

Australian Barrel Horse  
Association Inc.



Official  
Affiliate Handbook

May 2025

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# WELCOME TO THE ABHA

## 1 Welcome

Thank you for your interest in running an ABHA Affiliated event. Whether you are a new or existing affiliate, the enclosed information package will give you an overview of how the ABHA operates and how to run a successful Barrel Racing Day. Please keep it in a safe place as it will become an important referral source. In addition to this pack please take the time to print and familiarise yourself with the ABHA Rule Book found @ <https://abha.com.au/rulebook>

## 2 Who is the ABHA?

The Australian Barrel Horse Association was formed in 1996, following the realization that there was a need for an Association in Australia which would cater for male and females of all ages to attend Barrel Racing competitions.

In the year of its formation the ABHA became an incorporated body.

Incorporation number Y2378311

The ABHA is run by a Board of Directors consisting of 2 Officers – President / Vice President and 7 Directors. The office is run by the Secretary/Treasurer who reports directly to the Board.

### 2.1 What is barrel racing?

Barrel racing is a timed event where horse and rider are competing against the clock for the fastest time riding around 3 barrels in a cloverleaf pattern.

The ABHA was formed to provide members a place to start and compete on their young and or old horses, that was friendly and inexpensive.

### 2.2 Aim

It is the aim of the ABHA to provide safe and affordable Barrel Racing Competitions and to provide an information centre for members and the general public on all matters pertaining to ABHA approved events.

### 3 ABHA History

The Australian Barrel Horse Association Inc was formed in 1996 and was the brainchild of Jeanette Belshire, nee Murray. Jeanette, a former WPRA rookie of the year and NFR Average Champ, approached two friends Shona Tribe & Susan Keenan who she knew were equally as passionate about barrel racing as she was. Together they formed the ABHA, became incorporated and started running divisional jackpot barrel races in the Tamworth region.

The girls were approached by Rick Tranter, a professional reining horse trainer and owner of the new Mavericks Western Wear based in Brisbane. Rick spoke to the girls about running aged events as he could see the potential and market for horses in the sport of barrel racing. In 1996 the ABHA ran the first aged Barrel Racing event, and it was a Classic. Rick gave his services to run clinics for three years with the proceeds of these clinics going to the prize money for the "Mavericks Classic" which was for horses 6 years & under.

The growth of the ABHA was steady, but the potential could be seen and with the assistance of Kerrie Holder, Elders became the major sponsor for four years. The "Elders Classic" was held in Tamworth with great support and dedication from the members. Not only was the Classic held at these days but also a divisional and youth barrel races, the prize money for these events often coming from the hard work of members holding clinics and raising funds.

In 2002 the first affiliate of the ABHA was formed by Vicki Schiller, who held jackpots and clinics to finance the first Turn & Burn Southern Derby at Wagga Wagga in 2004 which continues today but is held at Tumut.

In the following years the second and third affiliates were formed, they are Moonbi Magic and Central West Barrel Horse Association. Moonbi Magic then took over the ABHA Classic and the Central West Barrel Horse Association held the Dubbo Dash. Two affiliates had also been formed in Qld they are the Central Qld Barrel Horse Association with Liz O'Halloran and Judy Mattotek and the Ruperswood Club, both of which held Classics with the Central Qld Barrel Horse Association still holding jackpots and their annual Classic today. With these events and affiliates in place the Saddle Series was instigated.

In 2013 Cathy Raaen, Kerrie Holder and Suzie Dicks submitted a proposal to the ABHA Board for a National Finals Event. This proposal was accepted and in 2014 the first annual National Finals Event was successfully run.

The first President of the ABHA was Shona Tribe, followed in order by Cathrina Hutton, Liz Daly, Vicki Schiller, Adele Edwards, Cathy Raaen, Leslie Moore and our current President is Matt Burns.

## ABHA Events

### 4.1 Division Barrel Racing

All ABHA sanctioned events are required to run an open divisional barrel race. Affiliates can then determine what other events they wish to run to suit the demographics of their members.

What is an open divisional barrel race? A divisional barrel race is a barrel race with a self-handicapping system. All riders run in the same barrel race, and results are categorized as follows: The fastest clean time sets the time brackets, (average if held over 2 runs) and wins the first division. The second division is won by a time one second behind the overall fastest time. The third division is won by a time two seconds behind the fastest time, and the fourth is three seconds behind the fastest time, and so on.

### 4.2 Futurity Event

The Futurity event is the feature event of the ABHA. Horses aged 4, 5 & 6 years old are eligible to compete in these events. Ages are classified as per the Australian Quarter Horse Association (AQHA) age rules. Details can be found at <https://www.aqha.com.au/horses> Number 15.

### 4.3 Junior events

Affiliates have the option to run their junior events as divisional events or age group events (Affiliates to set their own age groups in their ground rules)

## MEMBERSHIP

### 5.1 ABHA offers the following types of Memberships.

ABHA Membership runs from 1<sup>st</sup> January to 31<sup>st</sup> December each year and is due on the 1<sup>st</sup> of January each Calendar year.

Fee structure from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2025 will be:

Senior Membership: \$100 gst inclusive

Junior Membership: \$70 gst inclusive

Day Membership: \$22 gst inclusive

Non-Competing Membership: \$33 gst inclusive

Juniors Members are to be allowed to enter open events.

### 5.2 Terms of day membership are:

Day memberships are limited to 3 affiliated days per calendar year. Full ABHA membership fee will be required to be paid regardless of the number of day memberships paid should the member wish to take out a full ABHA membership. Day membership will not entitle the member to a qualifying event for the National Finals.

## Affiliating with the ABHA

### 6. Why affiliate with the ABHA?

#### 6.1 Office

The ABHA Office is run by the Secretary/Treasurer who reports directly to the Board. The ABHA office offers full support for all ABHA Affiliates from their first enquiry right through the process of affiliating with the ABHA, through to running their events and post event requirements.

Office Hours are 8am-2pm Monday to Friday.

The ABHA Website includes a page for affiliates only.

<https://abha.com.au/affiliate-login>

#### 6.2 Sponsorship for Futurity Events:

The Futurity incentive is reviewed annually by the Board.

Any Affiliate running a Futurity event with a minimum of \$1,000 Posted Prize Money can apply for a \$500 cash bonus incentive from the ABHA.

Affiliates who have never ran a Futurity event since their inception, may apply to the Board of Directors to run a \$200 posted prize money Futurity that will count as a National Finals qualifying event. All future Futurity events held will require the \$500 posted prize money.

Each Affiliate can only receive the incentive twice per calendar year.

Affiliates can use the \$500 cash incentive at their discretion in the running of their event.

#### 6.3 Risk Management Support

The ABHA provides assistance to affiliates to support affiliates in the safe conduct of their activities. Implementation of a risk management approach to events is conducted by the association and we can provide publication of resources to support the risk management approach of the association and its affiliates.

#### 6.4 Insurance

In 2009 the ABHA became a stand-alone association with respect to insurance. Independent Public Liability to the value of \$20 million is held through Affinity Insurance.

Since 2017, Member's ABHA membership fees incorporate Personal Accident Insurance whilst competing at an Affiliated ABHA event and whilst traveling to and from said event.

It is of utmost importance that competitors and participants complete their membership in full which includes signing the Waiver of Liability. If these forms are not signed, you, your office bearers and your members may be placed at risk.

There is a \$1500.00 excess for any incident that becomes a Public Liability Claim.

The ABHA will pay the excess, however, in the event the Affiliate club is found liable, the ABHA may take steps to recover the excess.

ABHA will consider the recovery where the rules stipulated by the association are not enforced.

Affiliates will be provided with a copy of the current Certificate of Currency upon request once they have paid their Event Application Fee and lodged their paperwork with the Secretary. The COC is also available on the ABHA website for downloading under the affiliate login. FORM ABHA Certificate of Currency 2025

Please note: Whilst the ABHA has the above-mentioned Insurance, this is not AMBULANCE Cover. Please ensure your members have their own ambulance cover.

## 6.5 Helmets

Anyone under the age of 18 years must always wear a Helmet whilst riding a horse. Helmets worn must have the chin strap securely fastened at all times. As per Rule 26 in the ABHA Rule Book. It is recommended that Helmets should be destroyed and replaced after a severe blow or impact.

Recommended that any helmet showing signs of wear and tear should be replaced.

Best practice advice is to replace Helmets every 5 years, although those used more often may need an earlier replacement.

Month and Year of Manufacture must be visible without removing the padding. Caps must not be worn under a helmet. Helmets worn must conform with one of the current approved safety standards:

- ☐ Current Australian standard AS/NZ 3838 (2006 onwards) provided they are SAI global marked.
- ☐ Current American standards ASTM F1163 (2004a or 04a onwards) provided they are SEI marked, or SNELL E2001.
- ☐ Current British standard PAS 015 (1998 or 2011) provided they are BSI Kitemarked.
- ☐ Interim European Standard VGI (01.040: 2014-12) with or without BSI Kitemark.

Push bike helmets or helmets that are not specifically designed for horse riding are not acceptable.

## 6.6 National Finals

In 2014, the ABHA introduced a National Finals Event, which to date has been held at the Australian Equestrian & Livestock Education Centre, commonly known as AELEC, in Tamworth, NSW each September.

The popularity of this event contributes to a steady growth each year.

## How to affiliate with the ABHA

### 7.1 Affiliate Application

To affiliate with the ABHA, prospective applicants are required to fill in the Form 01-2024 ABHA Affiliate Application, along with the Form 12-2024 ABHA Risk Matrix Please note if you are running events at more than one venue you will need to complete a 12- 2024 Risk Matrix Form for each and every venue.

Once both these forms are completed, they are to be emailed to the office, secretary@abha.com.au where the secretary will then forward to the Director allocated to review and approve the forms are filled in to a satisfactory standard.

Once the secretary has been advised the application is completed to a satisfactory standard, the secretary will then forward to the Board for their approval. If the application has been successful, the secretary will advise the affiliate and work with them to get their first event approved.

### 7.2 Committee Listing

Affiliates are required to submit a copy of their current committee (if they have one) and notify the ABHA of any changes to the committee members. Affiliates are also required to note all Committee members and or volunteers on the 02-2025 ABHA Committee Volunteer Form who helped run the event. Volunteers do not have to be members of the ABHA or affiliate if their name is on the ABHA Committee/Volunteer Form to be covered under the ABHA insurance.

It is recommended that all committee members and volunteers complete the Affinity Online Ride Safe Training (this only takes about 15 minutes)

<https://www.affinityequineinsurance.com.au/training/?affiliate=Australian%20Barrel%20Horse%20Association>

### 7.3 Affiliation Incorporation

The ABHA does not require an affiliate to be incorporated with their State Body but does encourage all affiliates to consider incorporating their club as this takes away the risk to individuals.

## Sanctioning Events

### 8.1 Event Application

To affiliate an event with the ABHA, there is an Event Application link on the ABHA website under Affiliates and Form 12-2025 ABHA Risk Matrix are required to be completed for each event application and submitted a minimum of 14 days prior to the event date.

Events application/s will not be approved if another affiliate within 200km's of said affiliate already has an approved event on that date/s.

Events will be approved after you have submitted your forms and fee and they are accepted, then your event will be listed on the ABHA website in the event calendar. ONLY once your event is on the website are you permitted to advertise your event. This is to save any inconvenience should your date not be approved for any reason.

If an event is held over two days with round 1 on Saturday, round 2 on Sunday with the times averaged and the 1 payout, this is deemed as 1 event and will require 1 application fee. This event will only be classed as 1 qualifying event for the National Finals.

If you are holding separate events on a Saturday and a Sunday with separate payouts each day, this is classed as 2 separate events and will require 2 event applications with 2 event application fees payable. These events will be classed as two qualifying events for the National Finals.

## **8.2 Affiliation Fees**

Application Fee: \$44.00 per event\*

ABHA Admin Fee: \$3.00 per entry (regardless of number of runs)

\*to accompany your Form 3-2025ABHA Event Application

Clinics Application Fee: \$110.00 Application Fee\*\*

ABHA Admin Fee: \$15.00 Per Participant

\*\* The ABHA offers affiliates the opportunity to run Clinics through the Association, please contact the Secretary should you wish to run a clinic.

## **8.3 Ground Rules**

Affiliates can have specific ground rules (these cannot conflict with the ABHA Rule Book or Constitution) and are requested to submit a copy of these rules to the ABHA Board of Directors for approval and then will be held on file at the office.

Affiliate's holding end of year/series awards are required to submit the rules/criteria for these awards prior to the first event of the year/series.

Some things to consider when setting your ground rules:

Junior event – divisional or age groups, if so what age groups

Any ground rules set by owners of the arena e.g., Council/Shire regulations that need adhering to.

Guidelines on general public misbehaviour, what the consequences will be (Recommended to place poster/s of all such rules in place for all to see at each event)

Are pets permitted on the grounds? Etc.

## **8.4 Online Entries**

The ABHA offers online entries for all affiliated events.

All information will be gathered from the online event application and the online entry form will be constructed from this information. The secretary will then open the online entry and attach the entry to the event on the ABHA website event calendar. The member wishing to enter will click on the link and fill in their details.

Once the member has filled in their details and clicked submit, an email will be sent to the nominated affiliates email address for their processing. If the affiliate requires a complete listing of the entries, please contact the secretary and request a spreadsheet of all the entries once entries close.

Online entries are customized to each affiliate and the events they hold.

## **8.5 Event Photographer / videographer guidelines**

All photographers and videographers that attend and ABHA sanctioned event are required to have a current Working With Children Check and current Public Liability insurance Certificate of Currency and be listed on the ABHA list of Approved Photographers.

## Running Your Event

### 9.1 Pre event

Prior to running an event, the affiliate is required to complete the Form 05-2024 Planning Checklist.

On the morning of the event, affiliates are required to complete the Form 09-2024 Event Audit Report whilst walking around doing the pre-check of the venue before competitors start to arrive. Affiliates are required to check every entrant is a current ABHA financial member. This can be checked on the ABHA website.

Form 06-2024 ABHA Membership Form

Form 07-2024 ABHA Day Membership Form

### 9.2 Preparing Your Ground for an ABHA Affiliated Event

We are pleased you have decided to affiliate your event with the ABHA.

As the ABHA is primarily a sanctioning body, not a producer itself, the ABHA cannot control the makeup or preparation of specific ground for specific events.

As per ABHA Rule Book Ground Conditions Rule No 3

3. Ground should be worked at regular intervals – every 5-7 runs depending on conditions

It is advised that ground preparation should not be left till the day before your event. Ground preparation should start at a recommended minimum of a week before your event.

Safe and consistent ground is in everyone's best interest, the ABHA encourages you to read the following articles from Michael DePew and John Jameison and also visit the SAF Arena Footings Website [www.safearenafooting.com](http://www.safearenafooting.com) and take the time to read the other informative articles which will help you provide a safe surface for competitors and horses.

## Arena Construction Guidelines for Rodeo Footings

*By Michael DePew*

*Consulting Soil Scientist with Environmental Technical Services*

This article applies to an all-around equestrian footing for all arena types/events but focuses on rodeo arenas. Although footing requirements are a good deal different for reiners vs. barrel racers vs. jumpers for example, it is possible to use the same arena/cushion soil successfully (if properly constructed) for all these events by making adjustments in set up and maintenance prior to the particular event (assuming proper arena set-up and maintenance equipment is available).

**BASE**

A good arena starts with a good base. For most sites this will involve removing and leveling existing site soil material. Good candidate base materials include;

1. wide-graded (non-uniform) gravel, usually angular or crushed source such as road base or fine-gravel/stone dust, also referred to as dense-graded aggregate (DGA)
2. lime-stabilized soil, and
3. clay or high-clay soils.

If utilizing clay, then it must be protected from groundwater or from saturated conditions. That is, clay base should only be used where the arena is situated in an upslope position. Whichever material is utilized for the base material, it should be proctor tested for moisture-density levels and based on this proctor testing the base material should be compacted at the optimum moisture content (+/- 2%) to a >90% proctor density (with less than 2.5% variability). Base layers are typically 6"-12" in thickness, but no less than 4" should be considered as an absolute minimum. If the underlying soil is soft, then a greater base layer thickness is required. If the underlying soil is sandy or gravelly soil, then you can get by with a smaller base thickness.

#### CUSHION

The cushion layer overlies the base material and forms the basis of the footing conditions. The primary soil constituent of the cushion soil is sand. Sand typically makes up 70%-90% of the cushion soil blend. However, not just any "sand" is suitable. The sand component of a cushion soil should have a specific range of particle size as determined by particle size testing and determination of the sand coefficient of uniformity (sand-CU) and the median size (sand-D50). Safe Arena Footings (SAF, <https://www.safearenafooting.com>) provides some specific guidelines for cushion soil characteristics. This includes the "Rule of 25" and "30-30" parameters. Contact [info@safarenafooting.com](mailto:info@safarenafooting.com) for details and information. In addition to sand, the secondary soil constituent of a cushion material is clay. Most sources of clay are not pure-clay but rather clay-type soil or loamy soils which will also have proportions of silt and sand. For the most part, we do not particularly want any silt, but often material availability limitations make it impractical to avoid silt. In such cases, ideally, we want the silt/clay ratio to be a value of 0.3 or less but cushion soils with silt/clay ratios as high as 1.0 may produce suitable footing conditions. When the cushion soil contains silt, the total amount of silt+clay must often be increased to provide the desired results. Clay (and silt+clay) also retain more moisture than sand and helps to prevent footing material from drying out too rapidly. Cushion soil depth is ideally about 12" in thickness (when compacted). Although 12 inches deep, only the top 2"-4" is harrowed into a "fluff" or non-compacted state. The level of the compaction of the cushion soil underneath the harrow depth is critical and changes based upon the need of the arena for the type of event and the particular footing needs. For example, the cushion compaction level should be very high for jumping events with a shallow harrow depth of 2" or less. For barrel racing, the harrow depth may be something like 4" deep with an underlying layer of intermediate compaction of perhaps 2"-3" in thickness (often referred to as the sub-cushion layer) with the underlying cushion-soil layer at higher soil compaction level.

Note: It is not uncommon for dressage and jumper arenas to only have a 2"-3" cushion over a very hard base of gravel/stone dust. The idea is that the primary support for the footing is the base layer and that the cushion layer provides just that, a modest amount of cushion over this very hard base layer. However, if constructed of the correct materials a deep cushion layer can be compacted to a dense state with only a 2"-3" harrowed surface layer. This condition is much more favorable for the horses as it eliminates the hazard of the cushion soil layer displacing which then leaves the very hard base layer (stone dust layer) exposed to the hoof impact. Soil carbonates are often a constituent of sands and soil. Soil carbonates are also referred to as lime or limestone. Soil carbonates are not desirable cushion constituents and excessive levels should be avoided. Candidate cushion soil amendments should typically be limited by 5% or less. Soil carbonates when moist will detract from the natural cohesiveness of clay and negatively impact cushion soil

stability. When dry (or low moisture) carbonates lead to the formation of soil crusts and can create hardened subsurface layers. There are options to use soil acidifiers to assist in managing soil carbonates. Carbonates are often thought of as a problem in western (arid) locations but may also be a major issue with midwest, southern, or eastern soils and locations as well.

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## WATER QUALITY

Water quality is an often-overlooked factor when planning, building, and managing an arena surface. Water may be a major source of salts, sodium, and bicarbonates (which leads to the accumulation of soil carbonates). Water quality assessment should be performed to determine the needs for management inputs to lower or negate the impacts from poor quality water.

## OTHER FACTORS

There are other critical arena construction considerations which are not within the scope of this guide but includes grade or slope (of both the base and the cushion-surface layer), containment boards, rails, chutes, gates, watering system (either as irrigation or water truck or water tank), surface water diversion, and maintenance equipment. Salts, sodium, and carbonates should be monitored on a routine basis in the cushion soil as well as the water source. Cushion soil compaction levels, harrowing depth, and soil moisture levels are other key factors. Fibers, binders and other additives are often used to support equestrian footing conditions. Often times, these additives are used to make up for otherwise poor cushion footing. If utilizing fiber or binder additives, it is still critical that the mechanical properties from your arena soil mineral components are correct. Fibers and binders should be added to enhance cushion soil performance rather than mask or make up for soil mechanical deficiencies.

## ARENA SET UP

By John Jamison

### Ground Zero Equine Surfaces

Preparing for a rodeo event (or other equestrian event) should begin well in advance of the event date. This allows for enough time to assess (and test) the current or existing conditions, evaluate the need for any remediation, source materials needed for any remediation processes, and then perform the needed remediation practices. Once material remediation has been completed, the processes of preparing the arena cushion soil can proceed. This article outlines some of the key factors in arena preparation and set up. A key factor in arena cushion soil preparation is manipulating and managing soil compaction and soil moisture levels.

This quote from one of our arena associates, Michael DePew of Environmental Technical Services and board member of Safe Arena Surfaces (SAF), emphasizes the importance of soil compaction.

*“ it is important to get your arena soil compaction set from the bottom up..... and to understand some basic techniques to accomplish that. I think it is important that arena ground managers understand the role of soil compaction and how to manipulate it.”* Michael DePew

Ideally an arena profile should consist of a three-layer profile. This includes the base layer, the pad, and the cushion layer. In most cases, the pad and cushion layer are (or should be) of the same material composition and only vary in the depth of preparation practices (degree of compaction). The “pad” and “cushion” layer are often collectively referred to as the “Cushion Profile” in that the portion (or depth) of each may vary and/or are periodically tilled together or remixed. In a multi-purpose arena or event center this cushion profile material is often moved in and out for events and the base layer is just the underlying concrete pad.

### Three Layer Composition and Compaction

1. Base- Highly compactable soil material (or aggregate) that is built up as a pad in uniform depth. Depending on size and area of arena this medium should be set with a crown of 1 – 2 % of slope to facilitate drainage. Base material may consist of a wide-graded fine gravel aggregate (aka dense graded aggregate or DGA) or locally available clay or clay-rich soil. This layer should be compacted as installed, with the moisture content monitored so as to achieve maximum compaction rate. This compacted layer should be a minimum of 4” thick.
2. Pad – This medium should consist of soil materials having the capability to provide the soil shear strength necessary for whatever discipline of equine event. The material should be easily compactable, with the correct particle sizes and range, combined together to allow the material to be able to hold moisture and not lose its cohesiveness and plasticity. This layer should be four to six inches in depth and compacted to achieve desired shear strength. Often this material is the same or nearly the same as the overlying cushion layer, differing in method of preparation more than composition. The pad layer is the bottom portion of the “cushion profile”.
3. Cushion or Footing – Material that can drain well and will remain loose and as such the soil particle size is very important, just as it is in the Pad layer. These two layers should be of similar or same composition as they will tend to migrate together. This footing layer should be able to facilitate slide and break-over of the animal’s hooves, and still contain the shear strength necessary for push off. The degree of soil strength and compaction, and thus the cushion material composition, may vary in accordance with the type of equestrian sport. For multi-discipline equestrian sports, such as rodeo, usually only one material composition for an event arena is possible. In such cases, the material composition does not vary but the compaction levels, depth of preparation, moisture content, and overall methods of preparation may vary for different parts of the arena in accordance with the type of events being conducted in that arena area. The cushion material should be able to internally drain so that it can remain loose and allow the intended moisture to percolate or wick down to the various layers. This cushion layer (when compacted) should be a minimum of 4” thick. When combined in thickness with the pad layer, the cushion profile depth should be at least 8 inches with a depth of 12 inches preferred. When a cushion profile is being placed over concrete, the cushion profile depth should be no less than 12 inches (compacted depth). The cushion layer is the top portion of the “cushion profile”.
4. An arena manager should be aware of soil and aggregate material composition target values which are being utilized in the industry and likewise utilize testing (laboratory) and soils consulting services from a source having a thorough understanding of these properties.

### **- Arena Surface Preparation and Manipulation**

1. Moisture and the understanding of the quantity /depth or amount is the key component to achieve any degree of compaction. It is also important to have an understanding of the timing of water application in coordination with other surface preparation methods and with timing of water application(s) prior to event.
2. A thorough knowledge of the various components of arena soil profile layers; and the various shear strength properties that the layers should have and the compaction levels needed to achieve the desired soil performance characteristics is a must.
3. The arena grooming implement should be operated by an individual that has a firm grasp of items #1 & 2.
4. The tractor should be of enough power to be able to allow the implement to operate as designed without lugging down or losing traction.

5. The arena footings manager should be aware of operator techniques required to set and or relieve compaction such as; ripping to reduce deep compaction, rolling (or tracking), varying tire pressure, varying tractor speed, till/compact/till/compact/till methods to set deeper profile compaction, high or low moisture timing to manipulate compaction levels, varying tillage (equipment) types, varying tillage depths to create multiple layers of varying compaction.

6. The arena footings manager should be aware of separation of soil particles over time due to erosion, migration, and translocation. Homogenizing of materials on a periodic basis is necessary and the need for addition of amending soil materials may be evaluated by soil testing.

· Arena Equipment

1. The variety of implements on the market have all evolved to perform basically the same functions most are a “ 4 in 1 “

1. Chisel plows or teeth in the front, a leveling box with grade beams that move surface in and across the implement

2. Leveling box with grade beams that move surface from outside to inside and level the medium

3. Harrow beam with adjustable length teeth for grooming, raking, and settling of the material as it is being worked, this set of harrow teeth are usually hydraulically and can be raised or lowered to facilitate desired depth and raking ability.

4. Roller or basket on the rear that will pulverize clods and firm up the top layer of surface, this roller is usually spring loaded but can be set rigid to increase compaction.

2. Equipment Operation and Surface Manipulation

1. Any equipment must be operated by a person that understands the capability of the implement and the method of manipulation to provide desired results.

2. The implement can be raised and lowered along with the three various components. This ability allows the machine to work at different depths while maintaining the layer integrity., Thorough training is necessary to achieve this level of production

Arena preparation and surface integrity is a process that should have an experienced operator and or arena manager that completely understands the steps necessary to prepare the arena for the particular event. The surface can be manipulated by moisture and compaction to achieve the best footing for the desired activity if utilizing proper planning and proper equipment and operator experience for working the surface.

***John Jamison is the recipient of the 2017 National Finals Rodeo (NFR) Achievement Award. John is a partner in Ground Zero Equine Surfaces. John also is a member of SAF (Safe Arena Footing). He has worked in the equestrian footings industry for over 30 years. John works with arenas, quarter horse and thoroughbred racetracks, and various training grounds. John is also currently the superintendent of surfaces for the Stronach Group in Florida which includes responsibility for turf and dirt track surfaces at two racetracks and two training centers. John can be reached at 940-200-1413 or txqhtrainer@gmail.com or through the Ground Zero Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/groundzerosurfaces/>). And [www.safearenafooting.com](http://www.safearenafooting.com)***

### 9.3 Membership Check

Before the event commences, all affiliates are required to have checked every member is a financial member of the ABHA by checking the current members listing on the ABHA website. <https://abha.com.au/current-members>

Any persons not on the list and claim to have already paid a membership, who cannot provide receipt of membership payment, will be required to fill in a membership form and pay the membership fee.

Any double ups of membership will be refunded. (This can be day membership if the person wishes to).

Day Members can only use 3 day Memberships per year – complete listing re day members can be found on the website to check. <https://abha.com.au/current-members>

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Any persons who have completed 3 day memberships prior to your event will be required to pay full membership fees to compete. <https://abha.com.au/membership>

NOT ON THE CURRENT MEMBERS LIST – MEMBERSHIP IS REQUIRED ‘NO EXCUSES’!

## 9.4 Divisional Guide

There are no set rules as to how many divisions you have; please note if you have less than 10 entries it can be a 1D.

To work out your divisions for your event, the times are set by the fastest clean run if a one run event, or average if it is a 2-run event, of the race. If someone ran a 17.256 and that was the fastest time of the day, the divisions would be as follows:

1st division - 17.256 to 18.255 (all within this time bracket are in the 1D)

2nd division - 18.256 to 19.255

3rd division - 19.256 to 20.255 and so on

The last division to be paid out to the number of places as per other divisions regardless of times.

Payouts to be calculated as per Divisional Barrel Race Rules 8, 9 and 12 from the Rule Book. You can pay as many ways as you feel is best, using the percentage payout in the rulebook.

Two run event – work out divisions by adding both times together then average. The average times will be what you set your division by. Penalties to be added after the average has been worked out.

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%

## 9.5 Prize Money Entry Fees/Addback/Results

Posted Prize Money if any, Entry fee and addback (in dollar figures not percentage) to be advertised when advertising your event and on the entry form.

Placings and prize money to be calculated and available/posted for all competitors, within 2 hours of completion of the event at the venue.

## 10 Post Event Returns

Once an affiliate has run their event, they are required to submit all paperwork and monies owed as per Affiliate Rule 8.

8. Affiliates must have all paperwork and monies owed to the ABHA 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.

Online event summary – link in the affiliate section of the ABHA website

Form 09-2025 ABHA Event Audit Report 2 Pages

Form 02-2025 ABHA Committee Volunteer Form

Timesheets both handwritten judges and any computer-generated sheets-MUST HAVE ALL ABHA MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS NOTED ON THESE SHEETS. Failure to include membership numbers will result in the sheets being sent back to the affiliate for completing.

Form 10-2024 ABHA Incident Report Form should be completed if any incidents have occurred at your event regardless of whether the member sustained injuries or not. Please note these forms are not restricted to injury related events, they can cover any event/incident that may have occurred at the event.

## 11 Futurity Events

Futurity Events are the feature events of the ABHA and are qualifying events for the Futurity Event at the finals each year.

Any affiliate interested in running a Futurity event is now required to fill in a Futurity Event Application [Form 12-2025 ABHA Futurity Event Application] and return to the office. If you are running a Futurity event in conjunction with a Divisional event no extra fees required.

If you are applying to run a Futurity Event only the \$44 Event application will apply. Affiliates have two options when running a Futurity event.

1. \$1,000 Posted Prize Money and \$500 cash incentive supplied by the ABHA
2. \$500 Posted Prize Money and no cash incentive.

Buckles need to be ordered a minimum of 2 months prior to the event to allow the making of the custom-made buckle.

Futurity Events can be run over one or two rounds and affiliates have the option of allowing riders to roll over futurity times into the divisional times should they wish so at the time of nomination.

Times can only be rolled over if the Futurity and divisional courses are the same course.

Affiliates are required to complete a Futurity Horse check prior to the event on all horses entered in the Futurity Event and ensure that all entries have the correct paperwork for the entered horse and the horse is of the correct age as per the AQHA rule book. Registration Papers or the Form 13-2025 ABHA Proof of Age Form (that has been completed and signed by a vet) are required.

## National Finals

### 12.1 National Finals Qualifying Criteria

2025 National Finals Qualifying Criteria.

**FUTURITY:** The Futurity horse must be 4, 5 or 6 years old. The HORSE is the qualifier and must compete in 1 (one) ABHA Affiliated Futurity Event at a ABHA Affiliated day. Must be within the Qualifying period of 2 nd July 2023 – 31 st July 2024. Horse is permitted to turn 7 on 1st August 2024 and compete in the Futurity event at the National Finals if the horse qualified during the said qualifying period. The Futurity horse may be ridden by any rider. Said rider must be a current financial member of the ABHA.

2017 Foaled Horse (Born in-between the 1st August 2017 and 31st July 2018) = 7 Year old on the 1st of August 2024 – Competes as a 6 year old at the 2024 National Finals.

2018 Foaled Horse (Born in-between the 1st August 2018 and 31st July 2019) = 6 Year old on the 1st of August 2024 – Competes as a 5 year old at the 2024 National Finals.

2019 Foaled Horse (Born in-between the 1st August 2019 and 31st July 2024) = 5 Year old on the 1st of August 2024 – Competes as a 4 year old at the 2024 National Finals.

**MATURITY:** The Maturity horse must be 7, 8 or 9 years old. The HORSE is the qualifier and must compete in 1 (one) ABHA Affiliated Maturity Event at a ABHA Affiliated day. Must be within the Qualifying period of 2nd July 2023 – 31st July 2024. Horse is permitted to turn 10 on 1st August 2024 and compete in the Maturity event at the National Finals if the horse qualified during the said qualifying period. The Maturity horse may be ridden by any rider. Said rider must be a current financial member of the ABHA.

2014 Foaled Horse (Born in-between the 1 st August 2014 and 31st July 2015) = 10 Year old on the 1st of August 2024 – Competes as a 9 year old at the 2024 National Finals

2015 Foaled Horse (Born in-between the 1 st August 2015 and 31st July 2016) = 9 Year old on the 1st of August 2024 – Competes as a 8 year old at the 2024 National Finals

2016 Foaled Horse (Born in-between the 1st August 2016 and 31st July 2017) = 8 Year old on the 1st of August 2024 – Competes as a 7 year old at the 2024 National Finals

**OPEN DIVISIONAL:** To qualify for the Open Divisional event at the National Finals, it is the RIDER who qualifies, the rider must have ridden in 4 (four) ABHA Open Divisional event at 4 (four) separate ABHA affiliated days. Juniors may compete the in Open Divisional provided they have ridden in 4 (four) Open Divisional events at 4 (four) separate ABHA affiliated days during the qualifying period of 2nd July 2023 – 31st July 2024. Once rider is qualified, they may enter any number of horses in the

**JUNIOR DIVISIONAL:** To qualify for the Junior Divisional event at the National Finals, it is the RIDER who qualifies, the rider must have ridden in 4(four) Junior events at 4(four) separate ABHA affiliated days during the qualifying period of 2nd July 2023 – 31st July 2024. Once qualified, Juniors may enter any number of horses in the Junior Divisional. For a competitor to compete in the Junior Divisional at the National Finals they must be under 18 years at the commencement of the event. If the competitor is 17 years for round 1 and turns 18 years prior

to round two, the competitor shall remain in the Junior Divisional until the completion of the 2024 National Finals. If a Junior competitor meets the National Finals qualifying criteria in Junior Divisional but turns 18 years prior to the National Finals, the competitor is deemed to have qualified to compete in the Open Divisional.

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**OPEN POLE BENDING:** To qualify for the Open Pole Bending event at the National Finals, it is the RIDER who qualifies, the rider must have ridden in 1 (one) ABHA Open Pole Bending event at 1 (one) ABHA affiliated day. Junior Pole Benders may compete the in Open Pole Bending provided they have ridden in 1 (one) Open Pole Bending event at 1 (one) ABHA affiliated day during the qualifying period of 2nd July 2023 – 31st July 2024. Once rider is qualified, they may enter any number of horses in the Open Pole Bending.

**JUNIOR POLE BENDING:** To qualify for the Junior Pole Bending event at the National Finals, it is the RIDER who qualifies, the rider must have ridden in 1(one) Junior Pole Bending event at 1(one) ABHA affiliated day during the qualifying period of 2nd July 2023 – 31st July 2024. Once qualified, Juniors may enter any number of horses in the Junior Pole Bending. For a competitor to compete in the Junior Pole Bending at the National Finals they must be under 18 years at the commencement of the event. If a Junior competitor meets the National Finals qualifying criteria in Junior Pole Bending but turns 18 years prior to the National Finals, the competitor is deemed to have qualified to compete in the Open Pole Bending.

**LITTLE DRUM RUNNERS:** Little Drum Runners must ride unassisted and be under 8 years old at the commencement of the 2024 National Finals. Little Drum Runners do not need to attend any events to compete at the 2024 National Finals. All Little Drum Runners must be current financial members of the ABHA. Little Drum Runners are not permitted to compete in any other event at the 2024 National Finals.

## 13 Table of Forms

All Forms can be found on the Affiliate Page on the ABHA Website -

<https://abha.com.au/affiliate-login>

Password – 3drums

Form 01-2024 ABHA Affiliate Application

Form 02-2024 ABHA Committee/Volunteer Form

Form 03-2024 ABHA Event Application

Form 04-2024 ABHA Online Entry Form

Form 05-2024 ABHA Planning Checklist

Form 06-2024 ABHA Membership Form

Form 07-2024 ABHA Day Membership

Form 08-2024 ABHA Event Summary

Form 09-2024 ABHA Event Audit Report (2 Pages)

Form 10-2024 ABHA Incident Report Form (2 Pages)

Form 11-2024 ABHA Futurity Event Application Form

Form 12-2024 ABHA Risk Matrix

Form 13-2024 ABHA Proof of Age Form

Form 14-2024 ABHA Timesheet Template

ABHA Certificate of Currency 2023

Form 16-2024 ABHA Affiliate Handbook

