



GROUND RULES

2026 ABHA NATIONAL FINALS AELEC Tamworth

1. All ABHA rules must be always adhered to.
2. Juniors must always have an approved safety helmet on whilst mounted on horseback, the chin strap must be securely fastened.
3. Judges will strictly enforce the rules according to the ABHA rule book, including animal welfare and whipping rule.
4. All Official's decisions are final. Any harassment, profanity or threatening remarks will result in immediate disqualification for the remainder of the event and forfeit all entry fees.
5. Exhibitions are only available Wednesday afternoon 12pm-8pm. Exhibitions will be 1 minute for each horse and rider. Buzzer will sound at the 45 second mark and you must start exiting the arena at the sound of this warning buzzer.. During exhibitions if you do not exit the arena immediately when requested you will be issued a \$50 fine donated to our nominated charity.
6. Posted scheduled times are approximate. It is your responsibility to check if the event is running in front or behind schedule.
7. NO spectators on foot or horseback will be permitted at the entry or exit gate. Only the next 5 Competitors will be allowed in the marshalling area behind the entry and exit gates. Anyone breaching this Rule may be submitted to a fine.
8. No horses are permitted to be tied up in the Sale Ring.
9. Competitors must be ready when their name is called. The next 5 competitors will be required to be in the Marshalling Area. Competitors not ready after three calls from the Gate Marshall will be disqualified from that round and forfeit all entry fees.
10. If you are having difficulty getting your horse in the arena, please ask for help and or dismount and lead your horse into the arena. Help Horses/Persons are permitted in the marshalling area for this purpose only. If your horse refuses to enter the arena the gate marshal will instruct you to dismount and lead your horse in. This direction must be followed. No person is permitted in the wings on foot. They may lead the horse into the wing but then must exit out the back gate immediately.
11. There will be a \$5.00 Hat fine, and all proceeds go to the nominated Charity for the Finals.

12. Barrels will be raked after every 5 runs regardless of scratching's. Repacks to remain as per draw after 25, 50, 75 etc.

13. Surface will have a repack after each event and as required (at nominated after 25, 50, 75 etc) to ensure a safe and even surface for all.

14. Disputes must be lodged within 30 minutes of the completion of the event with a \$50.00 fee. If dispute is lost \$50.00 will be forfeited if dispute is won \$50.00 will be refunded.

15. Arena will be closed before and after competition, please be aware the building is alarmed.

16. All bank transfers for prizemoney will be deposited into nominated account the week following the Finals. No Prizemoney will be available on the completion of the Finals.

17. All event champions are required to attend the official presentation ceremony in full ABHA dress code to receive their prizes. Event champions will not be permitted to collect or be awarded prizes prior to the official presentation ceremony.

18. All lower placegetters (other than the event champions) if not attending the official presentation ceremony, can decide for someone else to attend in your place. If you do not make prior arrangements, the ABHA will not be responsible for getting your prizes to you. Full ABHA dress code is excepted.

19. All Winning Horses must be available at the arena for Presentations and available for photos.

20. Please always adhere to all Signage.

21. Any member or persons who damage property at the AELEC or the Service Station, the Police will be called, members will be fined \$100 and disciplined as per the ABHA constitution.

22. Washing of any animal products (rugs, boots, dog beds etc) is NOT permitted in the AELEC washing machine facilities.

23. Any Competitor with unpaid fines from the ABHA Finals will not be able to enter any ABHA event until fines are paid.

24. In the event of a tie for a position, the member with the single fastest time within the two rounds will be declared the winner of the position and the second member will go down a placing.

Eg: A tie for 1st Place in a Division:

Member A: RD 1 time	17.585	RD 2 time	17.635	Ave	17.610
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Member B: RD 1 time	17.580	RD 2 time	17.640	Ave	17.610
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Member B would be declared the winner with the fastest time of 17.580

Member A would be declared as 2nd position.

25. 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 tail and or mane to help identify stallions to other members. All Stallion who do not have a visible blue ribbon tied in the tail/mane will incur a \$500 fine.

26. All equine therapists providing treatments on-site at the AELEC are required to have paid a trader fee per day and supplied the ABHA a copy of their current COC prior to treating at the 2026ABHA National Finals. If you're found to be treating horses without complying, you will be fined \$500 and instructed to cease treatment services for the remainder of the ABHA National Finals. Further disciplinary action may be taken by the Board of Directors.

27. ONLY approved media personal are permitted to shoot for commercial purposes. All photographers and videographers are required to have paid the trader fee per day, completed the media personnel application and have signed the media policy prior to commencement of the event. If you're found to be shooting for commercial purposes or receiving a monetary benefit, you will be fined \$500 and instructed to cease shooting for the remainder of the ABHA Nationals Finals. Further disciplinary action may be taken by the Board of Directors.

28. Electric scooters are not permitted to be used within the AELEC facility. If anyone is found riding an electric scooter, you will be disqualified from the remainder of the ABHA Nationals Finals. Further disciplinary action may be taken by the Board of Directors. Pedal assisted bikes are permitted as long as they are under 250 watts.

29. Any dogs in the AELEC facility must be on a lead or adequately restrained. No dogs will be allowed in the seated areas of the AELEC.

30. The judge of an event cannot be approached while competition is running. If you would like to discuss anything with the judge, please approach during repacks or after the round concludes.

31. Round 2 for all events, including Top 50, Top 25 and Top 10 draws, will be redrawn to determine the new run order. Redraw will be conducted Midday Friday 11th September. All scratchings must be advised by 11.59am Friday morning. Any scratching after Midday (12pm) Friday 11th September 2026 will incur a \$100 fine without a vet or doctor certificate.

No trades are permitted for round 2 runs.

32. Competitors who qualified for the Top 25 and Top 50 MUST wear their back number while competing in those events. If you fail to wear a back number, you will incur \$150 fine and will be donated to the nominated charity of the National Finals. If you have more than 1 back number, you are not required to change back numbers during the event.

33. The consumption of alcohol by individuals under the legal drinking age is strictly prohibited at the ABHA National Finals. This applies under all circumstances, including situations where a minor is accompanied by an adult or where alcohol is supplied by an adult. Any junior member found in breach of this rule will be immediately disqualified from the remainder of the event. All prize money and prizes earned will be forfeited, their membership suspended immediately temporarily and the matter will be subject to further disciplinary action by the ABHA at the conclusion of the event.

34. Any person found to be supplying alcohol to minors will have their membership temporarily suspended and will be subject to disciplinary action by the ABHA at the conclusion of the event.

AGED EVENTS TERMS & CONDITIONS

1. One owner and the rider must be a current financial member of the AHBA at the time of entry.
2. The event is open to all horses irrespective of the breed.
3. All horses entered but have an ABHA ID and have qualified.
4. All aged event horses will be inspected prior to the competition for verification of age by the official Equine Dentist. A horse will not be eligible to compete if the age as determined by the examination of its teeth exceeds the age as shown on the ABHA ID. Right of appeal will be by way of written application including supporting evidence to the Board of Directors. The ABHA Board of Directors will have the final decision as to whether sufficient evidence has been supplied to support the age as shown on the ABHA ID.
5. Any aged discrepancies complaints received during or at the conclusion of the event, will be subject to the prize money being withheld until the investigation is complete and ALL prizes received MUST be returned to the ABHA immediately in new condition.

ALL RULES IN THE OFFICIAL ABHA RULE BOOK STILL APPLY IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE ABOVE GROUND RULES FOR THE ENTIRE ABHA NATIONAL FINALS EVENT.



Australian Barrel Horse Association

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