

BRITISH COLUMBIA BARREL RACERS ASSOCIATION (BCBRA)
RULE BOOK
Revised 2022

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**All members are required to read these rules carefully;
failure to understand the rules will not be accepted as an excuse.**

Infractions of rules will result in the following protocol for members and non-members:

- 1) First infraction – verbal and written notice by an arena manager or Director of the Association**
- 2) Second infraction - \$50 fine and must be paid before entering their next BCBRA race where BCBRA is primary**
- 3) Third infraction – suspension or expulsion of membership for the current year including Finals if qualified**

Infractions of the rules include, but not limited to:

**Conduct or speech of any kind that is detrimental to the best interests of the BCBRA;
Being under the influence of alcohol in the arena, while competing or volunteering;
Altercations or quarreling at any time during an approved event;
Failure to follow the BCBRA Rules & Regulations.**

Any protest/appeal must be submitted in writing to the Secretary within 30 days along with a certified cheque or money order in the amount of \$25. This will be refunded only if the protest/appeal is successful.

ANIMAL ABUSE

Excessive use of the bat or whip

Whipping or spurring the horse in front of the cinch

Other forms of abuse

At discretion of the arena manager and/or judge

This includes, but not limited to, the arena, arena grounds, barn, and parking lot

Will not be tolerated and could lead to disqualification

MEMBERSHIP

AGE CATEGORIES

OPEN category is open to all riders of any age.

JUNIOR category is open to any rider 15 years of age or younger as of January 1st of the current membership year, as long as the rider does not hold a Peewee membership.

SENIOR category is open to any rider 50 years of age or older as of January 1st of the current membership year.

PEEWEE category is open to any rider 10 years of age or younger as of January 1st of the current membership year.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEE

Basic Memberships (Open, Junior, Senior) - \$55

Double Dip Memberships - \$30 (Junior or Senior wishing to compete in Open category in addition to basic)

Peewee Membership - \$25

PEEWEE UPGRADES

A Peewee can buy an Open card to only run in the Open category at any regular season jackpot without endangering their Peewee card but they may not run in the Peewee and Open categories at said jackpot. When entering Finals, said Peewee must choose one category to compete in.

May upgrade to the Junior category and/or Open category anytime during the year by paying the additional fees. (\$30 per Junior, \$30 per Open).

Written notice to the Membership Director is required.

Upon purchase of the Junior and/or Open card, that Peewee cannot change division for the remainder of the season.

All race credits earned as a Peewee are lost and cannot be reinstated. Junior and/or Open race credits will be accumulated from the date of upgrade once the additional fees have been received.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS

The only acceptable process is through the online submission form.

A parent or guardian must be the one to fill out and sign membership application form for anyone under 18 years of age.

If payment is not received within 30 days of application sent, application will be removed

EFFECTIVE DATE OF MEMBERSHIP

May take up to 14 days from the date of receiving application by the Membership Director. Qualifications will be counted only from the activation date of the membership.

Application forms and the distribution of membership approvals will be administered by the director who is in charge of memberships only.

Application for memberships for the current season must be received and paid for no later than the race cut-off date for the current year.

Members will not receive race credits unless the new race season's membership has been purchased.

MEMBERSHIP APPROVAL

An email will be sent with membership approval.

The email will include member's name, number, category and effective date of race credits.

It is the responsibility of the member to contact the director in charge of memberships if membership email is not received within 14 days of sending in membership form and fees.

Memberships are non-refundable or transferable within the BCBRA

OTHER MEMBERSHIPS

Current year's membership application must be completed and signed to remain a member in good standing

GOLD CARD MEMBERSHIP

Approval is at the discretion of the Board of Directors

A written request of recognition is to be delivered to the Board and can be delivered by any member in good standing

To be recognized, must have:

- 10 years of consecutive membership
- Have given outstanding service to the Association

Gold card members are entitled to all the basic benefits of the BCBRA that are included in membership fees regardless of age category without charge of fee

SPECIAL MEMBERSHIP

INCENTIVE MEMBERSHIP

Approval is granted by Board of Directors

To be eligible:

- Race producer puts on 6 or more races in one season
- Race producer puts on a race that has more than \$500 added, not including BCBRA added money

ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP

\$10 for the parent/legal guardian who signed Peewee or Junior membership form

This includes voting rights in place of the minor child's vote

CARRY OVER/DOUBLE DIPPING

Carry over/double dipping is an option available to Junior and Senior age categories in which they can also purchase an Open membership, allowing them to compete in the Open category.

To carry over/double dip they must pay entry and approval fees for both race categories, but they will only make their run in the Open category. That time and any penalties will be carried over to their Junior/Senior category.

The option to carry over/double dip must be declared at the time of entry, otherwise they must run in both categories.

Junior/Senior must have Open AND Junior/Senior Memberships in order to carry over (see Membership)

GENERAL RULES

Good sportsmanship is expected at all times.

No member of the BCBRA shall speak, write or appear on behalf of the Board or the Association without the Board's permission.

Any non-member, by signing into a race and paying the \$5 insurance fee, are subject to and shall be obligated to follow the bylaws, rules and regulations of the BCBRA

There will be no drawing out after positions are drawn without a doctor's release or a veterinarian's Certificate. The contestant or horse may not compete at another approved race within 5 clear days. Only 3 Veterinarian and/or Doctor releases can be submitted in 1 year. Contestant may also turn out on a visible injury release done by 2 current BCBRA Directors. **This is only applicable for Finals and added money races.**

A contestant may ride any horse regardless of ownership.

When entering, a competitor must name a horse – no using "Horse #1", "Horse #2", etc.

A horse may only be entered a maximum of one contestant in the Open and/or Senior category on a race day. The same horse may only be entered by a maximum of two contestants in the Junior and/or Peewee category on the same race day. A horse cannot exceed four runs in the given day. Riders may not enter on the same horse if also riding a second horse (Lead line is exempt).

Dress code: long sleeved shirts with cuffs and collar, western hats or helmets, boots, and jeans that are free from rips and tears are required unless the race producer advertises differently on the website. This also applies to the Finals. A penalty of \$20 will be imposed if you do not follow dress code when entering the arena to compete.

A contestant can be disqualified for not being ready to run when called; time limit at discretion of arena manager.

Ill-mannered horses can be disqualified at the Judge's and/or arena manager's discretion.

A running or standing start can be used depending on the arena rules, but in no case may a contestant cause any unnecessary delay in starting the race.

Arena gates are to be left open or closed for all contestants during a race, with the except of Peeweews. The decision is to be made before the race starts by the majority of the contestants and/or the arena manager depending on the arena conditions.

A contestant may, from a riding position, hold a barrel from falling.

A contestant may hang onto the saddle or use both hands on the reins if he/she so desires.

Once barrel markers have been placed, no practicing is allowed on the course marked. For purposes of practicing, barrels must be placed at least 15 feet away from the markers.

Draws for races must be random. If a digital format is not available, an alternate format must be utilized (ie. Names on paper in a bucket).

All contesting horses shall be entirely free from effects of stimulants or hypnotics. Contestants will be suspended if found abusing this rule.

At no point can a contestant stop forward motion or cross over their own tracks during a run – this will result

in a no time

Peewees runs first, followed then by Open, Junior, and Senior. Exception: BCBRA Finals

Arena managers wanting to use a two-run option must have the race advertised as such. Two run option – each rider has the option to make two runs (order of go remains the same) for one entry fee. The best time is taken as run time for the category.

Race producers will have the option to determine whether schooling during competition is allowed.

Time onlies are to be at the arena manager's discretion as to when and if allowed to run.

Horses must run in the order they are drawn at any sanctioned or co-sanctioned BCBRA race, with exception to extenuating circumstances and only at the race producer's discretion.

A BCBRA race held after Finals cut-off, but before Finals, counts towards the next season. It will count as a race credit only if the member has the next year's membership in place.

All Peewees must wear a helmet that is approved for horse competition.

RACE APPROVALS

For a barrel race to be sanctioned by the BCBRA it must be submitted to and approved by the Race Approval Director.

Anyone wishing to organize a BCBRA sanctioned race (primary or secondary), must be a member in good standing in the current year with the BCBRA.

All approvals must be submitted by completing the online form on the website.

It is the responsibility of the race producer to verify the race has been approved and its format and dates are accurate. Verification can be done by checking the race calendar on the website within one week of submission.

Race managers are not to accept any applications at races.

When BCBRA is primary approval, all BCBRA rules and age categories must be followed.

Anyone wishing to organize a BCBRA approved race may do so if 7 days notice is given (and not just tentatively) to the Race Approval Director before the opening date of the race concerned.

Any rebooking and/or amendments of a race and/or its format requires a 7-day minimum notice, excluding extenuating circumstances.

All BCBRA approved races must be listed in the BCBRA website to count for race qualification.

BCBRA approved races are not restricted to holding all race categories.

There must be a minimum of 1 contestant entered in a category in order for it to count as a race qualifier.

If there is to be added money, the exact amount of the added purse must be confirmed and advertised.

Any and all BCBRA approved races are to be non-restricted to number of entries.

In the event of double headers (2 separate races with each race having its own separate entry fees and run on the same day) competitors will not be allowed the option to carry their times from the first race run to the

second race.

The Board of Directors has the right to reject any approval request he/she feels is detrimental to the Association.

Arena managers have the right to refuse entry of any non-members at their race(s).

Upon applying for an approval with the BCBRA being primary, the arena manager agrees to the following:

Follow the BCBRA Rules and Regulations;

Taking entries and doing payouts;

Safe ground/arena conditions. Ground must remain consistent throughout the race;

Ground raking is a must, and will be no more than every 5 riders;

Reworking/raking rotation should be determined by the arena manager.

All sanctioned single day races are to pay out monies within 7 days, unless under extenuating circumstances.

CO-APPROVALS

HOSTING A CO-APPROVAL RACE

All individuals wishing to organize a BCBRA co-approved sanctioned race must be a member in good standing in the current year with the BCBRA.

The BCBRA will co-approve races being held by other associations if requested. Co-approval requests must be completed on the online web form.

Must be advertised on the BCBRA website.

Where the BCBRA is secondary, a Finals surcharge of \$3 per BCBRA member per category per horse will be charged by the BCBRA. (ie. BCBRA member enters on 2 horses in the Open and Senior, that would be \$12) regardless if the race is being used as a Finals qualifier or not.

COMPETING IN A CO-APPROVED RACE

For any association that has different age categories as the BCBRA, any race credits will be counted in the age category in the BCBRA rules.

FEES

BCBRA does not govern or dictate arena fees, timer fees, and entry fees. These fees are all at the discretion of the race producer.

All entry fees including arena fees and office fees are to be posted on the website.

Entry fee is defined as the amount of money added to the payout, including approval fee. (ie: \$20 to payout, \$3 approval fee, \$23 is referred to as the entry fee.)

NON-MEMBER INSURANCE FEE of \$5 will be charged to those that are not a current member of the BCBRA. This fee is charged to the rider only, not the number of horses that are entered, for each day the rider is competing. This fee is not charged to current members during the time of the cross-over of race seasons. Anyone riding a horse during a BCBRA event needs to either be a BCBRA member or pay the non-member insurance fee; the arena has their own liability waiver to get signed; or if the rider can produce their

own personal liability insurance

Where BCBRA is primary, an approval fee of \$3 is charged per horse and rider.

All those attending a BCBRA race that is co-approved and do not pay the co-approval fee will then be a member not in good standing and will be placed on the ineligible list. Should the member declare it was paid to the hosting race producer, it is up to the member to provide proof of payment.

Usage of the BCBRA electronic timer carries a charge of \$2 per run including double headers. An inventory checklist will be contained in each timer box and race producer and/or Race Approval Director will be required to confirm contents on arrival and sending timer to next approved race.

A one-time late charge can be charged at races at race producer's discretion. If a contestant is entering more than one horse, only one late fee can be charged.

Non-members must sign up only for themselves.

All pre-entries and late fees must be advertised in advance in the BCBRA website

REGULATION COURSE

45 gallon, metal, closed-ended barrels to be used.

When arena conditions are suitable the following distances should be used:

- 1) Regulation barrel distances are 90 feet between barrel 1 and 2 and 105 feet from barrels 1 & 2 to barrel 3, with a 60-foot score line. With this pattern the barrels must be a minimum of 20 feet off the fence (15 feet off the fence for indoor patterns). Minimum stopping distance 45 feet with a closed gate;
- 2) In smaller arenas, barrel 3 should be no closer than 25 feet from the end of the arena and should be set not more than 15 feet longer than the distance between barrels 1 and 2;
- 3) Or, 60 feet from barrel 1 to barrel 2, and 125 feet from barrels 1 & 2 to barrel 3, with a 40-foot score line and a minimum stopping distance of 45 feet with a closed gate.

The barrels and starting line must be permanently marked for each go-round.

If a timer is used, permanent timer markers must be in place.

Barrels must be set to run in and out equally for left-handed or right-handed barrel racers, where safe and possible. Compulsory run in and out must be posted in the office and judges must be notified. Riders may be disqualified if this rule is not complied with.

Barrel distances must be measured with a measuring tape before each go-round and the same measurements must be kept throughout the entire race.

Barrel distances must be recorded at every race, and must be posted at the office for every added money race.

TIMING THE RACE

A +5 second penalty will be added to the rider's time for each barrel knocked over. Knocked down barrels will be considered a no time run. The rider's time will be announced and recorded but no moneys will be paid on said run.

Horses are to be timed on the nose both at the start and finish of the race.

The contestant must complete the race on the horse in order to have time count.

Each member entering the Finals must provide a sponsorship of \$50 for Open, Junior, or Senior, and \$20 for Peewees. Cash form only.

RETURNED CHEQUES/FINES

There is a \$25 service charge on all returned cheques from the bank.

If there are any adjustments needed to be made due to a member's error, a \$5 office fee will be charged.

If a cheque is not replaced with a certified cheque or money order within 21 days after the date of notification by the BCBRA, no points or qualifiers will be issued to said member and said member will also be placed on the "ineligible" list.

Ineligible individuals will not be allowed to run at BCBRA approved race (where BCBRA is primary), or attend the Finals until said debt (service charges included) have been paid in full. Race producers can collect the debt - allowing the rider to enter - and send it in with their recap results.

A list of the ineligible riders is posted on the BCBRA website. Names will remain on the list until debt has been paid in full, or 7 years have passed. After 7 years, the debit will be written off.

The BCBRA fine for not paying entry fees is \$25.

The BCBRA fine for turning out of a performance is \$50 plus entry fee. Turnout fine will be in effect for added money races only, the race entries have to be closed prior to the race day, and shall be at the discretion of the race producer.

CANCELLED RACES

Always contact race producer to make sure the race has not been cancelled.

RACES CAN ONLY BE CANCELLED DUE TO BAD WEATHER OR EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES.

Race producer must inform the Race Approval Director and website manager who will then ensure this information is updated on the website. Race producers should also make every effort to inform all members who have entered early.

ARENA RULES

Arena managers may have specific ground rules when racing in their arena over and above BCBRA ground rules. Always make sure to call ahead or read their entry forms carefully. Make sure all rules are completely understood before entering.