



National Barrel Horse Association of Australia Inc.

ARBN: 612 068 498 IN: IA36297 ABN: 18 605 902 019

www.nbha.com.au

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National Barrel Horse Association of Australia Inc. By-Laws

This document and the NBHA official rule book are binding to all members and affiliated committees of National Barrel Horse Association of Australia Inc.

The official NBHA Rulebook may be found at [NBHA Member Rules](#)

- [SECTION A: Competition Rules](#)
- [SECTION B: Show Sanctioning](#)
- [SECTION C: Earned Points](#)
- [SECTION D: Payout](#)
- [SECTION E: Rules Related to State, Super and World Show](#)
- [SECTION F: Penalties and/or Disqualifications](#)
- [SECTION G: Dress Code](#)
- [SECTION H: Protests & Complaints](#)
- [SECTION I: NBHA Intellectual Property](#)

Where it is referred to NBHA in this booklet that is taken to mean of National Barrel Horse Association Australia Inc.

Where "NBHA Headquarters" is mentioned in NBHA Rulebook, it is taken as meaning the contact details below (for Australia).

The Objects of the Association are:

- (1) To support and encourage the sport of Barrel Riding here in Australia
- (2) To promote good horsemanship and sportsmen like attributes
- (3) To encourage families to have fun and learn in a safe environment with their horses and each other

Divisional barrel racing, is the heart of NBHA. Divisional barrel racing gives ALL competitors - from beginners to professionals, from youth to seniors - a chance to learn and succeed in barrel racing. The Divisional format encourages riders to improve their skills and work toward the higher Divisions, while still having a chance to be competitive.

National Barrel Horse Association of Australia Inc. recognizes the International Barrel Horse Federation (IBHF) as the international standard to run divisional barrel racing events and we run our events to that standard following the official NBHA Rule Book (see below) with few bylaws that are unique to our Country (refer to [NBHA Member Rules](#) and these bylaws).

The purpose of National Barrel Horse Association of Australia Inc. is to provide Barrel Racers with an opportunity to race within Australia following the guidelines set down by the international organisation (IBHF) that will promote the sport of barrel racing and its growth. These international event rules have been adopted to address the needs of NBHA members, promote fairness, eliminate confusion, and assist show organisers.

INTRODUCTION

These Rules cannot cover all possible situations that may arise during a show, nor can they regulate all administrative questions. Where cases are not precisely regulated by a Rule, it should be possible to reach a responsible decision by looking at the Rule book and/or submitting a written letter/email to the NBHA Board.

These Rules assume that NBHA Board Members have the necessary competence, sound judgment and absolute objectivity. Too detailed a rule might deprive the official of his/her freedom of judgment and thus prevent him/her from finding the solution to a problem dictated by fairness, logic and special factors. Breach of these By Laws may result in Disqualification

MEMBERSHIP

1. Open (including Seniors) Membership per year is \$100
2. Youth/Teen/Led (**18 years of age** or under) Membership per year is \$50
3. Supporter (non-rider) Membership per year is \$20

Day Membership (NO POINTS)

Non-members may compete for prize money at an NBHA event (excluding State Show or National Show) only upon payment of a non-member permit fee. A non-member permit fee, in the amount of twenty dollars (\$20.00) will be collected from each non NBHA member. Peeweeps may compete for prize money without being a member but must complete a waiver. Only paid members of National Barrel Horse Association of Australia Inc. will be eligible to attain points for end of year prizes.

Life Membership

Life Membership of National Barrel Horse Association of Australia Inc. may be considered for special services rendered in connection with the sport. Life Membership is not transferable and will only be granted at the level of membership previously held (i.e. a Supporter will only receive Supporter Life Membership, a previous Open member will receive Open Life Membership). Recommendations for Life Membership shall be put forward to the Secretary prior to each AGM and shall set out the details of special service rendered. Life Memberships will then be decided at the AGM in consultation with all members. A Life Membership card shall be awarded, however membership form and waiver must be completed at the start of each year.

Riders from other Districts

NBHA members from any other District may also compete for prize money.



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COMPETITION RULES

1. OPEN, YOUTH, TEEN & SENIOR Barrel Racing Classes are mandatory to be run at all point events (MUST be run in that order for rollovers).

Set maximum fees for entry are as follows:

- Open \$30 (events paid out to 3D or 4D, points to qualify for Worlds to 5D)
- Seniors \$20 (events paid out to 3D or 4D, points to qualify for Worlds to 5D)
- Teen \$15 18 years and under (events paid out to 3D or 4D, points to qualify for Worlds)
- Youth \$10 12 years and under (events paid out to 3D or 4D, points to qualify for Worlds)

Side pot - A "side pot" is additional opportunities to recognise competitors. Contestants can pay an additional fee to enter their designated "side pot." This means that in addition to the main competition, times will be "carried over" into the designated pot adding an additional chance for the contestant to win a check against what is often a smaller pool of competitors. (for example age categories for horses such as Futurity/Derby, or fastest gender such as Man/Woman). **Side pots** are permitted for the OPEN class only.

All other classes are **feature events** and are run at Director or Promoter discretion (as per event flyer).

2. Electric Timers are to be used at all points award events. A hand timer may be used as a back-up for the electric timers at Director or Promoter discretion. If a Hand timer is used timing will commence as the horse's nose passes the start/finish line.
3. If the electric timer fails, the rider will be given the option of running again or taking the time recorded by the hand timer (if hand timer was used). The rider will not be told the time recorded by the hand timer before making the decision to take it or rerun. If No Hand timer was used the rider will be required to do a re-run.
4. Nominations for events generally close the Thursday before an event however entries may be taken up to an hour before the start time at the discretion of the District Director or Promoter (see individual event flyers). This does not include State or National Championships.
5. No raffles to raise funds for individuals are to be run at events where NBHA is the promoter as those days are to raise money for end of year prizes. Raffles can be run at other events with the permission of the promoter.
6. Reasonable out of pocket expenses to hold the event may be charged on to NBHA members (arena hire/timer fees/camping fees/ stable fees) but must be advertised on the event flyer and directed to the specific purposes as labelled, for example, the timer fees must either be paid to the timer owner/operator.
7. The NBHA will sanction only one show on a given date within a district, except that two separate NBHA runs may be sanctioned on the same day at the same arena (Double Header). No sanctioned NBHA point shows will be approved for dates that would interfere with members from attending their State Championships, the World Championships, the Youth World Championships or a National Championship Series Show held within the same region. NBHA Australia Directors will have final approval for all sanctioned shows. NBHA points will not be awarded for shows that are not properly sanctioned.
8. Times can only be rolled over from Opens to Youth, Teen, Seniors or Feature classes. Times CANNOT be rolled over from one Jackpot to next Jackpot.

SAFETY FIRST

1. Only MEMBERS of NBHA are permitted on horseback within the ENTIRE location of the event.
2. A competitor must start and finish their run inside the alleyway/arena.
3. If any horse is deemed out of the rider's control, the rider may be requested to remove the horse from the arena/marshalling/warm up area for the safety of other competitors and spectators.
4. Only one horse and rider to be in the arena to make a run at any time. If using a mounted horse to "lead" a competitor in, competitor cannot start until 2nd horse has left the arena.
5. Riders will be called to the marshalling area to wait for their run. Only those within the current block are to be in that area with the exception of riders 18 years and younger - their parents/guardians may accompany them within the marshalling area and as required into the arena.
6. Only NBHA officials (or their designated helpers) to be in arena or marshalling area on foot.
7. **Riders who are 4 and under** must have a person to lead the horse and a support person (both must be NBHA member 18 years & over). The person leading must lead at the horse/pony's shoulder throughout the entire run and remain in full control of the horse. The support person must stay at rider's side and remain in contact with either the rider's leg or back throughout the barrel pattern. Once they reach the age of 5 years they do not require a support person and can compete off lead if able. Competitors aged 4 years and under are not permitted to carry a whip or any other device to smack or whip their mount.
8. All Juniors aged 18 years or younger as of January 1st each year must wear a approved helmet (description below) at all times whilst mounted with chin straps done up. All members wearing helmets please note

Helmet compliance expires 5 years from date of manufacture. PLEASE BE AWARE that at any time NBHA Board member or District Director can ask to see the helmet. If it is not to the correct standard (AS/NZS 3838 (AU), ASTM F1163 marked SEI or Snell, EN 1384 (2014-12) only or VG1, VG01.040 (2014-12) or if the compliance is not in date, you will be asked to wear a compliant helmet or will not be able to compete and will not be allowed to be mounted on a horse for the duration of the event.

COMPETITION DRESS CODE

Competition Dress Code applies to ALL competitors including Peewee and their handlers and supporters. It also applies to anyone helping either on foot or horseback leading horses in to the Arena/Alley/Holding Yard.

1. Western style Hat or Helmet must be worn (no caps allowed)
2. Long-sleeved Western shirt with collar. Shirt sleeves must be rolled down and buttoned or snapped. Shirt tails must be tucked in. ("Fishing" style shirts are not acceptable).
3. Jeans or Jodhpurs must be worn.
4. Cowboy style boots -pull on or lace up (moccasins/cruisers/joggers/gum boots/thongs/sandals/ sneakers etc are not acceptable) must be worn by everyone entering the Arena/Alley/Holding.

PROMOTERS (A Promoter runs the NBHA show entirely and therefore takes the profit)

- Promoters are responsible for 100% of the running of their event and must provide all resources and allocate and manage volunteers to run the event. District Directors or their Representative will only be in attendance to check results
- For a show to be sanctioned by the NBHA, a written request must be made to the District Director on an [NBHA Sanctioned Show Request Form](#). Proof of payment of the **\$30 sanctioning fee** to the District account must accompany this request.
- To be approved as a sanctioned show, the request form and fee must be received at NBHA Headquarters at least 14 days prior to the requested show date. Shows will be sanctioned on a first-come, first-serve basis.
- Within 7 days after the event, all day and yearly memberships must be paid into the District account and forms passed on to the District Director. Within 7 days after the event, Promoters must pay a fee of **\$70 per event for non-point events** and **\$140 per event for point-events** to the District account as contribution to end of year prizes. Within 3 days after the event, timesheets must be passed on to the District Director to allow for point calculations.
- If the Promoter event is a Points event, all barrel racing classes (Open, Senior, Youth & Teen) must be run. If a Non-point event, the promoter may decide not to run all classes (e.g. only Open and Youth or Teen or Open only) but this must be advertised on the event flyer.
- No Series or Feature events (such as Top 10 Shootouts/Poles/Led) will be allowed to run before the main performance at any event.
- Rules for Series or Feature events MUST be submitted with NBHA Sanctioned Show Request Form and approved by the NBHA Management Committee. It is an obligation that to run a Series, the Promoter MUST complete the series as originally advertised. Should the series be shortened due to weather, then all members will be advised and the NBHA Management Committee will arrange another date to complete the series

HORSE WELFARE

- Striking horses with a whip or any other piece of equipment (including your hand) around their head will result in disqualification for the duration of the competition. (Whip is defined as any apparatus to encourage/aid horse - e.g. whip/stick/under over/quirt/hand & anything else not specifically mentioned)
- Excessive use of a whip or other equipment will result in a no time being given. Excessive whipping will be classified as more than 2 strikes to the first, 2 strikes in between each drum and 4 on the way home.
- Stallions, when not competing, are to be tied up with panels/electric tape/front hobbles or double tied to a fixed apparatus.
- Competitors under the age of 18 riding stallions MUST be under the supervision of a capable adult handler at all times (whilst mounted and dismounted). Any Competitor under the age of 18 taking advantage of their right to compete on a stallion will result in disqualification and/or suspension by the discretion of NBHA officials or Show Management.
- Show Management, Promoters or NBHA Directors shall have the authority to disqualify or deny entry to ANY horse they deem dangerous to the rider, or to other individuals, animals or property.
- Show Management, Promoters or NBHA Directors may require ANY horse to be identified with a ribbons in their tail (this should be clearly advertised before the event), however all STALLIONS must wear a Ribbon. See guide below:



DISTRICT TITLES

Refer to [Section E: Rules Related to State, Super and World Shows](#)

- In the event of a tie for a District title in any Division (1st Place only in any D), a run-off will occur using the following protocol:
 - The District Director will toss a coin to determine running order, unless both/all parties tied parties mutually agree the coin toss to determine the clear winner without a runoff.
 - In an event of a run-off, each contestant will be given a minimum of 30 minutes of rest before having to ride in a runoff.
 - During the runoff, any barrels knocked down will result in a 5 second penalty per barrel down.
 - Winning monies related to a tie will be split 50/50 or evenly in the case of more than two individuals in a tie and contestants will be deemed Co-Champions. Prizes will be awarded to the results from the runoff or the mutually agreed upon flip.
 - If a contestant fails to contact the District Director within 30 minutes of announced results. He or she will forfeit the opportunity of flipping a coin or running for first choice of awards. This will not impact the event payoff, or the contestants being considered Co-Champions.
 - It is the contestant's responsibility to seek show results.
- In the event of a tie not related to a District title, in which awards are given:
 - A coin flip will be used to determine who will receive first choice of awards. If a contestant fails to contact the District Director within 30 minutes of announced results, he or she will forfeit the opportunity of flipping a coin for first choice of awards.
 - Winning monies related to a tie will be split 50/50 or evenly in the case of more than two individuals in a tie.



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EXHIBITION BARRELS

3. Exhibition Runs are timed demonstrations (electric timers only)
4. To make a timed demonstration, you must be a member (this includes Day Member).
5. Rider may acquaint their horse with arena environment (ride around the arena / outside of the pattern) before making one run on the pattern. **The time in arena should be no more than 1 minute.**
6. Nominations for Exhibition Runs are not required, these can be paid for on the day at the gate.
7. No points or prize money is awarded for Exhibition Runs.
8. Caps (unless under 18 and helmet is compulsory) / t-shirts / polo shirts are acceptable for exhibitions but no singlets. Must wear jeans and boots at all times
9. Exhibition fees go directly to the Promoter or District running the event.

GUIDE FOR FEATURE LED (Led is NOT a Divisional Event OR Age dependent)

1. At District Discretion - riders who are on Lead line can pay 40% membership (full amount must be paid to NBHA Australia) (i.e. \$20 18 years and under or \$50 18 years and over).
2. Only 1 LED FEATURE to be run per event.
3. **If there is an entry fee**, payout to 5th Place or less depending on placings
4. **If points are accumulated**, points are awarded on an outright contest basis of 1st to 5th.
5. Riders who are on Lead line **are not eligible to compete in any other class including Opens, Youth, Teen and Senior Classes.**
6. Entries per rider for these events is limited to **ONE horse only per event.**
7. All riders in this group must wear an approved safety helmet whilst mounted on a horse at any NBHA affiliated event.
8. Assisted Riders who are on lead, the person leading must lead at the horse/pony's shoulder throughout the entire run and remain in full control of the horse.
Assisted Riders who are 4 years of age and under must have a person to lead the horse and a support person (both must be NBHA member 18 years & over). The person leading must lead at the horse/pony's shoulder throughout the entire run and remain in full control of the horse. The support person must stay at rider's side and remain in contact with either the rider's leg or back throughout the barrel pattern. Once they reach the age of 5 years they do not require a support person and can compete off lead if able.
9. Competitors aged 4 years and under are not permitted to carry a whip or any other device to smack or whip their mount..

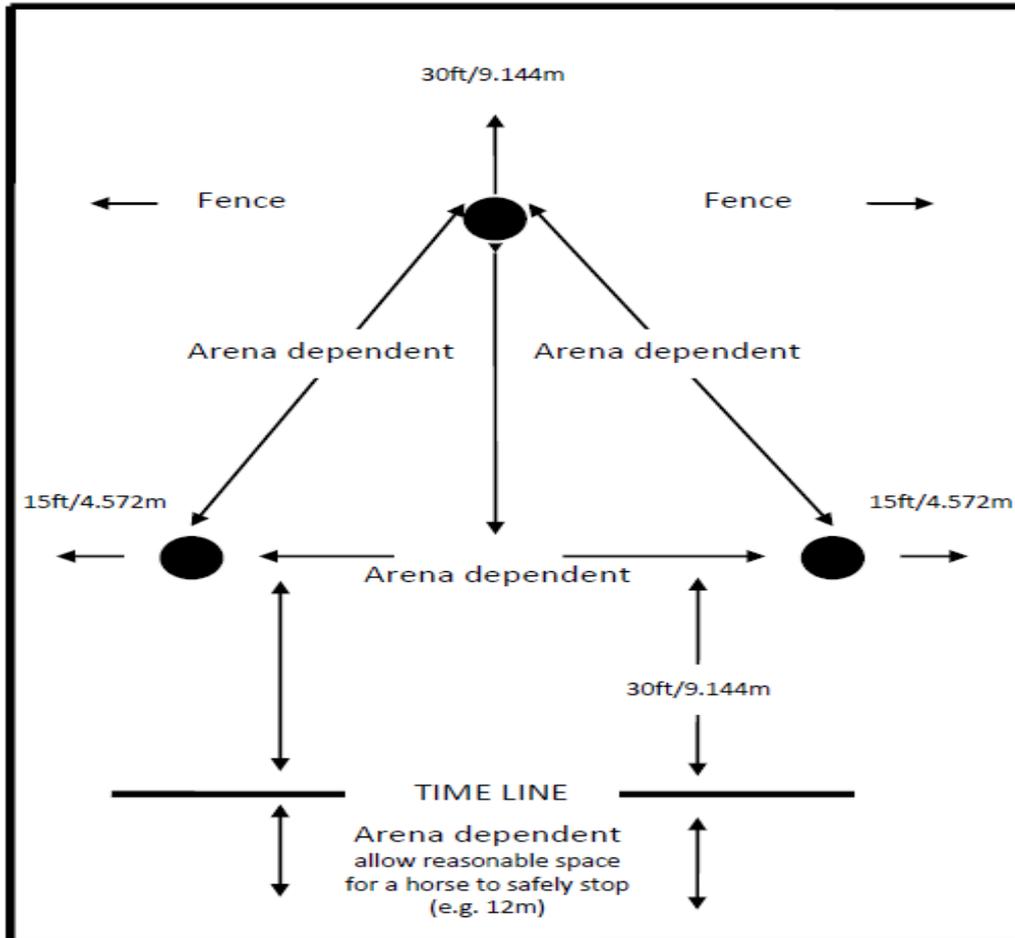
GUIDE FOR FEATURE POLE BENDING (Pole Bending is NOT a Divisional Event)

1. Only 1 POLE BENDING FEATURE to be run per event.
2. Payout is to 3rd place or less depending on placings.
3. **If points are accumulated**, points are awarded on an outright contest basis of 1st to 5th.
4. Entries per rider for these events is limited to **TWO separate horses.**
5. Course size will be 9 Metres from timers to first pole then 6 Metres between poles.
6. 6 poles are to be used, if 6 are not available then 4 must be used, an uneven number is never allowed.
7. Contestants can enter the course from either side of the poles as long as the course is completed correctly.
8. A no time will be given if the pole is tipped/touches the ground and/or doesn't return past 45 degrees vertical as ruled by the event judge.
9. Excessive use of a whip, bare hand, under and over or other equipment will result in a no time being given. Excessive whipping will be classified as more than 2 on the way to the top pole and more than 4 on the way home.

GUIDE FOR FEATURE BEGINNER BARRELS (Beginner Barrels is NOT a Divisional Event)

1. Payout is to 3rd place or less depending on placings
2. **No points are awarded.**
3. Entries per rider for these events is limited to two separate horses.
4. Rider must be a **genuine *Beginner Rider***
(For example; the rider is only comfortable riding at a trot or slow canter, the rider has not competed in timed events for over 5 years, the rider has never won an open pony club/active riders barrel race, the rider has never placed in a Divisional, Novice or Open barrel race).
5. Riders will be disqualified from this class if they run a time that is **less than 2 seconds off the Open 4D time** (4 seconds off 1D).
6. District Directors have discretion to move competitors out of Beginners if they feel they have reached an adequate competitive level.

NBHA BARREL RACING DIAGRAM



For pole bending, poles are set min 9m from back fence and then 6m apart.
6 poles are to be used, if 6 are not available then 4 must be used, an uneven number is never allowed.