Australian Barrel Horse Association Inc.



Official Rule Book 1996

Revised November 2026

Forward

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

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

ABHA
AUSTRALIAN BARREL HORSE ASSOCIATION

Colours –Blue – Grey – Black - White

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

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. If an issue arises that is not covered in the rule book, please use safety, animal welfare and common sense to achieve an outcome.

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

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SOCIAL MEDIA CODE OF CONDUCT

Policy

This policy has been developed to inform our community about using social media so people feel enabled to participate, while being mindful of their responsibilities and obligations. In particular, this policy provides practical guidance allowing all parties to benefit from the use of social media, while minimizing potential risks and protecting those involved.
This policy assists to establish a culture of openness, trust and integrity in all online activities related to the Australian Barrel Horse Association.
This policy contains ABHA's guidelines for the ABHA community to engage in social media use. It also includes details of breaches of the policy.
In circumstances where guidance about social media issues has not been given in this policy, we suggest you use common sense or seek out advice from those who have approved this policy.

Scope

This policy applies to all persons who are involved with the activities of the ABHA, whether they are a paid employee, member, committee member, volunteer, or spectator.
Affiliated club and associated organisations.
Social media refers to any online tools or functions that allow people to communicate and or share content via the internet.

- The social media policy applies to platforms including, but not limited to:
- Social networking sites (egg. Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Google+, Pine rest, Yammer, etc.)
- Video and photo sharing websites or apps (e.g., YouTube, Vimeo, Instagram, Flickr, Vine, etc.)
- Blogs and micro-blogging platforms (e.g., Tumblr, WordPress, Blogger, etc.)
- Review sites (e.g., Yelp, Urban Spoon, etc.)
- Live broadcasting apps (e.g., Periscope, Meerkat, Facebook Mentions, etc.)
- Podcasting (egg. iTunes, Stitcher, Sound cloud, etc.)
- Geo-spatial tagging (e.g., Foursquare, etc.)
- Online encyclopedias (e.g., Wikipedia, etc.)
- Instant messaging (e.g., SMS, Skype, Snapchat, WhatsApp, Viber, etc.)
- Online multiplayer gaming platforms (e.g., World of Warcraft, second life, Xbox live, etc.)
- Online voting or polls
- Public and private online forums and discussion boards
- Any other online technologies that allow individual users to upload and share content.

This policy is applicable when using social media as:

An officially designated individual representing ABHA on social media; and
If you are posting content on social media in relation to the ABHA that might affect the ABHA's business, products, services, events, sponsors, members, or reputation.

Note

This policy does not apply to the personal use of social media where it is not related to or there is no reference to the ABHA or its business, competitions, members, participants, products, services, events, sponsors, or reputation. However, any misuse by you or social media in a manner that does not directly refer to ABHA may still be regulated by other policies, rules, or regulations of the ABHA.

Using social media in an official capacity

You must be authorised by the Board of the ABHA before engaging in social media as a representative of the ABHA.
To become authorised to represent the ABHA in an official capacity, you are encouraged to visit the following website for guidance http://esafety.gov.au/esafety-information/games-apps-and-social-networking
As a part of the ABHA's community, you are an extension of the ABHA brand. As such, the boundaries between when you are representing yourself and when you are representing the ABHA can often be blurred. This becomes even more of an issue as you increase your profile or position with the ABHA. Therefore, it is important that you represent both yourself and the ABHA appropriately online at all times.

SOCIAL MEDIA CODE OF CONDUCT continued

Guidelines

You must adhere to the following guidelines when using social media related to the ABHA or its business, products, competitions, participants, services, events sponsors, members, or reputation.

Use common sense

Whenever you are unsure as to whether the content you wish to share is appropriate, seek advice from others before doing so or refrain from sharing the content to be on the safe side.
When using social media, the lines between public and private, personal, and professional, may be blurred. Remember, you are an ambassador for the ABHA.

Protecting your privacy

Be smart about protecting yourself and your privacy.
When posting content online there is potential for that content to become publicly available through a variety of means, even if it was intended to be shared privately. Therefore, you should refrain from posting any content online that you would not be happy for anyone to see, even if you feel confident that a particular individual would never see it. Where possible, privacy settings on social media platforms should be set to limit access. You should also be cautious about disclosing your personal details.

Honesty

Your honesty or dishonesty may be quickly noticed in the social media environment. Do not say anything that is dishonest, untrue, or misleading. If you are unsure, check the source and the facts before uploading or posting anything. The ABHA recommends erring on the side of caution – if in doubt, do not post or upload.
Do not post anonymously, using pseudonyms of false screen names. Be transparent and honest. Use your real name, be clear about whom you are and identify any affiliations you have. If you have a vested interest in something you are discussing, point it out. If you make an endorsement or recommendation about something you are affiliated with, or have a close relationship with, you must disclose that affiliation. The web is not anonymous. You should assume that all information posted online can be traced back to you. You are accountable for your actions both on and offline, including the information you post via your personal social media accounts.

Use of disclaimers

Wherever practical, include a prominent disclaimer stating who you work for or are affiliated with (e.g., member of ABHA) and that anything you publish is your personal opinion and that you are not speaking officially. This is good practice and is encouraged, but don't count on it to avoid trouble – it may not have legal effect.

Reasonable use

If you are an employee of the ABHA, you must ensure that your personal use of social media does not interfere with your work commitments or productivity.

Respect confidentiality and sensitivity

When using social media, you must maintain the privacy of the ABHA's confidential information. This includes information that is not publicly accessible, widely known, or not expected to be shared outside of the ABHA.
Remember, if you are online, you are on the record – much of the content posted online is public and searchable.
Within the scope of your authorisation by the ABHA, it is perfectly acceptable to talk about the ABHA and have a dialogue with the community, but it is not okay to publish confidential information of the ABHA. Confidential information includes things such as details about litigation, unreleased product information and unpublished details about our associations, members, directors, financial information, practices, pending proposals etc.
When using social media, you should be considerate to others and should not post information when you have been asked not to, or where consent has not been sought and given. You must also remove information about another person if that person asks you to do so.
Permission should always be sought if the use of publication of information is not incidental, but directly related to an individual. This is particularly relevant to publishing any information regarding minors. In such circumstances, parental or guardian consent is mandatory.

Gaining permission when publishing a person's identifiable image

- You should also refrain from posting any information or photos of a sensitive nature. This could include accidents, incidents, or controversial behavior.
- In every instance, you need to have consent of the owner of copyright in the image.
- You must obtain express permission from an individual to use a direct, clearly identifiable image of that person.

Complying with applicable laws

Do not post or link to content that contains illegal or indecent content, including defamatory, vilifying, or misleading and deceptive content.

Abiding by copyright laws

It is critical that you comply with the laws governing copyright in relation to material owned by others and the ABHA's own copyrights and brands.
You should never quote or use more that short excerpts of someone else's work and you should always attribute such work to the original author/source. It is good practice to link to others' work rather that reproduces it.

Discrimination, sexual harassment, and bullying

The public in general, and ABHA's members, employees, volunteers reflect a diverse set of customs, values, and points of view.
You must not post any material that is offensive, harassing, discriminatory, embarrassing, intimidating, sexually explicit, bullying, hateful, racist, sexist, or otherwise inappropriate.
When using social media, you may also be bound by the ABHA's values and anti-discrimination, harassment, and bullying policy.

Avoiding controversial issues

Within the scope of your authorisation by the ABHA, if you see misrepresentations made about the ABHA in the media, you may point that out to the relevant authority in the ABHA. Always do so with respect and with the facts. If you speak about others, make sure what you say is based on fact and does not discredit or belittle that party.

Dealing with mistakes

If the ABHA makes an error while posting on social media, we will be upfront about the mistake and address it quickly. If we choose to modify an earlier post, we will endeavor to make it clear that we have done so. If someone accuses the ABHA of posting something improper (such as their copyrighted material or a defamatory comment about them), we will address it promptly and appropriately and if necessary, seek legal advice.
Conscientious behaviors and awareness of the consequences
Keep in mind that what you write is your responsibility, and failure to abide by these guidelines could put your membership, employment, or association with the ABHA at risk.
You should always follow the terms and conditions for any third-party sites in which you participate.

Branding and intellectual property of the ABHA

You must not use any of the ABHA's intellectual property or imagery on your personal social media without prior approval from the ABHA.
The ABHA's intellectual property includes but is not limited to:

- Trademarks
- Logos
- Slogans
- Imagery which has been posted on the ABHA official media sites or website.
- You must not create either an official or unofficial ABHA presence using the organisations' trademarks or name without prior approval from the ABHA.
- You must not imply that you are authorised to speak on behalf of the ABHA unless you have been given official authorisation to do so by the Board of the ABHA.

Policy breaches

Breaches of this policy include but are not limited to:

- Using ABHA's name, motto, and logo in a way that would result in a negative impact for the Association, Affiliates and or its members.
- Posting or sharing any content that is abusive, harassing, threatening, demeaning, defamatory or libelous.
- Posting or sharing any content that includes, insulting, obscene, offensive, provocative, or hateful language.
- Posting or sharing any content in breach of the ABHA's anti-discrimination, racial discrimination, sexual harassment, or other similar policy.
- Posting or sharing any content, which if said in person at an event would result in a breach of the rules of the Association
- Posting or sharing any content that is a breach of any state or commonwealth law.
- Posting or sharing any material to our social media channels that infringes the intellectual property right of others.

SOCIAL MEDIA CODE OF CONDUCT continued

- Posting or sharing material that brings, or risks bringing the ABHA, its affiliates, its sport, its officials, members, or sponsors into disrepute.

In this context, bringing a person or organisation into disrepute, is to lower the reputation of that person or organisation in the eyes of the ordinary members of the public.
If you notice inappropriate of unlawful content online relating to the ABHA or any of its member, or content that may otherwise have been published in breach of this policy, you should report the circumstances immediately.

Investigation

Alleged breaches of the social media policy will be investigated by the ABHA Board of Directors.
Where it is considered necessary, the ABHA may report a breach of this social media policy to the police.

Disciplinary process and consequences

Depending on the circumstances, breaches of this policy will be dealt with in accordance with the ABHA disciplinary procedure, which could result in suspension or expulsion from the Association.

Reference Documents:

- Member Protection policy and child protection policy
- Code of Conduct Policy
- Performance and misconduct disciplinary policy
- Anti-bullying, Harassment and Discrimination Policy
- Complaint review form

ANTI-BULLYING, HARASSMENT AND DISCRIMINATION POLICY

Purpose

To ensure that all members, volunteers, officials, and spectators associated with the ABHA enjoy an environment free from any forms of harassment.

Policy

Bullying, Harassment and Discrimination of any kind is not acceptable within the ABHA and complaints related to behavior of this nature (see definition) will be treated as serious and will be dealt with promptly, confidentially, and impartially by the board of the ABHA or a chosen independent party. No person who lodges a complaint with respect to bullying, harassment or discrimination will be disadvantaged because they have made the complaint.

Scope

This policy refers to all representatives of the ABHA including officials, members, contractors, spectators.

Definitions of harassment

- Verbal
- Written
- Physical
- Visual

Examples of bullying, discrimination and harassment include:

- name calling
- making fun of the person
- spreading rumors about a person
- being consistently critical about a person's performance
- participating in initiation rituals
- violence towards a person
- withholding information that affects someone's performance or job
- high demand on a person and unreasonable deadlines

Reporting

Any incidents of bullying, harassment and discrimination shall be reported to the board using one of the following methods. Complete a complaints form which can be found on the ABHA website or speak with a director for guidance on how to proceed. A full investigation will be carried out as per the procedure for reporting of complaints.
Reference documents

- Procedure - Complaints
- Form – Complaints

ANIMAL WELFARE

1. The ABHA recognizes 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 at an ABHA affiliated event must be in writing and lodged with the organizing committee no more than 20 minutes after the completion of the event, where an event is defined as the class in which the dispute is relevant to, 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 is found to be in breach of the rules of the ABHA at an affiliated event will be disqualified from competition, with no refund of the entries paid, and may be subject to discipline by the board of the ABHA.

4. ABHA will only endorse, manage or support any complaints, disciplinary action that pertain to the ABHA rule book if these cannot be resolved at affiliate level.

5. Complaint Lodgement Policy
   That the ABHA adopt the following policy regarding the submission of complaints by Affiliates or Members.
   Effective immediately, any ABHA Affiliate, Member or Individual who wishes to submit a formal complaint regarding any matter to be considered by the board of directors shall be required to pay a non-refundable lodgement fee of $50 per complaint.
   This fee must be paid in full to the ABHA Secretary at the time the complaint is lodged. No complaint will be tabled for discussion or action by the board of directors unless the lodgement fee has been received.

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; consisting of a cloverleaf pattern; consisting of one right and two left turns, or vice versa.
   Touching the barrel is permitted by horse or competitor.

Note- Not following the clover-leaf pattern will receive a no time;
A broken pattern shall be identified as retracing/breaking their forward motion to retrace their tracks to finish the pattern and /or passing the plane of the barrel on the offside.
Example: Should a contestant run by a barrel and must back up or turn around to retrace their tracks, this would be considered a broken pattern.

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

BARREL RACE RULES continued

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 and finishes when horses' nose passes between the two timers.

6. Line Position - The starting and finishing line must be parallel with the first and second barrels.
   The starting line is defined as the plane across the entire arena, fence to fence regardless of the position of the electric/manual timers
   Crossing the start/finish line any time before horse breaks electric eye /manual timers to start run will result in a no time.
   Note - If horse re-crosses starting line at any time before the pattern is completed, pattern will be considered broken, and run will receive a no time.

7. Re-runs – Should for any reason the barrels are not 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 the decision that the barrels are not on correct markers at time of event before barrels are moved from position.

9. If electric eye and back up times are missed in a divisional event. Contestant shall be granted a re - run with no penalties. When re-run is given, time will be set by the judge and the section will run in the order originally drawn. In a non-divisional event if all times are missed a contestant shall be granted a re-run at a time designated by the judge plus any penalties.
   If the barrel race is moved, postponed or re-run for safety reasons due to ground conditions re-runs will be penalty free.
   No re-runs will be given due to faulty or broken equipment used by the competitor.

10. Barrels - Brightly colored 200-litre empty, light metal barrels with both ends enclosed, there will be no rubber or plastic barrels, or barrel pads used.
    When setting barrels on the markers, center of barrel shall be positioned over where marker comes out of the ground.
    If barrel covers are used, they should be used in all the rounds of that event.
    Arena signage should remain in place for entire event.
    Barrel must be set back on marker if moved by a horse or competitor in a run.

11. Vet/Visual out - If a competitor desires to withdraw for any reason e.g., veterinary /injury the decision and process will be left to the discretion of the Affiliate.

12. Turning down a run - When a competitor turns down a run they will be disqualified on that horse for the remainder of the event. Any money won prior to the turned down run will be awarded. The competitor will only be disqualified from the entered event in which the competitor has chosen to forfeit their second run, and not all other events the competitor may be participating in. Accordingly, a competitor who elects not to take a second run in on the entered event in which the competitor has chosen to forfeit their second run, and not to all other events the competitor may be participating in the event should only be should only be disqualified from further participation in that specific event for that horse. Their eligibility to compete in other events remains unaffected.

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. Electric Timers - When electric timers are in use in all barrel races, 5 digits are to be written down on judge's sheet by timekeepers/judges e.g.: 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.

BARREL RACE RULES continued

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

19. Full course & Records – Any record attempts must be run on a marked full course but cannot exceed maximum measurements. See diagram on page 12.
    Addition- The stopping distance should be no less than 13.2 meters from finish line to back fence.
    Special attention must be made to the stopping distance and arena set -up for the safety of horse contestant and arena helpers.

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 –
    Disqualification will occur if more than 2 contacts with equipment from start of run to first barrel.
    Disqualification will occur if more than 2 contacts with equipment from barrel 1 to barrel 2 .
    Disqualification will occur if more than 2 contacts with equipment from barrel 2 to barrel 3.
    Disqualification will occur if more than 4 contacts with equipment from barrel 3 to end of run.

    Definition of equipment (object, device) riding crop- over and under whip- quirt, reins. Ruled by the Judge.

23. Records: to record an official ABHA record, measurements, rules, equipment must be checked, recorded and confirmed by at least two (2) ABHA Senior Members, plus the judge of the event. Official measurements to be recorded, signed by the two (2) members, plus the judge, and sent to the ABHA Office.

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.
    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 button up long-sleeved shirt, western hat/ current Australian Standard's helmet, (No Caps) 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 a Current Australian Standard's approved helmet with the chin strap securely fastened when mounted and competing.
    Adult members that choose to wear a helmet must wear a Current Australian Standard's approved 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 FI163 (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.

    Note *All competitors in junior events must wear Current Australian Standards approved helmet.

27. All stallions must be double tied by neck strap and halter on all grounds.
28. Stallions will be allowed to be unrestrained in panel yards through daylight hours **ONLY**.
    Stallions must be double tied at night.
29. Panels must be a minimum of 1500mm in height with a minimum of 4 bars.
30. 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.
31. Stallions are required to wear a visible blue ribbon tied into the mane and/or tail to help identify stallions to other members.

BARREL RACE RULES continued

32. 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.

33. Rounds - In a 2-round event where competitor has option of 1 run only, all competitors must run in first round before any second runs are taken.
    If pre-arranged due to certain factors contestant with 1 run option could take their run in second round, to be determined by affiliate.

34. Draws to be adhered to and contestant must make an effort to know their position in the draw and be ready when called.

35. If a competitor is to be assisted into the arena the handler must be in full dress attire as per rule 25 (Barrel Race Rules) and must exit the arena at the commencement of the run for safety reasons.

36. That all ABHA events must have at least one manual back up clock and those times from this manual back up clock must be recorded.

37. That all ABHA events must have a person judging the event.

38. That all ABHA members who have entered multiple horses in an ABHA-sanctioned event must run their horses in the published draw order. Members changing horses drawn order will be disqualified.

39. Horses must be saddled and bridled to compete. Move that halters are not permitted to be used on a horse for barrel racing and pole bending competition, and a saddle must be worn on a horse when competing at an affiliated ABHA event.

DIVISIONAL RULES

1. Divisional Barrel races are not to be restricted in any manner and must be open to any rider and any horse. Divisions are determined by the affiliate of either a one second or half second time bracket for the duration of that event.

Ie. Half second Splits	Ie. One Second Splits	Ie. 2nd Div half second split
1st Division – Fastest Time 2nd Division – Fastest Time + .5 seconds 3rd Division – Fastest Time + 1 seconds 4th Division – Fastest Time + 1.5 seconds 5th Division – Fastest Time + 2 seconds	1st Division – Fastest Time 2nd Division – Fastest Time + 1 seconds 3rd Division – Fastest Time + 2 seconds 4th Division – Fastest Time + 3 seconds 5th Division – Fastest Time + 4 seconds	1st Division – Fastest Time 2nd Division – Fastest Time + .5 seconds 3rd Division – Fastest Time + 1 seconds 4th Division – Fastest Time + 2 seconds 5th Division – Fastest Time + 3 seconds

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

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

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

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.

6. Two run Format: Divisions set on the average time of the two runs.
    a. 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.

b. 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.
c. 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.
d. 3rd Division - All competitors slower than the fastest average time plus two seconds, will be in the 3rd Division.
e. 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.
f. Average – All rounds added together and divided by number of rounds

7. In the divisional barrel race, the purse is split between the divisions choosing either option 1 or option 2.

Option 1.

DIVISIONAL SPLITS

	1ST DIVISION	2ND DIVISION	3RD DIVISION	4TH DIVISION	5TH DIVISION
1D	100%	50%	33%	25%	20%
2D		50%	33%	25%	20%
3D			33%	25%	20%
4D				25%	20%
5D					20%
	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Option 2.

DIVISIONAL SPLITS

	1ST DIVISION	2ND DIVISION	3RD DIVISION	4TH DIVISION	5TH DIVISION
1D	100%	60%	50%	35%	30%
2D		40%	30%	30%	25%
3D			20%	20%	20%
4D				15%	15%
5D					10%
	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

8. The affiliate must indicate on application which split they are choosing and affiliate must advertise prior to event. Cannot be changed.

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

BARREL RACING DIAGRAM

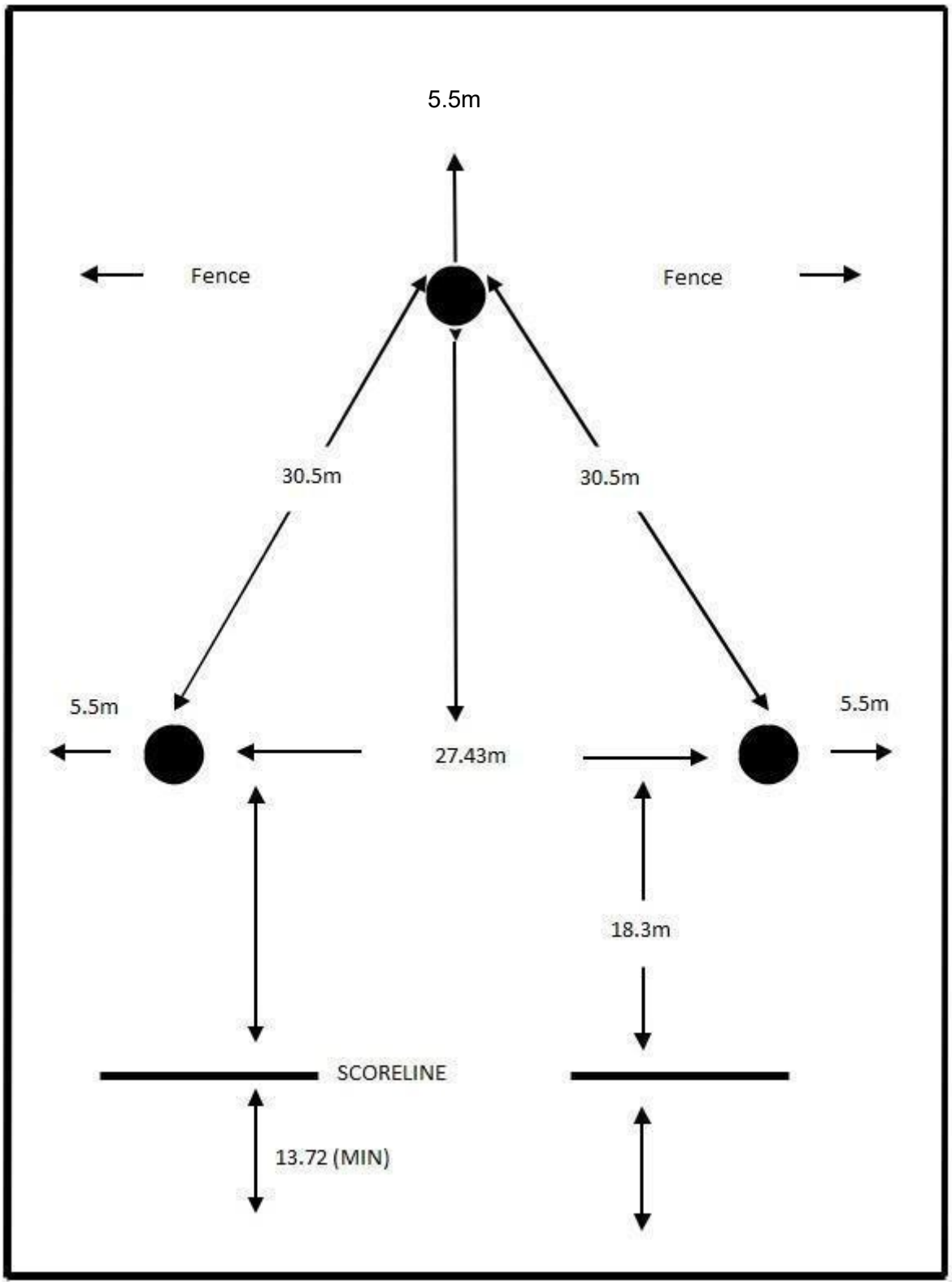

Figure 1: Barrel Racing Diagram

EXHIBITIONS

1. Exhibition fee not to exceed $7

   *Kept at or below $5 the affiliate may retain 100% of the exhibition fee.

2. Time limit set on exhibitions by affiliate.
3. Exhibitions can be limited by organizers 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. A Junior must be under 18 years old on the day of the competition.
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.
6. Tiny Tot age is 7 and Under. A Tiny Tot must be 7 & under on the day of competition.
7. Membership Categories are:
   - Senior.
   - Junior Open
   - Junior
   - Day*
   - Non-Competing**
   - Honorary
   - Life***
   - Tiny Tots
8. Junior eligibility for Open Events:

Any junior wishing to compete in the open divisional or open poles event/s must hold a current senior membership. Junior membership alone will not permit entry into the open events.

*Day memberships will be 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 and will not qualify rider for club end of year awards for events competed at under a day membership.

**Non-Competing membership is a non-riding person over 18 years of age.

***Life members wishing to compete must sign the ABHA Waiver form each membership year.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact a director near you. Current Directors can be found on the website under the board.

TINY TOTS

1. ABHA Tiny Tot Membership $10 per year, renewable on 1st January each year.
2. Tiny Tots events to be run as 'Non-Competitive' (No prize money, only equal prizes for all riders)
3. Tiny Tot's are to be aged 7 years and under.
4. When a Tiny Tot turns 8, they will be required to pay a full junior membership. ($60 balance payable from the upgrade of the tiny tot membership) Please contact the ABHA Secretary to organize this.
5. Any Tiny Tot who wants to compete in a junior divisional or junior aged barrel race, will be required to purchase a full junior membership.
6. Tiny Tot events to be restricted to 7 Years and under.
7. Rider must be wearing a Helmet as per Barrel Race Rule No. 26
8. A Tiny Toy may have 1 leader and 1 handler. If Tiny tot is riding unassisted, 1 handler is permitted in the arena to help guide the rider, whether that be at the horses shoulder or standing in a safe area of the arena talking the rider through the pattern. Handlers will be required to have completed the ABHA online handlers course.
9. The leader must not be in front of the horse's shoulder.

PAYOUT BREAK UP

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

LEAD REIN / ASSISTED RIDERS

1. Rider must be wearing a Helmet as per Barrel Race Rule No. 26
2. Rider must be able to sit on horse/pony without being held.

3. Only one (1) leader/handler permitted per rider.

4. The leader must not be in front of the horse's shoulder.

5. It is the responsibility of the parent to appoint a suitable leader/handler/assistant for the horse/pony and rider safety. This person must be over 16 years of age and must be a current ABHA financial member. This person can be a non-Competing member.

6. Assisted riders being led because of documented disability will be able to be competitive in their age group.

7. Riders who are riding "free" and who successfully complete the course, must take the placings over riders whose horses are being led, except as in No 6. above.

8. Recommend led and free riders be in separate groups where numbers are sufficient.

9. Full ABHA Dress Code applies to both rider and Leaders/Handlers/Assistants as per Barrel Race Rule no. 25

10. In Lead Rein Events ONLY more than one child can compete on the same horse where the event is advertised as "Non-Competitive" (all children come 1st)

FUTURITY EVENTS

1. Open to horses 4, 5 and 6 years.

2. A horse's age will be calculated based on a year starting 1 August every year (Horses Birthday).
For example, a horse born any time between 1 August 2019 and 31 July 2020 turns one (1) year old on August 2020 and so on.

3. A futurity can be run over 1 or 2 rounds.

4. All horses entered in the Futurity Event are to ensure that all the correct paperwork for the entered horse is supplied, and the horse is of the correct age as per the AQHA rule book. Registration Papers or the ABHA Proof of Age Form (that has been completed by a vet) are required.

5. Rollovers: Aged events rollover will only be allowed on the same day of competition and same sized course. Rollovers are not permitted if the event runs over two day, i.e., the competitor runs in an aged event on the one day of competition and wishes to roll over their aged event time to another event the next day.

6. Any Futurity with $500 prize money or more will count as a qualifying futurity round for the ABHA Finals.

7. That any horse is eligible to enter any ABHA affiliated Futurity event provided the horse meets the age criteria and has been issued an ABHA Aged Horse Registry ID

8. Affiliates have the option to allow a competitor to roll over their time from a divisional barrel race to a non- qualifying Futurity sidepot, provided they are run on the same size course.

9. Mandatory Use of ABHA online entry system for aged events:

   That all ABHA Affiliates conducting an aged event be required to have entries taken exclusively through the ABHA Online entry system.

10. Affiliates may choose to offer an aged event bonus in 2D format i.e. 1 or .5 second split in the Futurity or Maturity barrel racing competitions. This bonus must be fully funded by the affiliate and may NOT be deducted from the posted prize money or add back funds. Can be paid places according to entries.

FUTURITY INCENTIVE

1. The Futurity incentive is reviewed annually by the Board.

2. As of the 1st of May 2022, the ABHA will be offering a $500 cash bonus to Affiliates that run a $1000 Futurity event.

3. Incentive will be in place until 31/12/2022 and will be reviewed prior to the 1/01/2023.

Conditions:

Posted Prize Money must be a minimum of $1000

4. 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.

MATURITY EVENTS

1. Maturity events are open to horses aged 7, 8 & 9 years old.

2. Can be run over 1 or 2 rounds.

3. Affiliates have the option to allow a competitor to roll over their time from a Maturity event into a divisional barrel race, provided they are run on the same size course.

4. A horse's age will be calculated based on a year starting 1 August every year (Horses Birthday). For example, a horse born any time between 1 August 2019 and 31 July 2020 turns one (1) year old on 1 August 2020 and so on.

5. All horses entered in the Maturity Event are to ensure that all the correct paperwork for the entered horse is supplied, and the horse is of the correct age as per the ABHA rule book. Registration Papers or the ABHA Proof of Age Form (that has been completed by a vet) are required.

6. That any horse is eligible to enter any ABHA affiliated Maturity event provided the horse meets the age criteria and has been issued an ABHA Aged Horse Registry ID

7. Rollovers: Aged events rollover will only be allowed on the same day of competition and same sized course. Rollovers are not permitted if the event runs over two day, i.e., the competitor runs in an aged event on the one day of competition and wishes to roll over their aged event time to another event the next day.

8. Mandatory Use of ABHA online entry system for aged events:

   That all ABHA Affiliates conducting an aged event be required to have entries taken exclusively through the ABHA Online entry system.

9. Affiliates may choose to offer an aged event bonus in 2D format i.e. 1 or .5 second split in the Futurity or Maturity barrel racing competitions. This bonus must be fully funded by the affiliate and may NOT be deducted from the posted prize money or add back funds. Can be paid places according to entries.

MATURITY INCENTIVE

1. The Maturity incentive is reviewed annually by the Board.

2. As of the 11th of November 2026, the ABHA will be offering a $500 cash bonus to Affiliates that run a $1000 Maturity event.

3. Incentive will be in place until 31/12/2027 and will be reviewed prior to the 1/1/2028.

4. Conditions:

   Posted Prize Money must be a minimum of $1000

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

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

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

ABHA AGED HORSE REGISTRY

1. As of 1/8/2024 all horses aged 4-9 years old that are wanting to compete in Futurity and Maturity events are required to be registered on the ABHA Aged Registry.

2. To be eligible to enter, all horses must provide sufficient evidence the horse is of the correct age (4-9 years old) to be issued with an ABHAID.

3. Such evidence is acceptable

4. Registration Papers from any Breed Society

5. ABHA Proof of Age Certificate completed by a Dental Equine Veterinarian.

6. Photo's of Front, rear, near and off sides of the horse.

7. ABHA affiliated aged events from 4 years old regardless of registration status.

8. Horse age will be calculated as at 1st August each year.

9. All aged event horses at the ABHA National Finals to be mouthed by the ABHA Licensed Dental Equine Veterinary to verify ABHA Proof of Age Form or Registration Certificate prior to commencement of the Event

10. The ABHA Board reserves the right to question and further investigate the information supplied on the ABHA Age Inspection Forms if any discrepancies arise from the information by the owner or breeder. The ABHA Board of Directors reserves the right to decline any application that can't be verified.

11. Any ABHA member that intentionally provides false or misleading information on the ABHAID and/or Age Inspection form is subject to the horse's disqualification from aged events and/or disciplinary action which could include suspension or loss of membership and/or pecuniary as per the discretion of the board.

12. All Age Inspection forms to be filled in by the current owner. The entire form must be completed without alterations. No form will be accepted with whiteout or changed information. The horse markings and vet section to be completed by the Equine Dental Veterinarian.

13. Any current owner/rider of the ABHA that has given false or misleading information regarding the age of the horse, and has proceeded to compete and win prize money or prizes on said horse at any ABHA aged event, will forfeit all prize money and prizes won, which will be required to be returned to the event organiser for redistribution to appropriate placegetters. Failure to do so may result in suspension and refusal of all ABHA event entries until returned.

14. All Aged Horse Registry applications are required to be received by the ABHA Office two week prior to entering an event to allow validating the application.

15. One owner of an aged horse who wish to register their horse to compete in any ABHA aged event/s must be a current financial member of the Association. If the owner is not the rider of the horse, one owner of the horse is required to be a current financial member of the association.

16. Any horse that is entered in an ABHA aged event that does not have an ABHAID number will be disqualified and will forfeit any prizemoney or prizes won.

17. Any affiliate that permits a horse with no ABHAID to compete in an aged event will be issued with a warning and be required to organise the return of prize money and/or prizes won and redistributed to rightful placegetters. After 3 warnings, affiliates may be refused the right to run further aged events.

AFFILIATES

1. Affiliates can only retain a maximum of 30% of the entry fee to cover 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.

   *Please note affiliates can retain a lower % if they wish.

2. If an Affiliate has specific ground and event 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 clubs

   rules/ series 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 i.e stand alone futurity, open barrel race along with the guidelines/rules & definition/criteria.

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 7 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 found not following the ABHA rules will find their events, affiliations and membership suspended along

with a fine at the board desecration which includes but not limited too not paying event fees or sending in results, allowing non-financial members to compete at their events.

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.

12. Refunds will not be given for any event fee's that have been paid. If an event must postpone due to unforeseen weather circumstances, then a credit note will be issued to the affiliate to reschedule their event at a later date. No refunds will be given for any event application fees.

13. Affiliates may offer the option for members to change their nominations, however members must advise this before the event commences.

14. Affiliates are to collect $1 per person/competitor excluding tiny tots, National Finals Levy. Affiliates are permitted to add the $1 to the entry fee. The levy is not to be taken from the affiliate retained percentage. National finals levy to be paid to the ABHA as per rule 8.

POLE BENDING

Pole Bending is a timed event.

1. 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.

2. An electric timer or at minimum two watches shall be used, with the time indicated by the electric timer or the average time of the watches used to be the official time.

3. 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.

4. 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

5. 5 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.

6. Whipping – Disqualification will occur if more than 2 contacts with equipment from start of run to pole 6 .
   Disqualification will occur if more than 2 contacts with equipment bending from pole 6 to pole 1 .
   Disqualification will occur if more than 2 contacts with equipment bending from pole 1 to pole 6 .
   Disqualification will occur if more than 2 contacts with equipment from pole 6 to the finishing timers.
   Definition of equipment (object, device) riding crop- over and under whip- quirt, reins. Ruled by the Judge.

7. 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.

8. 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.

9. 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.

Pole Bending Diagram

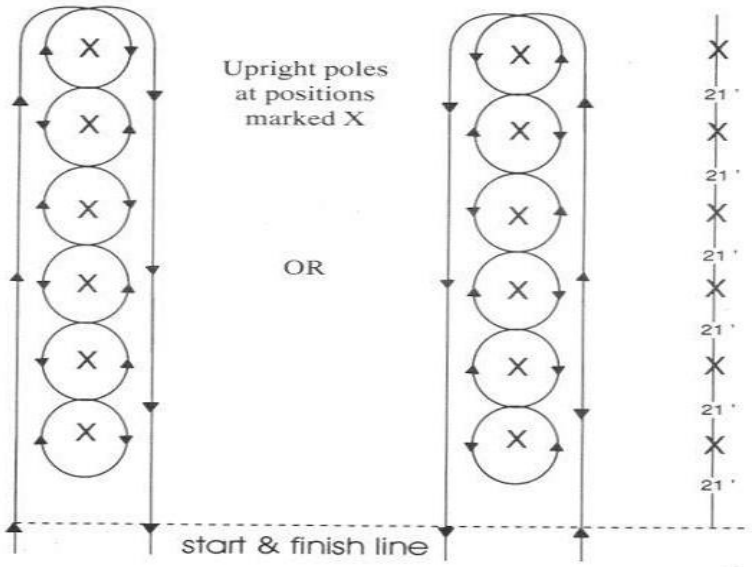

Figure 2: Pole Bending Diagram

AMENDMENT REGISTER

01/10/2019	Amendment completed as per 2019 AGM held at AELEC Tamworth 7/09/2019
16/12/2019	Amendment as per ABHA Board Meeting 16/12/2019
07/01/2020	Amendment as per ABHA Board Meeting 06/01/2020
10/11/2020	Amendment as per ABHA Board Meeting 10/11/2020
21/01/2021	Amendment as per ABHA Board Meeting 18/01/2021
11/05/2021	Amendment as per ABHA Board Meeting 10/05/2021
31/06/2021	Amendment as per ABHA Board Meeting 01/07/2021
26/06/2021	Amendment as per ABHA Board Meeting 21/07/2021
22/11/2021	Amendment as per ABHA Board Meeting 22/11/2021
08/03/2022	Amendment as per ABHA Board Meeting 08/03/2022
29/06/2022	Amendment as per ABHA Board Meeting 29/06/2022
13/09/2022	Amendment as per ABHA 2022 AGM held at AELEC Tamworth 13/09/2022
13/10/2022	Amendment as per ABHA Board Meeting 13/10/2022
22/02/2023	Amendment as per ABHA Board Meeting 22/02/2023
21/03/2023	Amendment as per ABHA Board Meeting 21/03/2023
12/09/2023	Amendment as per ABHA 2023 AGM held at AELEC Tamworth 12/08/2023
1/11/2024	Amendments as per ABHA 2024 AGM held via Zoom 30/10/2024
11/11/2026	Amendments as per ABHA 2026 AGM held via Zoom 11/11/2026

DIAGRAMS

Figure 1: Barrel Racing Diagram 13
Figure 2: Pole Bending Diagram 19