the master judges.

COMPETITOR SUBSTITUTION

- An alternate or substitute for any pre-registered Competitor must be declared Friday, Oct. 10, no later than NOON, and will be allowed as long as the alternate or substitute meets eligibility requirements. Please note that any substitutions provided after the program has been sent to the printers will not be changed.

- Any alternate or substitute must comply with all rules and procedures set forth by the committee.

JUDGES

- The Rodeo will consist of Master Judges, Event Judges and alternate judges. The Master Judges shall oversee the entire Competition and be available to settle disputes. All decisions by the Master Judges are final. The Alternate Judges will be available to substitute for an Event Judge if needed.
- Judges will treat all Competitors with professional respect and courtesy. High-Fives, smirks, or other visible signs of inappropriate activity will not be tolerated from judging staff. Unfair judging and disrespect to competitors will not be tolerated. Disrespect from Competitors will not be tolerated either. This type of behavior may result in total Rodeo disqualification.
- Judges will not judge a competitor from their company or from a Locate Contractor that works for their company. Alternate Judges will be available for such scenarios.
- Master Judges reserves the right to impose additional penalties not shown in the rules when unforeseen conditions arise that may be deemed unsafe or inappropriate...or not generally practiced in the industry.

RULES FOR EVENT JUDGE QUESTIONS

- Competitors may ask the on-site judge questions prior to the event, but not after the clock has started.
- It is the Competitor's responsibility to ask the questions prior to beginning an event.
- The Competitor will have a maximum of two minutes to stand ready with equipment in hand and ask the judge any questions. This timeframe includes the judge's answers (No questions allowed from "Jackpot Locate" competitors.) This two minutes does not include viewing the plat/map.
- The competitor must make protests to the Event Judges only. Protests are to be declared after event is completed and before the competitor leaves the event site. Upon competitor notification to an Event Judge of the protest, the Event Judge shall request the Master Judge to discuss the situation and make the "official call."
- Video or photo footage will not be allowed to settle judging disputes.

CONTESTING A CALL

- If a competitor can demonstrate a problem with any particular judging call, he/she should protest to the event judge after he/she has completed the event before leaving the event site.
- Upon competitor's notification to an event judge of a protest, the event judge shall contact the event leader who will contact the Master Judge(s) to discuss the situation and make the "official call" and/or settle the dispute.
- The Master Judge(s) will be available by radio or as needed and will proceed as soon as possible to the event in question in order to rectify the situation.
- The competition will proceed with an alternate judge while the dispute is settled.
- Decisions of the Master Judge(s) are final.

TOOLS AND EQUIPMENT

- All types of electro-magnetic locating devices will be allowed in this competition except at the Jackpot Locate.
- Each competitor may use his/her own equipment, but all equipment must be in safe operating condition.
- Competitors interested in using instruments provided by sponsoring equipment manufacturers must be requested of the sales personnel and arrangements must be made no later than 2 weeks prior to the competition date. Loaners are generally not available and should not be expected on competition day.
- Please make certain that your equipment and tools are clearly marked with your name and company identification. The NRCGA Utility Locate Rodeo nor their sponsoring companies will be responsible for your property.