

MBHA Rulebook

The purpose of the Montana Barrel Horse Association is to provide barrel racers with a state organization that will promote the sport of barrel racing and its growth.

Our goals are to increase the number of participants, improve the quality of shows and enhance the image of barrel racing.

These rules have been adopted to address the needs of MBHA members, promote fairness, eliminate confusion, and assist show organizers.

INTRODUCTION

These Rules cannot cover all possible situations that may arise during a show, nor can they regulate all administrative questions. Where cases are not precisely regulated by a rule, it should be possible to reach a reasonable decision by taking the issue to the MBHA Board of Directors for clarification or ruling. The rules assume that MBHA Directors, Show Management and staff have the necessary competence, sound judgment and absolute objectivity. Too detailed a rule might deprive the official of his/her freedom of judgment and thus prevent him/her from finding the solution to a problem dictated by fairness, logic and special factors.

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Section A. Competition Rules

1. An MBHA barrel race is a timed event using three identical barrels set in a cloverleaf pattern. (District shows are not required to use unweighted metal barrels, however, plastic barrels may be weighted.
2. The starting gate or gates must remain the same throughout the entire event. Gate will be closed once member enters the arena. Gate is to remain closed until completion of run. No run outs.
3. The start/finish line and the barrel positions should be permanently marked and must remain the same throughout the entire event.
4. The pattern at an MBHA show must meet the following conditions:
 - a. The first two barrels must be a minimum of 15 feet off the side fence.
 - b. a minimum of 30 feet between the third barrel and the back fence.
 - c. a minimum of 30 feet between the time line and the first barrel.
5. Ground conditions
 - a. The ground conditions within the arena must remain consistent throughout the event. The ground around the barrels must be reworked and leveled after each 5 contestants have competed.
 - b. The preferred method of working the ground is with a ground tool pulled by some type of motor vehicle.

6. Any time a contestant crosses the starting line, time will begin. Producer, at their discretion, may stop a rider with a bolting horse that needs to be gathered up and be under control when coming through the gate thus offering them a chance to begin again if for safety purposes.
7. A contestant will be given a “no time” for missing the pattern.
8. A contestant will be disqualified for running out of turn. It is the contestant’s responsibility to know his/her draw position. Exception is if they are called to enter the arena by the announcer.
9. A contestant will be given a “no time” for knocking over a barrel. A “no time” will also be given if a barrel is knocked over and it sets up again on either end. Touching a barrel, including to keep it from falling, is permitted without penalty.
10. A contestant will be given a no time if the horse or rider falls during the run in such a manner as to break the pattern, or if the rider falls off the horse.
11. If a barrel is moved off its marker during competition, the barrel must be reset prior to the next competitor’s run.
12. Contestants may ride any horse, regardless of ownership, and as many horses as they choose in a class. However, a horse may NOT be physically run more than a combined total of 2 times/event. Possible physical run combinations include 1 Open/1 Senior, 1 Senior/1 Youth, 2 Youth, 2 Open or 2 Senior. (Pee Wee not included). An event/jackpot is described and consists of an MBHA approved competition that can include Youth, Open and Senior class. Rules apply to double header races.
13. Entries for an MBHA class may be closed at the discretion of the show management. This may be at a time prior to the race, before the first horse runs in that class, or up until the last horse in that class runs. The time in which a show closes must be advertised.
14. At all MBHA approved shows, the draw shall be done in a random manner. (computer, shuffling cards, drawing numbered chips, etc.) All horses in the draw must be named. Riders with multiple entries must ride their horses in the position in which they are drawn. Once set, the draw may not be changed, except to accommodate entries with the same horse or rider, or entries involving members of the same immediate family, as defined in Section A, Rule 12a, which have drawn up close to each other. What constitutes “close to each other” will be determined by Show Management; however, a consistent standard should be adhered to for the class.
15. Only one horse may be in the competition arena at any time during competition for MBHA sanctioned classes. Once the starting line has been crossed, any helper horse must exit the arena immediately.
16. Reruns shall be granted if the timer fails to work properly or if the barrels are not placed properly on their markers. Any penalty incurred on the original run shall not be applied against the rerun; however, any penalty occurring on the rerun shall result in a no time. Contestant will have the option to rerun or take a no time, contestant will also receive newly raked ground if rerun option is chosen.
17. Contestants who are given a no-time, either for missing the pattern or knocking down a barrel, may complete the pattern. However, show management may, at its discretion, ask a rider who is taking excessive time to train to leave the arena immediately. If such request is not complied with, a \$25 fine may be assessed, payable to the district/state.
18. MBHA Officials have the right to disqualify any uncontrolled horse which does not begin performance within three minutes of the time the rider has been called.
19. Contestant must make a competitive run, crossing through the electric eye to count as a qualifier.
20. Competitors must be 18 years of age to compete/ride stallions.

Section B. Show Approval

1. For a show to be MBHA approved, a written request must be made to the District Director on an MBHA Approval Request Form. To be approved as an approved show, the request form and fee must be received at MBHA Headquarters at least 14 days prior to the requested show date. State Directors will have final approval for all approved shows. MBHA points will not be awarded for shows that are not properly approved.
2. Approved shows may pay out on either the 3D, 4D, or 5D format.
3. The MBHA will approve only one show on a given date within 150 miles, except that two separate MBHA runs may be approved on the same day at the same arena.
4. Shows will be approved on a first-come, first-serve basis. The MBHA reserves the right to refuse approval for a particular date or show if it is determined not to be in the best interest of the MBHA or its members.
5. A district shall have no fewer than six (6) races per competition year.
6. To be approved, a show must offer all MBHA members in good standing, regardless of age or sex, the opportunity to compete.
7. There will be three classes of competition as follows:
 - o Open
 - o Youth/Teen (18 years of age and under)
 - o Senior (50 years of age and over)
 - o Proof of age may be required at the discretion of Show Management.
 - a. Show Management may allow eligible contestants to rollover their time in the Open class for the Youth or Senior class. Contestants wishing to rollover a time must declare their intent before event begins. Any contestant carrying time must pay the applicable entry fee for both classes and is eligible to win prize money and MBHA points just as if the time was run in the other class. Run order of classes is up to the discretion of the producer.
 - b. The MBHA points, and payout, if any, will be determined based only on those riders who qualify for that particular class (Youth or Seniors).
8. A competitor's age in the Youth class will be determined as of the first day of the MBHA competition year, which is October 15th of each year. A competitor may ride in the Youth class if aged 18, and the Senior class if aged 50, after October 15th.
9. All approved shows must have an electronic timing system and conform to the MBHA rules. (Note: MBHA events will be timed to thousandths of seconds if the clock being used displays three decimal places.)
10. The District Director must submit show results of all MBHA classes (Open, Youth, and Senior) to their State Director **WITHIN SEVEN DAYS** after the show. **POINT STANDINGS MUST BE MADE AVAILABLE BY THE DISTRICT DIRECTOR FOR MEMBERS TO SEE.** When a member disagrees with points awarded on the DISTRICT POINT SHEETS, that member will have 14 days, from the date points are posted, to bring any discrepancies to the attention of the District Director and, if necessary, to file a written protest in accordance with SECTION H of this Rule Book. If points are not available, members should notify their State Director.
11. Directors must use good judgment in order not to create a travel distance hardship on members and risk revocation of sanction. State Directors will have final approval authority for all co-sanctioned shows.
- ~~12.~~ Each district director must sign off on the approved shows for their district, either by signing the same form or by submitting their own form.
13. Organizations and individuals requesting MBHA approved shows must indicate that the show is MBHA approved on all show bills/advertising.

14. MBHA will not approve any show that limits the number of entries.
15. All MBHA approval requests must be submitted by Aug. 31 of each year.

Section C. Earned Points

1. To earn and maintain points, a competitor must be a member in good standing of the MBHA. Members who fail to renew their membership within 30 days of their expiration date will forfeit any accumulated points previously earned during the competition year. MBHA policy allows for a 30-day administrative grace period beyond the expiration date before the membership is officially marked as lapsed. This is to avoid penalizing the member with loss of MBHA points due to time it takes for the mail to arrive at Headquarters, or due to time taken by a director in forwarding memberships to Headquarters.
2. MBHA members may accumulate points in only one district at a time during the competition year. Members will be assigned to the district where they live unless Headquarters is notified in writing that they wish to compete in another district. Members lose accumulated points in a district when they start competing for MBHA points in another district during the competition year.
3. Divisions are determined by time brackets. The fastest time in the class will set the time for payback and District points. Whatever district or districts sanction the show their district members' fastest time will set the time for their district points. If sanctioned by more than one district each district's fastest time will set their time for their district points.
 - 1st division – Fastest time in the class and those who place in this division.
 - 2nd division – Fastest time in the class plus one-half second and those who place in this division.
 - 3rd division – Fastest time in the class plus one second and those who place in this division.
 - 4th division - Fastest time in the class plus one and one-half seconds and those who place in this division.
 - 5th division – Fastest time in the class plus two seconds and those who place in this division. Note: The 5th division is not limited to a one-half second interval from two to two and one-half seconds off the fastest time. However, riders must make a good faith effort to run the pattern as fast as their ability will allow.
4. MBHA points will be awarded in all classes and divisions on a 5,4,3,2,1 basis for 1st place through 5th place among MBHA members in that competition district only, regardless of the number of entries or paying places. If two or more riders tie, the points for the tied positions should be added together and divided equally among the riders who tied.

Example of the time brackets (Note: This is only an example)

1st division 2nd division 3rd division 4th division 5th division

1.15.201- 5 pts	15.713- 5 pts	16.205- 5 pts	16.723- 5 pts	17.201- 5 pts
2.15.272- 4 pts	15.772- 4 pts	16.322- 4 pts	16.740- 4 pts	17.243- 4 pts
3.15.314- 3 pts	15.816- 3 pts	16.475- 3 pts	16.998- 3 pts	17.386- 3 pts
4.15.357- 2 pts	15.993- 2 pts	16.528- 2 pts	17.113 2 pts	18.025- 2 pts
5.15.448- 1 pt	16.116- 1 pt	16.580- 1 pt	17.157- 1 pt	18.567- 1 pt
6.15.639- 0 pts	16.145- 0 pts	16.622- 0 pts	17.199- 0 pts	19.133- 0 pts

5. Should fewer than five horses place in a division, MBHA points will be awarded beginning with five points for 1st place.
6. MBHA points will not be awarded for any run during which a contestant knocks over a barrel.
7. Competitors may enter more than one class. For example, competitors in the Youth 5D or Senior 5D classes may also qualify in the Open 5D class.
8. Competitors may ride as many horses as they wish in each class. However, the competitor with multiple entries will receive points only for the highest placing horse in each division.
9. At an approved show, each district's members are given their points separately. That is, the highest placing 1-D rider from each district gets 5 points, and so on.
10. MBHA Points, in all classes and divisions, are awarded to the rider.

Section D. Payout

The suggested payoff for MBHA sanctioned shows is as follows:

1. A minimum of 70% of all entry fees must go to the jackpot.
2. Payout percentages are at the discretion of the producer with District/State Director approval
3. Added money will be divided in the same ratio OR split evenly among all divisions.
4. There are no restrictions regarding how added money is apportioned among classes at a show. For example, a show may add money to the Open but not to Youth or Seniors.
5. The following table shows the suggested MINIMUM number of places to be paid for the stated number of entries:

3-D Format

	Number of Entries									
Places	1-10	11-15	16-30	31-60	61-90	91-120	121-150	151-180	181-210	211+
1st	100%	60%	50%	40%	30%	28%	26%	24%	22%	20%
2nd	—	40%	30%	30%	25%	22%	20%	18%	16%	15%

Places	Number of Entries									
	1-10	11-15	16-30	31-60	61-90	91-120	121-150	151-180	181-210	211+
3rd	—	—	20%	20%	20%	18%	15%	15%	14%	13%
4th	—	—	—	10%	15%	14%	12%	12%	12%	11%
5th	—	—	—	—	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%
6th	—	—	—	—	—	8%	9%	8%	8%	8%
7th	—	—	—	—	—	—	8%	7%	7%	6.5%
8th	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6%	6%	6%
9th	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5%	5.5%
10th	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5%

4-D Format

Places	Number of Entries							
	1-12	13-20	21-40	41-80	81-120	121-160	161-200	201+
1st	100%	60%	50%	40%	30%	28%	26%	24%
2nd	—	40%	30%	30%	25%	22%	20%	18%
3rd	—	—	20%	20%	20%	18%	15%	15%
4th	—	—	—	10%	15%	14%	12%	12%
5th	—	—	—	—	10%	10%	10%	10%
6th	—	—	—	—	—	8%	9%	8%
7th	—	—	—	—	—	—	8%	7%
8th	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6%

5-D Format

Number of Entries						
Places	1-2021-4041-8081-150150-200201+					
1st	60%	50%	40%	30%	28%	24%
2nd	40%	30%	30%	25%	22%	18%
3rd	—	20%	20%	20%	18%	15%
4th	—	—	10%	15%	14%	12%
5th	—	—	—	10%	10%	10%
6th	—	—	—	—	8%	8%
7th	—	—	—	—	—	7%
8th	—	—	—	—	—	6%

1. District Directors will check payback in all MBHA classes. Paying more than the minimum places requires approval of the District Director.
2. All prize money must be paid out. No portion of the added money may be kept as part of the % withheld, 100% of added money must be paid to contestants.
3. Prize money will NOT be paid to any contestant who knocks over a barrel.
4. At any MBHA show, if not enough riders qualify in a division as monies to be paid, the money which is unaccounted for shall be divided equally among those who have placed in that division. If no riders qualify in a division, the prize money for that division shall be equally divided among those riders in the other divisions of that class who have won prize money.

Section E: Penalties and/or Disqualifications

MBHA membership and participation in MBHA events is a privilege, not a right. Behavior which is damaging to our Association or its membership will not be tolerated. Violation of any of the following provisions may subject a member to disqualification from MBHA events, being denied entry to MBHA events, loss of points, or suspension from the Association.

1. Any act in connection with an MBHA approved show or other MBHA business in violation of this section
2. Any act deemed prejudicial to the best interests of the MBHA may result in the suspension of a member, including but not limited to the following.
 - a. Using abusive or intemperate language or attempting to threaten, bribe, influence or harass any contestant, show official or MBHA official. Also, any remarks made with the intent to cast aspersions on the character or integrity of an MBHA official or show official.
 - b. Moving or attempting to move markers at any time.
 - c. Use of electronic and/or remotely controlled devices to alter the outcome of a run.

- d. Abuse of a horse in any way.
- e. Competing while under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
- f. Misidentifying a horse in any MBHA class will disqualify a contestant.
- g. Other conduct that is not in the best interest of MBHA or its members.
- h. Failure to make good on a returned check to the MBHA or to any MBHA sanctioned/co-sanctioned event, or to any other association which has a cooperative agreement with the MBHA on returned checks.
- i. Show Management and/or MBHA Directors at their sole discretion shall have the authority to disqualify or deny entry to any horse they deem dangerous to the rider, or to other individuals, animals or property.
- j. A member is responsible for their own behavior,

Section F. Dress Code

To enhance the image of our sport, MBHA encourages and promotes appropriate western attire throughout all MBHA approved events. This includes a long-sleeved shirt with collar, and a western hat or helmet. Shirt sleeves must be rolled down and buttoned or snapped. This dress code will be strictly enforced at State Championships unless weather conditions are conducive to changes. If an exception is made due to inclement weather, this will be announced.

Anyone making a run at any of these shows found to be in violation of the dress code will be assessed a \$25 fine. During all State Championships, contestants may be assessed a fine of \$25 for losing their hat during a run. Members who fail to pay such fines will be ineligible to enter any MBHA sanctioned or approved shows or make their next run until such fines are paid in full.

All disputes over dress code and fines will be decided by Show Management. The decision of Show Management will be final and binding. In the interest of safety, contestants may wear appropriate riding safety helmets.

Section G. State Finals Information

1. To qualify for the MBHA State Championships, members must have competed in four (4) MBHA approved qualifier barrel races and have a current MBHA membership. Races will not be counted as a qualifier until membership is purchased. The last qualifier race is the Friday night race prior to MBHA State Championships.

2. During State Championships, time splits will be (.5, .5, .5, .5) in Open, (.5, .5, full) in Senior and Youth.

3. Refer to Section F of this Rule Book pertaining to Dress Code requirements for State Championships.

4. All MBHA memberships expire each year on October 15th.

5. Each D average champion will be awarded a \$1500 saddle certificate to be used toward the purchase of saddle winner's choice (or value of saddle if under \$1500), or champion will have the option of a \$1250 check. If saddle is awarded, the winner is responsible to have MBHA and the current year stamped or tooled on the saddle visible for purposes of advertisement. We encourage ordering saddle by Dec 31st of the year awarded. MBHA will pay the dealer or merchant directly for our portion of the saddle ordered once we are invoiced. If winner purchases a used saddle from a saddle shop or private party, the check

will be issued once MBHA receives proof (picture) of the stamping. It is the member's choice to add additional stamping on the saddle.

6. In the event of a tie for 1st place of the championship round (awards) at State, the tie will go to the person with the fastest time of the competition.

Section H. Protests & Complaints

Persons who believe a rule violation or infraction has occurred at an MBHA event, may file a written protest with MBHA. The written protest must be accompanied by a \$100 protest fee. The protest must be made within 30 days of the incident that is being protested. If the protest proves to be valid, the \$100 protest fee will be returned to the person filing the protest. If the protest proves to be invalid, the protest fee will be returned to the district where the protest was filed to be used for district year-end awards. State Directors, may reserve the right to return the \$100 protest fee even if the protest proves to be invalid.

(NOTE: This rule does not prevent Directors and Show Managers from correcting obvious problems brought to their attention, without the submission of a written protest fee.)

Any situation not covered under these rules shall be decided by the MBHA official on site.