Australian Barrel Horse Association Inc.

ABHA Official Rule Book 1996

Revised Edition May 2019

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Forward

The Australian Barrel Horse Association Incorporated was formed in 1996 to organise Barrel Racing Competitions and Clinics, open to male and female contestants of any age.

The ABHA serves as an information centre for its members and the general public on matters pertaining to ABHA approved events.

OLD LOGO

Colours – Black & White

2019 New Logo

Colours –Blue – Grey – Black - White

No individual or organization shall use the official logo without specific authority of the ABHA Board of Directors

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The Board of Directors of the ABHA will expect the co-operation of any member when called upon by the ABHA officials to represent the ABHA's interest regarding enforcement of Rules at any approved Barrel Race or in any matter of official business.

ABHA members are not authorized to grant endorsements of the ABHA.

SOCIAL MEDIA CODE OF CONDUCT

1. The ABHA does not condone the posting of any derogatory or slanderous remarks made on Facebook or any other form of social media by any person, member or non member. Any person found in breach of this code of conduct may face disciplinary action by the ABHA Board of Directors.

BULLYING and HARRASMENT

1. Engaging in, or attempting to engage in any action of a threatening nature, berating, harassing, intimidating - either in person, via telephone, email or all forms of social media, assaulting or striking any ABHA - Director, affiliate, member, or spectator may result in the suspension of your ABHA membership at the Board's discretion.

ANIMAL WELFARE

1. The ABHA recognises the importance of sound animal welfare policies, which prevent the use of animals which are not fit for competition. Fitness may be gauged as appropriate physical fitness or lack of suitability for competition due to injury or disease.

   The following provisions regarding conduct shall apply to any event whether in competition or practice

   (A.) inhumane treatment or abuse of a horse in any manner whilst in the arena or on the grounds is prohibited. In humane treatment includes, but is not limited to the following:

   (i) Riding of a crippled, injured or lame animal

   (ii) Riding of a horse with a health abnormality, which could result in the horse's undue discomfort or distress.

   (iii) Abuse of an animal which includes excessive jerking, spurring, whipping or any other act intended to cause trauma or injury to the animal.

   (B). Any act of abuse or intent to abuse an animal whilst in the arena or on the grounds or in the vicinity which could also endanger the safety of other persons or animals will not be tolerated and the persons may be subject to disciplinary action.

DISCIPLINE

1. Disputes – All disputes must be in writing and lodged with the Board of Directors 20 minutes after completion of that event with a $50.00 non-refundable deposit.

2. Drugs & Alcohol - If you are under the influence of drugs or alcohol during competition you will be disqualified by the ABHA and ABHA Affiliate

3. Rule violation penalty – Any member of the Association who does not follow the rules will be disqualified.

BARREL RACE RULES

1. Right or left-Competitors may go either to the right or the left barrel first, but must take one right and two left turns or one left and two right turns.

2. Knocking a drum – A five second penalty will apply for knocking over a barrel

3. Illegal pattern – Competitors will be disqualified for not following the pattern or not being ready when name is called. Touching the barrel is permitted.

4. Barrel penalty – Should a barrel be knocked over and is set up again on opposite side five second penalty will apply.

5. Score line – The starting and finishing line and the position for the barrels must be marked permanently for the entire contest. The time starts when horses' nose passes the score line both ways.

6. Line position – The starting and finishing line must be in line with the first and second drums.

7. Re-runs – Should for any reason the barrels not be placed on the markers or timers are not in correct position the whole event must be re-run with everything in order.

8. Barrel marker positions – Judges and Directors must take the decision that the barrels are not on correct markers at time of event before barrels are moved from position.

9. Time set for re-run – Should this happen competitors and judges should be notified, judges and arena directors will set time for re-run.

10. Drums – Drums must be 44 gallon size (empty) and be closed at both ends.

11. Vet/Visual out – If a competitor desires to withdraw for any reason, e.g.: veterinary certificate, the decision will be left to the discretion of the Board of Directors.

12. Turning down a run – When a competitor turns down a run they will be disqualified on that horse for the entire event (i.e.: no round money paid out) except in case of a veterinary certificate or the sighting of an unhealthy horse.

13. Completing the course – Timers are to be informed that clocks are not to be stopped until the competitor has completed the course or in the event of an accident.

14. Number of entries – A contestant may compete on as many horses as desired in any event, but each horse is restricted to one run per round.

15. Exercising in the arena – Before commencement of competition horses may be exercised in arena until specified time with the approval of the committee or arena director. No circling around markers once course is marked. Any member abusing this privilege may be removed from the arena by committee or arena director. Further disciplinary action may be taken.

16. When electric timers are in use in all barrel races, 5 digits are to be written down on judge's sheet by timekeepers/judges eg: 17.312 not 17.31 (to the third decimal point).

17. Difference between clocks – If there is a .5 second difference between clocks, competitors to have option of re-run. Only if a clear round is run.

18. Hat – To be cleared from Arena before next run.

19. Full course – Where a full course can be fitted in the arena it must be marked, but cannot exceed maximum measurements. See diagram of Barrel Diagram on Page 7. Where distance must be reduced to suit the arena, barrels must be at least 5 meters from the fence.

20. Animal abuse – Hitting horses around head, or excessive use of whip, over and under in Barrel Race competition will result in disqualification for the duration of the competition. Ruled by judges and/or disputes committee. There will be no refund of entry fees.

    All Incidents will be reviewed by the ABHA Board. Further disciplinary action may be enforced. This may include Fines, and or further suspension. The ABHA has a zero tolerance for Animal Abuse.

21. If any horse is deemed dangerous or out of the rider's control, it may be disqualified at the judge's/official's discretion for the duration of the whole event.

22. Whipping – More than two whips between entry and 1st drum, more than two whips between barrels and four whips coming home, or more than two contacts between entry and first drum, more than two contacts between drums and four contacts coming home with an over and under will result in disqualification. Ruled by Judge.

23. Records - To record an official ABHA record, measurements, rules, equipment, must be checked recorded and confirmed by at least three ABHA members.

24. Electronic timer failure – If electric eye fails to work for more than one half of the contest in an entire go-round, the back-up (manual) recorded times will be the official times for all contestants in that go round. When manual clocks are used the times should be to the hundredth of a second. Two clocks must be used. If one clock fails, time will be taken from the remaining clock, a back-up clock is to be used where possible. Average time from two clocks to be official judges' time.

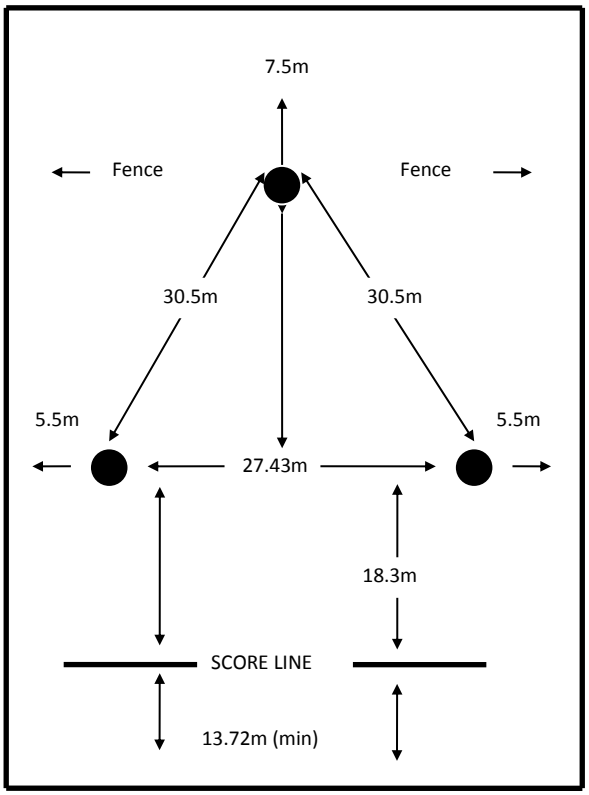
25. Dress rules – Members competing at ABHA affiliated events must wear suitable long sleeved shirt, hat/helmet, boots and jeans in the arena at all times. They must be neat and presentable.

26. Safety helmets – Junior or juvenile competitors under 18 years of age, must wear an Australian Standards Association approved helmet with the chin strap securely fastened when competing in all events.

27. All stallions must be double tied by neck strap and halter on all grounds. Stallions will be allowed to be unrestrained in panel yards through daylight hours **ONLY**. Stallions must be double tied at night. Panels must be a minimum of 1500mm in height with a minimum of 4 bars. Panels must be constructed of a minimum of 25mm box, or pipe equivalent. Panels must be anchored securely to a solid object ie: truck, post, tree. Stallions are required to wear a visible blue ribbon tied into the mane and/or tail to help identify stallions to other members.

28. Junior members are permitted to ride stallions in single horse events only and when not competing, the stallion to be under adult supervision at all times.

BARREL RACING DIAGRAM



EXHIBITIONS

1. Exhibition fee not to exceed $5

2. Time limit set on exhibitions by affiliate.

3. Exhibitions can be limited by organisers of event or executive committee

GROUND CONDITIONS

1. Ground conditions – The arena must be prepared prior to the barrel race in accordance with the ABHA guidelines and insurance.
2. Ground – every effort must be made to provide a safe and even ground for all contestants
3. Ground should be worked at regular intervals – every 5-7 runs depending on conditions.
4. If during an event the surface becomes unsafe, the event must be stopped.

MEMBERSHIP

1. Open to male and female members
2. Junior age is under 18 years.
3. ABHA membership entitles you to compete at any ABHA affiliated event.
4. Local affiliate membership is optional.
5. Persons assisting riders in the arena (including handlers) at any ABHA affiliated event, must be financial members of the ABHA.

DIVISIONAL RULES

1. Divisional Barrel races are not to be restricted in any manner and must be open to any rider and any horse.

2. Divisions are determined by a ONE SECOND time bracket.

3. In the divisional barrel race the fastest time clean time will be used to set divisions.

4. Runs with time penalties cannot place in final placing in a divisional barrel race

5. Splits for two run format and three run format to be kept at 1.0, 2.0, 3.0 seconds off the fastest average time respectively.

6.

One run Format: 1 second splits with the fastest time without penalties of the race to be used to set time brackets to set divisions i.e. 1D will be set by the fastest time of the barrel race with 2D, 3D and 4D divisions being 1.0, 2.0, 3.0 seconds off the fastest time respectively.

Two run Format: Divisions set on the average time of the two runs. With the fastest average time setting the 1D with 2D, 3D and 4D divisions being 1.0, 2.0, 3.0 seconds off the fastest average time respectively.

Three run Format: 1st Division - The fastest average time over 3 rounds plus one second. Any competitors average time between these two times, will be in 1st Division.

2nd Division - The fastest average time plus one second and the fastest average time plus two seconds. Any Competitors average time between these two times, will be in the 2nd Division.

3rd Division - All competitors slower than the fastest average time plus two seconds, will be in the 3rd Division.

Additional Divisions - If required based on the times or the number of entries you may follow the above concept to add additional Divisions as required.

7. Average – All rounds added together and divided by number of rounds

8. If there are no placing's in any one division, the prize money is divided equally between the remaining divisions

9. In the divisional barrel race the purse is split evenly between the divisions

10. At the Judge's discretion immediate disqualification of a competitor will occur if they are seen to be deliberately pulling a horse up in an effort to place in a lower Division.

11. Affiliates have the option to allow a competitor to run once in a two run divisional, their one time being the average. Competitors must nominate this option at the time of entry and this decision is final.

12. Percentage Break up of Payout

One way	-	100%
Two ways	-	60% 40%
Three ways	-	50% 30% 20%
Four ways	-	40% 30% 20% 10%
Five ways	-	37% 27% 19% 10% 7%
Six ways	-	35% 25% 18% 10% 7% 5%

ABHA POINTS SYSTEM:

1st - 5 points

2nd - 4 points

3rd - 3 points

4th - 2 points

5th - 1 point

CLASSIC EVENTS

1. Open to horses 4, 5 and 6 years.
2. Minimum prize money $1,000.00
3. Can be run over 1, 2 or 3 rounds.
4. Affiliates have the option to allow a competitor to roll over their time from a classic event into a divisional barrel race, provided the time was run in a classic event only.
5. Any Classic with $500 prize money or more will count as a qualifying classic round for the ABHA Finals. Only Classics with $1000 or more posted prize money will receive a Classic Buckle supplied by the ABHA.

AFFILIATES

1. Affiliates can only retain a maximum of 20% of the entry fee to cover insurance, club expenses, trophies and administration fees.

   Any Event with a minimum of $300.00 posted prize money, (including juniors) affiliates can retain up to 40% of the entry fee. (Rule amended 2018 AGM)

2. If an Affiliate has specific ground rules for their venue, these rules are required to be submitted to the ABHA Board for approval before the event application is approved.

3. Affiliates conducting club end of year point's awards or series' must forward a copy of their rules/guidelines to the ABHA Board for approval before commencement of their point's year/series.

4. Affiliates can apply to the ABHA board to run a stand-alone Feature event

5. Affiliates may run any combination of barrel racing competitions at an event but MUST include an Open Divisional Barrel Race.

6. ABHA can co-affiliate sanctioned barrel racing classes at barrel racing events insured with other associations, subject to board approval

7. Co-affiliations must be applied for to the board 30 days prior to the proposed event with detailed descriptions of events etc. Not the standard 14 days.

8. Affiliates must have all paperwork and monies owed to the ABHA to the secretary within 21 days of the said event, should this not occur, any events approved will be cancelled and no other events approved until this has been received.

9. Affiliates are required to issue receipts for any ABHA Membership taken.

10. All ABHA affiliated events must be on the website for a minimum of 14 days.

11. All affiliates paying prizemoney via electronic banking must have transactions completed and processed within 72 hours of completion of said event.

POLE BENDING

Pole Bending is a timed event.

(a) Each contestant will begin from a running start, and time shall begin and end as the horse's nose crosses the line. A clearly visible starting line must be provided. An electric timer or at least two watches shall be used, with the time indicated by the electric timer of the average time of the watches used by official timers to be the official time.

(b) The pole bending pattern is to be run around six poles. Each pole is to be 21 feet (6.4 meters) apart and the first pole is to be 21 feet (6.4 meters) from the starting line. Poles shall be set on top of the ground, six feet (1.8 meters) in height, with no base more than 14 inches (35cm) in diameter.

(c) A horse may start either to the right or to the left of the first pole and then run the remainder of the pattern accordingly.

(d) Knocking over a pole shall carry a five- second penalty. Failure to follow the course shall cause disqualification. A contestant may touch a pole with his or her hand in pole bending.

(e) A five-second penalty will be assessed if the hat or helmet is not on the exhibitor's person for the entire time the exhibitor is in the arena in pole bending.

(f) In the event of a tie, the horse declared the winner in the runoff must re-run the pattern within two seconds of its original time or the runoff must be held again. Penalty time will not apply to the two second rule, but will apply to the final runoff time.

(g) The judge, at his/her discretion, may disqualify a contestant for excessive use of a bat, crop, whip or rope in front of the cinch.

Poles shall be set on top of the ground, 6 feet in height, and mounted in bases with a 14 inch diameter. Poles shall be PVC pipe, and bases shall be rubber or plastic. For added safety, PVC caps are recommended. Preferred colour for poles is natural white, but red, white and blue rings shall be allowed. Solid rubber bases are preferred, but hollow plastic bases shall be allowed only if filled completely to emulate a solid base.