BRITISH COLUMBIA BARREL RACERS ASSOCIATION (BCBRA)
RULE BOOK
Revised 2026

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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** - $200 fine and must be paid before entering their next BCBRA race where BCBRA is primary
3) **Third infraction –** suspension or expulsion of membership for a full calendar year starting when letter was sent. 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 quarrelling 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.

Peewees 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 upgrade to 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. They are not to be accepted at races.

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

1. GOLD CARD MEMBERSHIP

Approval is at the discretion of the Board of Directors

To nominate a member, a written request of recognition is to be delivered to the Board and can be delivered by any member in good standing. Self-nomination not accepted.

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

2. 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 sportsmanlike is expected at all times, which includes but not limited to, ensuring a safe place for everyone attending a BCBRA event

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 cannot compete against itself in any category (Peewee and Leadline exempt).

Dress code: long sleeved shirts with cuffs and collar, western hats or equine 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.

All Peewees (10 years of age and under) must wear a helmet that is approved for horse competition while riding on the premises of the BCBRA event and during any competition runs.

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

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.

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

Arena gates are to be left open or closed for all contestants during a race, with the except of Peewees. 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 once the timer has started during a run – this will result in a no time

Peewees run 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.

RACE APPROVALS

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.

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).

PRIMARY APPROVALS

Where the BCBRA is primary, an approval fee of $3 per competitor per horse per category will be charged by the BCBRA. (ie. BCBRA member enters on 2 horses in the Open and Senior, that would be $12)

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

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

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

SECONDARY APPROVALS

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 co-approval fee of $3 per member per horse per category 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.

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.

If there is to be a cancellation fee due to medical &/or extenuating circumstances to either horse or rider on the day of the jackpot where no money is added and no closing date, the fee must be submitted on the race approval form.

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.)

Race producer are not allowed to take a holdback on race entry fees

Any and all BCBRA approval fees collected by race producers must be sent to the BCBRA, even if a member at their race has scratched without a refund.

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.

45 gallon plastic or metal barrels may be used at any jackpot with $500 or less added money

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;

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.

Once the official racing time begins, re-runs are not allowed except for the following and at the Judge's and/or race producer's discretion:

(1) Time is missed due to the electric timer and/or the flagman not being ready, or mechanical timer failure, ALL PENALTIES WILL CARRY FORWARD
(2) Obvious interference in the arena during a run, ALL PENALTIES WILL NOT CARRY FORWARD
(3) Adjustment to the timer or a barrel after the official race has begun, PENALTIES WILL NOT CARRY FORWARD

Re-runs to be made at the end of the rake or at the end of the go-round whichever the rider chooses.

Judges shall watch to see that no one walks in front of the electric eye and shall further make sure that each barrel racer completes the racing pattern properly. Once the eye has been broken the time has been started.

An electric timer must be used whenever available.

Timer fee can only be charged on actual timed runs where the timer is in use.

All barrel races are required to be timed with no less than two watches in 100ths of a second when the electric timer is not used. Manual time must be recorded and averaged using 100ths of a second.

4D FORMAT

The payout is based on a four-division format. The 4D pay out format is divided into the following divisions:
1st Division = Fastest Time, 2nd Division = Fastest time + .5 seconds,
3rd Division = Fastest time + 1 second, 4th Division = Fastest time + 2 seconds.
(E.g. 16.0; 16.5; 17.0; 18.0 respectively.)

If barrels 1 and 2 have less than 60 feet in between, the race producer may opt for 1/2-second splits between all divisions. The 4th division is the only division affected by this change.

The pattern size and/or time bracket used must be posted or announced prior to starting the race.

5D FORMAT

5D will be allowed with either 0.5 or 0.7 second split options at races with $1,000 or more added

The payout is based on a five-division format. The 5D pay out format is divided into the following divisions:
1st Division = Fastest Time, 2nd Division = Fastest time + .5/.7 seconds,
3rd Division = Fastest time + 1/1.4 seconds 4th Division = Fastest time + 1.5/2.1 seconds
5th Division = Fastest time + 2/2.8 seconds
(E.g. 0.5 second split - 16.0; 16.5; 17.0; 17.5; 18.0 respectively)
(E.g. 0.7 second split – 16.0; 16.7; 17.4; 18.1; 18.8 respectively)

PAY OUT

NO MONEY PAID TO KNOCKED BARRELS.

Total purse shall be divided:

- 30% is to be paid to 1D, 27% to 2D, 23% to 3D, and 20% to 4D.
- 26% is to be paid to 1D, 23% to 2D, 20% to 5D, 17% to 4D, and 14% to 5D

If times breakdown where one division has no riders in it, then the payout must be: 43%, 33%, 24%
If times breakdown where two divisions have no riders in it, then the payout must be: 60%, 40%
If times breakdown where three divisions have no riders in it, then the payout must be: 100%

Last place money in the last division is to be no less than the entry fee; if 5 riders or less payout may be less.

Peewee race splits will be at the discretion of the race producer.

Payout percentages per division:

1 placing	**100**												
2 placings	**60**	**40**											
3 placings	**43**	**33**	**24**										
4 placings	**38**	**28**	**20**	**14**									
5 placings	**33**	**27**	**20**	**13**	**7**								
6 placings	**32**	**25**	**18**	**12**	**7**	**6**							
7 placings	**30**	**24**	**17**	**11**	**7**	**6**	**5**						
8 placings	**29**	**22**	**17**	**10**	**7**	**5.5**	**5**	**4.5**					
9 placings	**28**	**21**	**16**	**9.5**	**6.5**	**5.5**	**5**	**4.5**	**4**				
10 placings	**26.5**	**20**	**15**	**9.5**	**6.5**	**5.5**	**5**	**4.5**	**4**	**3.5**			
11 placings	**25**	**19**	**15**	**9**	**6.5**	**5.5**	**5**	**4.5**	**4**	**3.5**	**3**		
12 placings	**24**	**19**	**14**	**9**	**6**	**5.5**	**5**	**4.5**	**4**	**3.5**	**3**	**2.5**	
13 placings	**24**	**18**	**14**	**8**	**6**	**5.5**	**5**	**4.5**	**4**	**3.5**	**3**	**2.5**	**2**
14 placings	**23.5**	**17.5**	**13.5**	**8**	**6**	**5.5**	**5**	**4.5**	**4**	**3.5**	**3**	**2.5**	**2**	**1.5**

RACE RESULTS

Within 7 days after race date, race producer must send the following to the Treasurer:

- Completed entry form
- Time sheets
- Payout calculation sheet
- Recap sheet
- Accompanied by all sanctioning fees, timer fees, etc.
    - (No cash, please send cheque, money order, or e-transfer) Cheque, money order, or e-transfer will be your only proof the results have been sent. The BCBRA assumes no responsibility if you send cash, and the race information is not received. You will be responsible for resubmitting the race results and money due to the BCBRA.

If complete race results are not received within 7 days after the race, the race producer will be fined $25 and may not receive approval to organize another BCBRA race until all outstanding and monies are received, except for hard copies and cheques for payment by mail, then the required time frame for receiving will be 14 days.

If race results are received incomplete, they will be returned to the race producer and can be subject to a $25 fine.

All race results including monies must be received PRIOR to the Finals cut-off date to ensure all members are qualified to enter the Finals.

FINALS QUALIFICATIONS

Member must be in good standing with the BCBRA.

Member must participate in a minimum of 6 BCBRA approved races in the qualification year in each category they are eligible to compete in at the Finals (Open, Junior &/or Senior). Peewees must participate in 4 BCBRA Peewee approved races.

Every member is responsible for making sure they have the required credits for Finals entry.

For each additional horse one wishes to ride in the Finals, one must have received 6 race credits per horse (4 for Peewee). A member may ride any number of different horses at the qualifying races. An additional fee of $30 per horse will be charged and will be included on the entry at the time when entering finals.

Members may enter races in any region to qualify for the Finals.

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 may only be cancelled due to:

- Bad weather, extenuating circumstances or failure to meet the minimum entry requirement, resulting in the Race Producer being required to pay out of pocket.
- Any race cancelled for reasons other than bad weather or extenuating circumstances must be cancelled within a minimum of 24 hours' notice to affected parties.
- If the race producer has a minimum entry requirement it must be posted with race information.

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.