

This document and the NBHA official rule book are binding to all members and affiliated committees of National Barrel Horse Association of Australia Inc.

The official NBHA Rulebook may be found at [NBHA Member Rules](#)

Where it is referred to NBHA in this booklet that is taken to mean of National Barrel Horse Association Australia Inc.

Where "NBHA Headquarters" is mentioned in NBHA Rulebook, it is taken as meaning the contact details for Australia (enquiries@nbha.com.au).

The Objects of the Association are:

- (1) To support and encourage the sport of Barrel Riding here in Australia
- (2) To promote good horsemanship and sportsmen like attributes
- (3) To encourage families to have fun and learn in a safe environment with their horses and each other

Divisional barrel racing is the heart of NBHA. Divisional barrel racing gives ALL competitors - from beginners to professionals, from youth to seniors - a chance to learn and succeed in barrel racing. The Divisional format encourages riders to improve their skills and work toward the higher Divisions, while still having a chance to be competitive.

National Barrel Horse Association of Australia Inc. recognizes the International Barrel Horse Federation (IBHF) as the international standard to run divisional barrel racing events and we run our events to that standard following the official NBHA Rule Book (see below) with few bylaws that are unique to our Country (refer to [NBHA Member Rules](#) and these bylaws).

The purpose of National Barrel Horse Association of Australia Inc. is to provide Barrel Racers with an opportunity to race within Australia following the guidelines set down by the international organisation (IBHF) that will promote the sport of barrel racing and its growth. These international event rules have been adopted to address the needs of NBHA members, promote fairness, eliminate confusion, and assist show organisers.

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 responsible decision by looking at the Rule book and/or submitting a written letter/email to the NBHA Board.

These Rules assume that NBHA Board Members 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. Breach of these By Laws may result in Disqualification

MEMBERSHIP

The individual membership of the Association shall comprise of: -

- | | |
|--|----------|
| (a) Open (this includes Senior)..... | \$50 per |
| year | |
| (b) Youth / Teen (18 years and younger – not riding in Open) | \$25 per |
| year | |
| (c) Associate/Supporter (not a competition rider)..... | \$20 per |
| year | |

Only members of the Association that are 18 years or older will have voting rights.

***** NBHA members shall not use social media to bring NBHA or NBHA Australia into disrepute. Please refer to the Official NBHA Rulebook Section F: Penalties and/or Disqualifications.

Day Membership (NO POINTS)

Non-members may compete for prize money at an NBHA event (excluding State Show or National Show) only upon payment of a non-member permit fee. A non-member permit fee, in the amount of twenty dollars (\$20.00) will be collected from each non NBHA member and paid directly to NBHA Australia for insurance purposes. Only paid members of National Barrel Horse Association of Australia Inc. will be eligible to attain points for end of year prizes.

AWARD OF MERIT or LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Life Membership of National Barrel Horse Association of Australia Inc. may be considered for special services rendered in connection with the sport.

Life Membership is not transferable and will only be granted at the level of membership previously held (i.e. an Associate/Supporter will only receive Associate/Supporter Life Membership, a previous Open member will receive Open Life Membership).

Recommendations for Life Membership shall be put forward to the Secretary prior to each AGM and shall set out the details of special service rendered.

Life Memberships will then be decided at the AGM in consultation with all members. A Life Membership card shall be awarded; however, membership form and waiver must be completed at the start of each year.

AFFILIATED DISTRICTS

Any potential District may be asked to run three non-point events under the Association banner to see if they will be supported and to see if the Directors and their Representatives are members of NBHA Australia, self-motivated, capable of running events, passionate about our Association and in it for the right reason.

The three non-point events will raise funds for timers and other essentials that are needed to run a District. After these three non-point events, the Executive Management Committee will evaluate how well received the potential District is in that area and the impact on other Districts before officially naming and setting up the District.

To be properly affiliated, District Directors must sign the District Director Agreement each year and ensure that all shows are sanctioned as per [Section B. Show Sanctioning](#). The \$30 show sanctioning fee will apply.

Any show that is run under the Association insurance is considered a sanctioned show. To be approved as a sanctioned show, the request and fee must be received at NBHA Headquarters at least 14 days prior to the requested show date.

National Directors will have final approval for all sanctioned shows. NBHA points will not be awarded for shows that are not properly sanctioned.

Districts may choose to set up as [Not for Profit Sporting Organisation](#) or become an [Incorporated Association](#) (either way, they need to be their own legal entity and registered with the Australian Government to obtain an ABN).

Naming of the entity should be consistent with

- NBHA | State | District Number | Area (i.e. NBHA QLD D01 SEQ)

All Districts shall follow the NBHA Rulebook, NBHA Australia Constitution, NBHA Australia By-laws and this Directors Handbook. All proposed amendments to District Constitutions shall be submitted to the Executive Management Committee for its approval.

NBHA Australia Membership and NBHA points are strictly for qualifications to World Championship shows.

Districts may utilise NBHA points for district awards as determined by the District Directors. District awards are not required, but highly recommended, and are not governed by NBHA Australia.

Members may choose to pay District Awards fees at multiple Districts and be recognised for end of year prizes, however, they must nominate their home district when membership up with NBHA Australia (via NOMINATE) and that is the only points that will be recognised for qualifications to World Championships.

Districts can follow the structure under Section D. Payout for Awards Fees (where for sanctioned shows they can also charge an awards fee to a maximum \$5 which is excluded from the payout), alternatively, affiliated Districts of the Association may continue to charge an Annual District Awards Fee for Administration & Prizes (which must be paid for members to accumulate points) that **may not be more than**

(a) Open	\$50 per year
(b) Senior.....	\$25 per year
(c) Youth / Teen.....	\$25 per year
(d) Poles	\$15 per year
(e) Side Pots.....	\$15 per year

Retirement of Districts

A District may retire from the Association at any time by giving notice in writing to the Secretary of its intention, so to do, but any District, before retiring, shall be liable to any fees payable by it.

A retired District desiring to re-join the Association shall apply for admission in the manner provided by these By-Laws.

PROTESTS AND COMPLAINTS

Persons who believe a rule violation or infraction has occurred at an NBHA event, may file a written protest with NBHA Australia, enquiries@nbha.com.au. The written protest must be accompanied by a \$50 protest fee. The protest must be made within 30 days of the incident which is being protested. If the protest proves to be valid, the \$50 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. In certain cases, determined by the Executive Director, NBHA Headquarters may reserve the right to return the \$50 protest fee even if the protest proves to be invalid.

This is the ONLY manner in which a protest or complaint will be accepted.

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 NBHA official on site.

Informal Complaints / District Grievances

District Members are encouraged to provide feedback and complaints directly to your District Directors so that they know when there is a problem and will be given the opportunity to resolve it. If informal complaints are received by NBHA Australia (i.e. without the \$50 protest fee), they will be passed back to the District Director to handle.

District Directors must:

- **STEP 1** - Listen to the complaint. Thank the member for bringing the matter to your attention. Apologise and accept ownership, do not blame others, and remain courteous.
- **STEP 2** - Record details of the complaint (and email to Enquiries@nbha.com.au for information). Go through the complaint in detail so you can understand exactly what the problem is. Keep records of all complaints in one central place or register. This will help you identify any trends or issues.
- **STEP 3** - Get all the facts. Check that you have understood and recorded the details of the complaint correctly. Ask questions if necessary.
- **STEP 4** - Discuss options for fixing the problem. Ask the member what response they are seeking; it could be a refund or apology or working together to run events better in the future. Decide if the request is reasonable.
- **STEP 5** - Act quickly. Aim to resolve the complaint quickly. If you take a long time they tend to escalate.
- **STEP 6** - Keep your promises. Keep the member informed if there are any delays in resolving their request. Do not promise things that you cannot deliver.
- **STEP 7** - Follow up. Contact the member to find out if they were satisfied with how their complaint was handled. Let them know what you are doing to avoid the problem in the future.

COMPETITION RULES

1. OPEN, YOUTH, TEEN & SENIOR Barrel Racing Classes are mandatory to be run at all point events and MUST be run in that order for rollovers. Times can only be rolled over from Opens to Youth, Teen, Seniors, or Features/Side pots. Times CANNOT be rolled over from one Jackpot to next Jackpot.

NBHA Australia **recommends** the following entry fees for sanctioned events as follows:

- Open \$30 (events paid out to 3D, 4D or 5D, points to qualify for Worlds to 5D)
- Seniors \$20 (events paid out to 3D, 4D or 5D, points to qualify for Worlds to 5D)
- Teen \$15 18 years and under (events paid out to 3D, 4D or 5D, points to qualify for Worlds to 5D)
- Youth \$10 12 years and under (events paid out to 3D, 4D or 5D, points to qualify for Worlds to 5D)

With a minimum of 75% of all entry fees going to the jackpot. (Exception: If a show offers at least \$1,000 added money, a minimum of 70% of all entry fees must go to the jackpot.) That is, a maximum of 25% (or a maximum of 30% if at least \$1,000 added) may be withheld as the "office charge." If more than 25% is withheld pursuant to the above, this fact must be stated on any show bills or flyers.

This is exclusive of other fees which may be charged for specific purposes such as State or District Awards Fees as defined below, timer fee, processing fee or arena fee. While we permit such charges, they must not be excessive, must be clearly stated in all advertising and show bills, and must be directed to the specific purposes as labelled, for example, the timer fees must either be paid to the timer owner/operator, or put toward the purchase of a timer for the district. The charging of a "processing fee" to district shows, the sole purpose of which is to add to the general revenue of the show, is not permitted.

Where Districts decide not to continue the NBHA Australia Annual District Awards Fee, to help support the District raise money for District Awards, NBHA sanctioned shows may charge an awards fee to a maximum \$5 which is excluded from payout. If your district will not be awarding year-end awards there may not be a district fee.

Side pot - A "side pot" is additional opportunities to recognise competitors. Contestants can pay an additional fee to enter their designated "side pot." This means that in addition to the main competition, times will be "carried over" into the designated pot adding an additional chance for the contestant to win a check against what is often a smaller pool of competitors. (for example age categories for horses such as Futurity/Derby/Senior Horses, or fastest gender such as Man/Woman). Horse classes = Futurity Horses – 4, 5 or 6 year old | Derby 7 or 8 year old | Senior Horse | 16 year or older. **Side pots** are permitted for the OPEN class only.

All other classes are **feature events** and are run at Director or Promoter discretion (as per event flyer).

No Feature events (such as Top 10 Shootouts/Poles/Led) will be allowed to run before the main performance at any event.

2. Nominations for events generally close the Thursday before an event however entries may be taken up to an hour before the start time at the discretion of the District Director or Promoter (see individual event flyers). This does not include State or National Championships.
3. No raffles to raise funds for individuals are to be run at events where NBHA is the promoter as those days are to raise money for end of year prizes. Raffles can be run at other events with the permission of the Promoter.
4. The NBHA will sanction only one show on a given date within a district, except that two separate NBHA runs may be sanctioned on the same day at the same arena (Double Header).
5. No sanctioned NBHA point shows will be approved for dates that would interfere with members from attending their State Championships, the World Championships, the Youth World Championships, or a National Championship Show held within the same region. NBHA Australia Directors will have final approval for all sanctioned shows. NBHA points will not be awarded for shows that are not properly sanctioned.

PROMOTERS (A Promoter runs the NBHA show entirely and therefore takes the profit)

1. Promoters are responsible for 100% of the running of their event and must provide all resources and allocate and manage volunteers to run the event. District Directors or their Representative will only be in attendance to check results
2. For a show to be sanctioned by the NBHA, a written request must be made to the District Director on an [NBHA Sanctioned Show Request Form](#). Proof of payment of the **\$30 sanctioning fee** to the District account must accompany this request.
3. To be approved as a sanctioned show, the request form and fee must be received at NBHA Headquarters at least 14 days prior to the requested show date. Shows will be sanctioned on a first-come, first-serve basis.
4. Within 7 days after the event, Promoters must pay a fee of **\$70 per event for non-point** events and **\$140 per event for point-events** to the District account as contribution to end of year prizes. Within 3 days after the event, timesheets must be passed on to the District Director to allow for point calculations.
5. Rules for Series or Feature events MUST be submitted with NBHA Sanctioned Show Request Form and approved by the NBHA Management Committee. It is an obligation that to run a Series, the Promoter MUST complete the series as originally advertised. Should the series be shortened due to weather, then all members will be advised and the NBHA Management Committee will arrange another date to complete the series

EXHIBITION BARRELS

1. Exhibition Runs are demonstrations. To make a demonstration, you must be a member (this includes Day Member).
2. Rider may acquaint their horse with arena environment (ride around the arena / outside of the pattern) before making one run on the pattern. **The time in arena should be no more than 1 minute.**
3. Nominations for Exhibition Runs are not required, these can be paid for on the day at the gate.
4. No points or prize money is awarded for Exhibition Runs.
5. Caps (unless under 18 and helmet is compulsory) / t-shirts / polo shirts are acceptable for exhibitions but no singlets. Must wear jeans and boots at all times
6. Exhibition fees go directly to the Promoter or District running the event.

DISTRICT TITLES

1. In the event of a tie for a District title in any Division (1st Place only in any D) the contestants will be deemed Co-Champions. Districts may choose to award equal prizes to each of the Co-Champions where they are able
2. Where there are awards associated with a title or placing and the District cannot provide equal prizes to all Co-Champions, they may establish the prizes based on which member won more events during the competition year (count-back of winning places).
3. In the instance where the contestants are still tied after a count-back, a run-off will occur to decide first choice of the prizes using the following protocol:
 - The District Director will toss a coin to determine running order, unless both/all parties tied parties mutually agree the coin toss to determine the clear winner without a runoff.
 - In an event of a run-off, each contestant will be given a minimum of 30 minutes of rest before having to ride in a runoff.
 - During the runoff, any barrels knocked down will result in a 5 second penalty per barrel down.
 - Winning monies related to a tie will be split 50/50 or evenly in the case of more than two individuals in a tie and contestants will be deemed Co-Champions. Prizes will be awarded to the results from the runoff or the mutually agreed upon flip.
 - If a contestant fails to contact the District Director within 30 minutes of announced results. He or she will forfeit the opportunity of flipping a coin or running for first choice of awards. This will not impact the event payoff, or the contestants being considered Co-Champions.
 - It is the contestant's responsibility to seek show results.

In the event of a tie not related to a District title, in which awards are given and Districts are unable to award equal prizes to each contestant in the tie, 2 they may establish the prizes based on which member won more events during the competition year (count-back of winning places). In the instance where the contestants are still tied after a count-back, a run-off will occur to decide first choice of the prizes using the runoff protocol above.

SAFETY FIRST

1. Contestants must compete using a **safe and suitable** saddle. Riding bareback in a sanctioned NBHA class will result in a disqualification. Additionally, no bareback riding is permitted on the grounds at any NBHA event, at any time, and can result in a fine or further action for repeat offenses.
2. Only MEMBERS of NBHA are permitted to ride within the ENTIRE location of the event.
3. A competitor must start and finish their run inside the alleyway/arena.
4. If any horse is deemed out of the rider's control, the rider may be requested to remove the horse from the arena/marshalling/warm up area for the safety of other competitors and spectators.
5. Only one horse and rider to be in the arena to make a run at any time. If using a mounted horse to "lead" a competitor in, competitor cannot start until 2nd horse has left the arena.
6. Riders will be called to the marshalling area to wait for their run. Only those within the current block are to be in that area with the exception of riders 18 years and younger - their parents/guardians may accompany them within the marshalling area and as required into the arena.
7. Only NBHA officials (or their designated helpers) to be in arena or marshalling area on foot.
8. **Riders who are 4 and under** must have a person to lead the horse and a support person (both must be NBHA member 16 years & over). The person leading must lead at the horse/pony's shoulder throughout the entire run and remain in full control of the horse. The support person must stay at rider's side and remain in contact with either the rider's leg or back throughout the barrel pattern. Once they reach the age of 5 years, they do not require a support person and can compete off lead if able. Competitors aged 4 years and under are not permitted to carry a whip or any other device to smack or whip their mount.

All riders aged 17 years or younger as of January 1st each year must wear an approved helmet (description below) at all times whilst mounted with chin straps done up.

All members wearing helmets please note:

Helmet compliance expires 5 years from date of manufacture. PLEASE BE AWARE that at any time NBHA Board member or District Director can ask to see the helmet. If it is not to the correct standard (AS/NZS 3838 (AU, ASTM F1163 marked SEI or Snell, EN 1384 (2014-12) only or VG1, VG01.040 (2014-12) or if the compliance is not in date, you will be asked to wear a compliant helmet or will not be able to compete and will not be allowed to be mounted on a horse for the duration of the event.

HORSE WELFARE

1. Striking horses with a whip or any other piece of equipment (including your hand) around their head will result in disqualification for the duration of the competition. (Whip is defined as any apparatus to encourage/aid horse - e.g. whip/stick/under over/quirt/hand & anything else not specifically mentioned)
2. Excessive use of a whip or other equipment (including your hand) will result in a no time being given. Excessive whipping will be classified as more than 2 strikes to the first, 2 strikes in between each drum and 4 on the way home.
3. See NBHA Official Rulebook, Section A. Competition Rules: Rule 18,

It is highly recommended that stallions be ground handled solely by individuals 18 and over. There is zero tolerance for uncontrollable, dangerous horses whether stallion or not. Any negligent behaviour resulting in improper control of any horse can be grounds for disqualification.

Show Management, Promoters, or NBHA Directors require ANY horse to be identified with a ribbon in their tail however, all STALLIONS must wear a Ribbon, see guide below:



HORSE WELFARE OFFICER

A Horse Welfare Officer acts as part of the support system to District Directors at an event or competition. The role is not a compulsory, or an official role, but is recommended for all sanctioned events and competitions to enact the Australian Horse Welfare Protocol.

The Horse Welfare Officer plays two main roles at a competition or event, they are:

1. To act as a visual deterrent in order to prevent any breaches of horse welfare from occurring.
2. To act as a point of contact for other competitors or spectators to notify incidents of concern, and to then assist that person in making a report

Key Responsibilities:

- Move through the competition grounds, including the stables, warm up arenas, float parking, round yards and around competition arenas/ areas themselves. (Remember, you are there to act as a visual reminder that horse welfare standards must be followed and to act as a deterrent.)
- Have an understanding of the rules of the day, and an understanding of appropriate horse welfare (Australian Horse Welfare Protocol).
- Be friendly and approachable.
- Your role is there to support the District Directors on the day. Please be aware that your role has no official standing or authority to make decisions or sanctions, nor can you reprimand a rider/ owner in anyway.
- Should you see an incident of concern, make notes as appropriate, take photos or video on your phone, and call one of the numbers listed on your induction sheet for assistance.
- Do not engage in any conflict. If in doubt, call an official.
- Do not make any judgements on a particular incident. Record evidence as you witness it or ask a witness to make a formal report.
- Provide feedback at the end of the day to the District Director on your observations.

FEATURE EVENT GUIDES

POLE BENDING

1. Where not run as a Divisional Event, entries per rider for these events is limited to **TWO separate horses**.
2. Where **not** run as a Divisional Event, payout is to 1st to 3rd place or less depending on placings.
3. **If points are accumulated**, points are awarded on an outright contest basis of 1st to 5th.
4. Course size will be 9 Metres from timers to first pole then 6 Metres between poles.
5. 6 poles are to be used, if 6 are not available then 4 must be used, an uneven number is never allowed.
6. Contestants can enter the course from either side of the poles as long as the course is completed correctly.
7. A no time will be given if the pole is tipped/touches the ground and/or does not return past 45 degrees vertical as ruled by the event judge.
8. Excessive use of a whip, bare hand, under and over or other equipment will result in a no time being given. Excessive whipping will be classified as more than 2 on the way to the top pole and more than 4 on the way home.

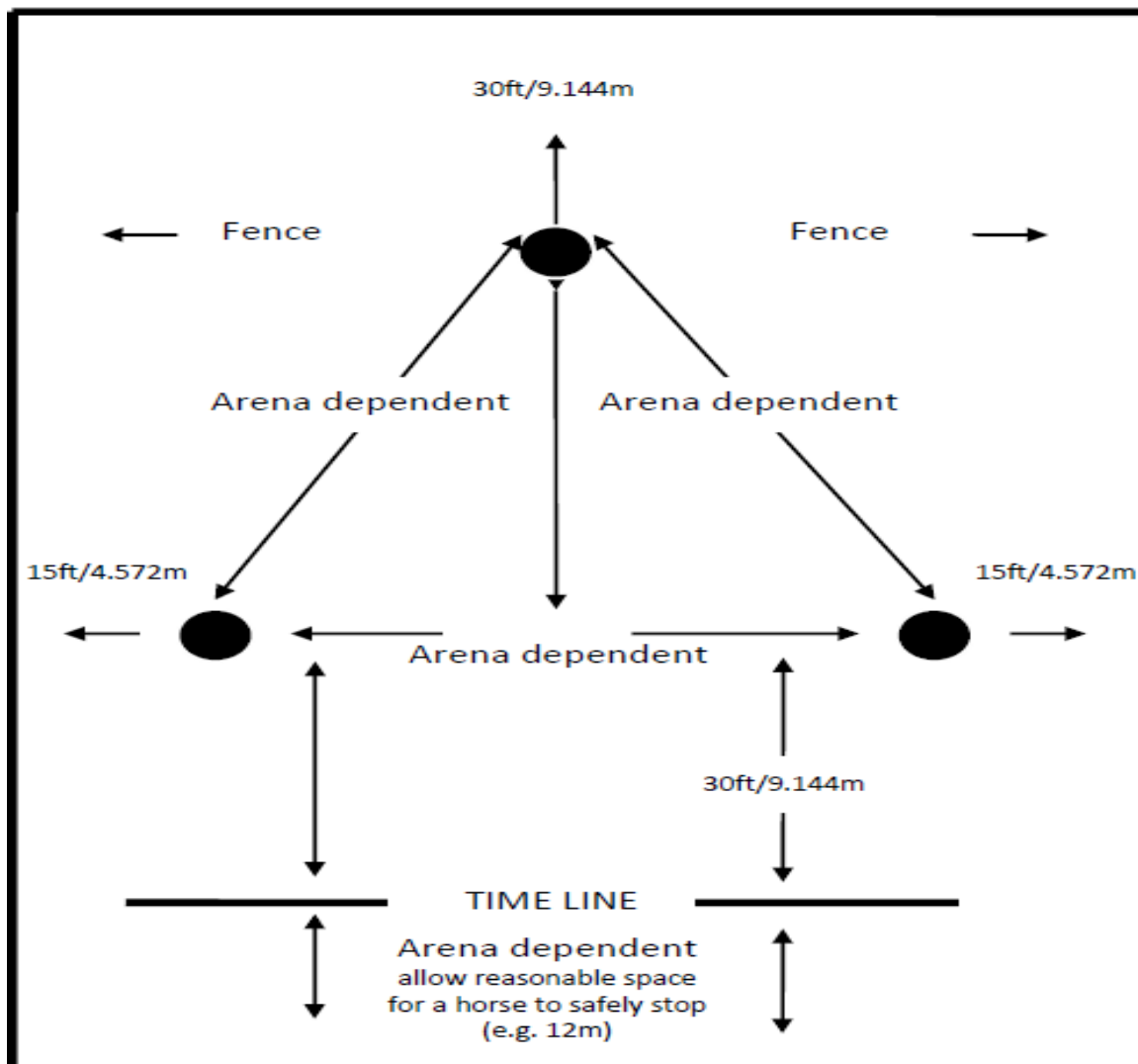
LED (Led is NOT a Divisional Event OR Age dependent)

1. Only 1 LED FEATURE to be run per event.
2. Entries per rider for these events is **limited to ONE horse only per event**.
3. If there is an entry fee, payout to 5th Place or less depending on placings
4. If points are accumulated, points are awarded on an outright contest basis of 1st to 5th.
5. Riders who are on Lead line are not eligible to compete in any other class including Opens, Youth, Teen, and Senior Classes.
6. All riders in this group must wear an approved safety helmet whilst mounted on a horse at any NBHA affiliated event.
7. Assisted Riders who are on lead, the person leading must lead at the horse/pony's head / neck / shoulder throughout the entire run and remain in full control of the horse. At no time can the person leading be in front of the horse/pony's nose.
8. Assisted Riders who are 4 years of age and under must have a person to lead the horse and a support person (both must be NBHA members 16 years & over). The person leading must lead at the horse/pony's shoulder throughout the entire run and remain in full control of the horse. The support person must stay at rider's side and remain in contact (without restrictions to the child or their clothing) with either the rider's leg or back throughout the barrel pattern. Once they reach the age of 5 years, they do not require a support person and can compete off lead if able.
9. Competitors aged 4 years and under are not permitted to carry a whip or any other device to smack or whip their mount.
10. This is not a point awarded event, it is a participation ONLY event. It is a participation event, at the discretion of each District if yearly awards are given.

BEGINNER BARRELS (Beginner Barrels is NOT a Divisional Event)

1. Payout is to 3rd place or less depending on placings
2. No points are awarded.
3. Entries per rider for these events is limited to two separate horses.
4. Rider must be a genuine Beginner Rider (for example; the rider is only comfortable riding at a trot or slow canter, the rider has not competed in timed events for over 5 years, the rider has never won an open pony club/active riders barrel race, the rider has never placed in a Divisional, Novice or Open barrel race).
5. Riders will be disqualified from this class if they run a time that is less than 2 seconds off the Open 4D time (4 seconds off 1D).
6. District Directors have discretion to move competitors out of Beginners if they feel they have reached an adequate competitive level.

NBHA BARREL RACING DIAGRAM



For pole bending, poles are set min 9m from back fence and then 6m apart.
6 poles are to be used, if 6 are not available then 4 must be used, an uneven number is never allowed.