



CODE OF CONDUCT – 2025

PREPARED BY ABHA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

ENDORSED BY ABHA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Australian Barrel Horse Association (ABHA) is guided by its values of teamwork, integrity, inclusion, and excellence. These values form the sports culture.

1.2 ABHA is committed to making the sport of Barrel Racing a safe and fair place for all participants.

1.3 To this end, every participant in the ABHA has a responsibility to be aware of the standards of behaviour that apply in the sport.

1.4 Participants in the Australian Barrel Racing Association are required to comply with this Code of Conduct (Code).

1.5 In addition to this Code, ABHA has adopted the National Integrity Framework (NIF) policies developed by Sport Integrity Australia. The NIF policies assist with creating a safe and fair sporting environment for all by setting out rules about types of behaviour that are unacceptable in the Australian Barrel Horse Association. These unacceptable behaviours are defined as Prohibited Conduct.

1.6 The NIF Policies provide for standards of behaviour including in relation to abuse, harassment and similar; child protection; improper manipulation of activities; illegal drugs; and other substance use. This Code supplements the NIF and other policies.

1.7 The NIF Complaints, Disputes and Discipline Policy (CDDP) sets out the process and parameters for how allegations of Prohibited Conduct are managed and resolved.

1.8 Conduct alleged to contravene this Code is dealt with under mechanisms set out in the CDDP. This Code is a “Relevant Policy” as defined in the CDDP.

2. DEFINITIONS

In this Policy, the following words have the corresponding meaning:

ACTIVITY means a sporting contest, match, competition, event, or activity (including training), whether on a one-off basis or as part of a series, league, or competition, sanctioned or organised by a Relevant Organisation.

ATHLETE means a person who is registered, or entitled to participate, in an Activity. **Authorised Provider** means any non-Sport Organisation authorised to conduct an Activity. **Club** means any club that enters an Athlete or a Team to participate in an Activity. **Code of Conduct** or **Code** means this Code of Conduct. **Contractor** means any person or organisation engaged to provide services for or on behalf of a Relevant Organisation, and includes:

(a) agents, advisers, and subcontractors of a Relevant Organisation; and

(b) employees, officers, volunteers and agents of a contractor or subcontractor.

ABHA means Australian Barrel Horse Association.

EMPLOYEE means a person employed by a Relevant Organisation.

MEMBER means a member of a Relevant Organisation, including:

(a) Member Organisations, which means each company or incorporated association that is a member of ABHA including each:

- i. state, territory, and Club Member; and
- ii. affiliate that is a member of a state, territory, and Club Member.

(b) Individual Members, which means individuals who are registered with a Relevant Organisation.

NATIONAL INTEGRITY FRAMEWORK OR NIF means the “National Integrity Framework” adopted by a Relevant Organisation from time to time, as developed by Sport Integrity Australia (SIA) and consisting of:

- (a) Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy;
- (b) Competition Manipulation and Sport Gambling Policy;
- (c) Improper Use of Drugs and Medicine Policy; (d) Member Protection Policy;
- (e) Complaints, Disputes and Discipline Policy (CDDP).

PARTICIPANT MEANS:

- (a) an Athlete;
- (b) a coach appointed to train an Athlete or Team in an Activity;
- (c) an administrator who has a role in the administration, operation, or Activity of a Relevant Organisation.
- (d) an official including referee, umpire, technical official, judge, or other official appointed by a Relevant Organisation or any league, competition, series, club, or team sanctioned by a Relevant Organisation.
- (e) a support person who is appointed in a professional or voluntary capacity by a Relevant Organisation or any league, competition, series, Club or Team sanctioned by a Relevant Organisation including sports science sport medicine personnel, team managers, agents, selectors, and team staff members; and
- (f) a parent/carer or spectator who is subject to registration conditions or venue conditions of entry that requires compliance with this Code.

PROHIBITED CONDUCT MEANS.

- (a) the conduct defined in the CDDP and
- (b) contraventions of this Code. Relevant Organisation means any of the following:
 - (a) ABHA;
 - (b) a Member Organisation;
 - (c) any other organisation that has agreed to be bound by this Code.

RELEVANT PERSON MEANS ANY OF THE FOLLOWING:

- (a) Individual Member;
- (b) Participant;
- (c) Employee;
- (d) Contractor;
- e) Volunteer; or
- (f) Any other person who has agreed to be bound by this Code.

TEAM

means a collection or squad of Athletes, registered with a Relevant Organisation or entitled to participate in an Activity. Volunteer means any person engaged by a Relevant Organisation in any capacity who is not otherwise an Employee or Contractor, including directors and office holders, coaches, officials, administrators and team and support personnel.

3. JURISDICTION

3.1 To whom the Code applies.

This Code applies to:

- (a) Relevant Persons; and
- (b) Relevant Organisations.

3.2 When the Code applies.

(a) All Relevant Persons and Relevant Affiliates must comply with this Code:

- (i) when dealing with or in relation to Relevant Organisations or their staff, contractors, and representatives in relation to the ABHA Sport;
- (ii) in all conduct in relation to ABHA Sport, including when participating in Activities or on social media.
- (iii) when dealing with other Relevant Persons or Relevant Organisations in relation to ABHA Sport; and
- (iv) As part of, and to maintain. their membership or standing as a Relevant Person or Relevant Organisation.

(b) Dealings or conduct between or with a Relevant Person and/or Relevant Organisation which are not related to Equestrian Sport (including on social media) are not within the scope of this Code.

(c) A Relevant Organisation may:

- (i) determine that an instance of alleged contravention of this Code would be more appropriately dealt with under a different policy; and if so
- (ii) refer that instance of alleged contravention to be dealt with under that other policy

4. REQUIRED CONDUCT

4.1 Relevant Persons and Relevant Organisations must:

- (a) comply with the ABHA (Australian Barrel Horse Association) Code of Conduct for the Welfare of the Horse;
- (b) be ethical, considerate, fair, and honest in dealings with other people and organisations.
- (c) act with integrity and objectivity;
- (d) avoid a perceived or real conflict of interest;
- (e) maintain appropriate behaviour;
- (f) accept and respect the authority of officials;
- (g) not use offensive language or engage in offensive behaviour towards officials;
- (h) not show unnecessary dissension, displeasure or disapproval towards officials including judges
- (i) treat Relevant Organisation representatives and other stakeholders with courtesy, respect, and dignity.
- (j) take reasonable care for the health and safety of themselves and of Relevant Organisation representatives.
- (k) not disclose private and confidential information obtained through Activities, whether the information is of a personal or organisational nature.
- (l) not engage in behaviour that:
 - (i) is drunk and disorderly including serving alcohol or buying alcohol to those under the age of 18
 - (ii) is personal or domestic violence;
 - (iii) damages property;
 - (iv) unreasonably disrupts Relevant Organisation representatives from performing their duties or functions; or
 - (v) is unlawful or unsafe;
- (m) not behave in a manner prohibited by a venue's entry conditions at which an Activity is taking place, when attending in or around that venue;
- (n) not behave in a manner that creates a public nuisance and/or disturbance in or around a venue at which an Activity is taking place;
- (o) comply with all reasonable directions of, and accept all decisions of, representatives of Relevant Organisations in the course of their duties or functions; and
- (p) not be in the possession of, or under the influence of, an illegal drug when in or around a venue at which an Activity is taking place.
- (q) Use, possess or be under the influence of an illicit drug in the presence of a child or young person

5. CONTRAVENTIONS OF THIS CODE

5.1 A Relevant Person commits a contravention of this Code if he or she:

- (a) Contravenes a provision in clause 4 of this Code.
- (b) Engages in any conduct in relation to an Activity that would impair public confidence in the safe and orderly conduct of the Activity.
- (c) Engages in any conduct (including on social media) that:
 - (i) brings a Relevant Organisation, a Relevant Person or ABHA into disrepute; or
 - (ii) is or could be harmful to the interests of a Relevant Organisation or ABHA Sport.
- (d) Makes improper use of information acquired by virtue of:
 - (i) their position in a Relevant Organisation or in any Team; or
 - (ii) their position as an Athlete selected by a Relevant Organisation; or
 - (iii) their relationship with a Relevant Organisation,
 - (iv) directly or indirectly gaining an advantage for themselves or for any other person, or to cause detriment to a Relevant Organisation.

6. COMPLAINTS, DISPUTES AND DISCIPLINE POLICY

The CDDP applies to any allegation of a contravention of this Code or Prohibited Conduct.