

*Australian Barrel Horse  
Association Inc.*



*Australian Barrel Horse Association*

***ABHA***  
***Official Rule Book***  
***1996***

Revised Edition 2010

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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.*

## ABHA OFFICIAL LOGO



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.

## **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 a member is found to be under the influence of drugs or alcohol during competition member will be disqualified by the ABHA or ABHA Affiliate.

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

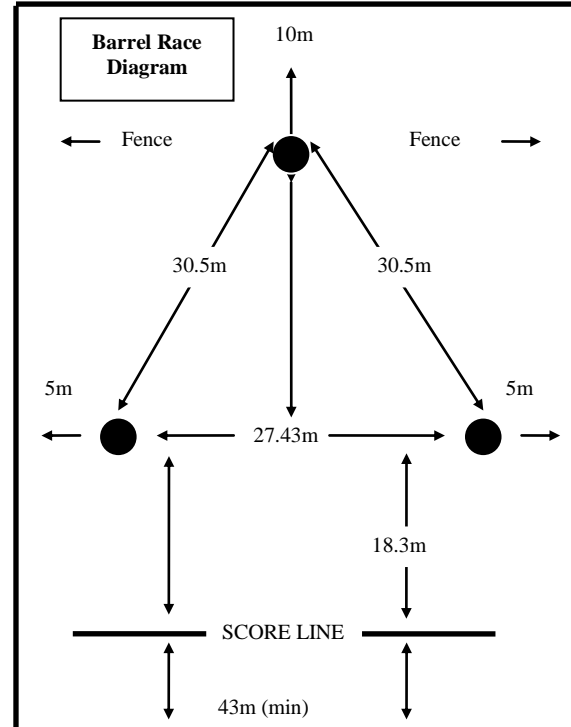
## **BARREL RACE RULES**

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 at least closed at one end.
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 (ie: 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. 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.
  17. Hat – To be cleared from Arena before next run.
  18. 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 12. Where distance must be reduced to suit the arena, barrels must be at least 5 meters from the fence.
  19. 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.
  20. Whipping – More than two whips between entry and 1<sup>st</sup> 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.
  21. Records - To record an official ABHA record, measurements, rules, equipment, must be checked recorded and confirmed by at least three ABHA members.

22. 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.
23. Dress rules – Members competing at classic events must wear suitable long sleeved shirt, hat, boots and jeans in arena at all times. They must be neat and presentable.
24. 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.



## **EXHIBITIONS**

1. Exhibitions – May be run, fee is not to exceed \$5 unless passed by the Board of Directors.
2. Time limit set on exhibitions by affiliate.
3. Exhibitions can be limited by event organisers or by the Board of Directors

## **GROUND CONDITIONS**

1. Ground conditions – The arena ground must be prepared prior to the barrel race in accordance with the ABHA Guidelines and Insurance conditions, provided to all affiliates.
2. Every effort should be made to provide safe and even ground for all contestants.

3. Raking between runs is required, depending on the surface. A Director and the affiliate to determine.
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.

## 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 without penalties will be used to set divisions.
4. Runs with time penalties cannot place in final placings in a divisional barrel race.
5. **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 aggregate time of the two runs. With the fastest aggregate time setting the 1D with 2D, 3D and 4D divisions being 1.0, 2.0, 3.0 seconds off the fastest aggregate time respectively.

**Three run Format:** Divisions set on the aggregate time of three runs. The fastest time setting the 1D with 2D, 3D, and 4D being 1.0, 2.0, 3.0 seconds off fastest aggregate time respectively.

**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.

6. Aggregate/Average – All times added together
7. If there are no placings in any one division the prize money is divided equally between remaining divisions.

8. In the Divisional barrel race the purse is split evenly between the Divisions.
9. 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.
10. **Percentage Break up of Payout**
  - One way - 100%
  - Two way - 60% 40%
  - Three way - 50% 30% 20%
  - Four way - 40% 30% 20% 10%
  - Five way - 37% 27% 19% 10% 7%
  - Six Way - 35% 25% 18% 10% 7% 5%

#### **DIVISIONAL YEAR END AWARDS**

1. 1<sup>st</sup> Division, 2<sup>nd</sup> Division, 3<sup>rd</sup> Division and 4<sup>th</sup> Division awards. (1D, 2D, 3D & 4D).

2. Points will be accumulated from all ABHA affiliated Divisional barrel races Australia wide.
3. Points will be awarded to the Rider.
4. Points award on final event placing as per ABHA point system.
5. If a member enters more than one horse they may earn points on each entry, provided the horses place in different divisions.
6. If a member enters more than one horse and places twice in the same division, the highest placing will be counted.
7. At the end of the year a member will retain points only from the division in which they have the highest standing. The member's points from other divisions will be dropped, allowing lower placers to move up.

8. Year runs from 1<sup>st</sup> January to 31<sup>st</sup> December.
9. Divisional Year End Award Program to be trialed in 2011.

### **ABHA POINTS SYSTEM:**

- 1<sup>st</sup> - 5 points
- 2<sup>nd</sup> - 4 points
- 3<sup>rd</sup> - 3 points
- 4<sup>th</sup> - 2 points
- 5<sup>th</sup> - 1 point

### **CLASSIC EVENTS**

1. Open to horses 6 years and under.
2. Minimum prize money \$1,000.00
3. Can be run over 1, 2 or 3 rounds.

### **POLE BENDING RULES**

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 or 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.