



## **SOUTH AUSTRALIAN BARREL HORSE ASSOCIATION (“SABHA”)**

# **RULES**

1.	AUSTRALIAN BARREL HORSE ASSOCIATION (“ABHA”) AFFILIATION .....	2
2.	CONDUCT & BEHAVIOUR .....	2
3.	BULLYING & HARRASMENT .....	2
4.	ALCOHOL & DRUGS.....	2
5.	SOCIAL MEDIA CODE OF CONDUCT .....	2
6.	PHOTOGRAPHY/VIDEOGRAPHY .....	3
7.	DRESS CODE.....	3
8.	ANIMAL WELFARE.....	3
9.	ANIMAL BEHAVIOUR .....	3
10.	TIMERS/JUDGES/OFFICIALS.....	3
11.	EXHIBITIONS.....	4
12.	TINY TOTS BARREL RACE (Led Rider/Unassisted) .....	4
13.	JUNIOR ASSISTED BARREL RACE.....	4
14.	DAVE WATERS MEMORIAL BARREL RACE .....	5
15.	OPEN DIVISIONAL BARREL RACE.....	5
16.	JUNIOR DIVISIONAL BARREL RACE.....	6
17.	POLE BENDING.....	6
18.	HAT FINES .....	7
19.	ENTRIES & SCRATCHINGS.....	7
20.	CANCELLATION OF AN EVENT .....	8
21.	EVENT GUIDELINES .....	8
22.	SABHA END OF SEASON AWARDS.....	9
23.	DISPUTE RESOLUTION.....	10



# SABHA Rules

---

## 1. AUSTRALIAN BARREL HORSE ASSOCIATION ("ABHA") AFFILIATION

SABHA is an ABHA affiliate and abides by the ABHA Rule Book. All competitors participating at a SABHA event are required to have an ABHA membership (either annual or day membership). All competitors should refer to the ABHA Rule Book to understand the rules and their responsibilities in addition to these SABHA Rules.

## 2. CONDUCT & BEHAVIOUR

- i) No bad language, behavior or any other actions the committee deems not within acceptable standards; the committee will approach the member discretely to discuss the matter. If it cannot be resolved the member may be asked to leave the event.
- ii) Our club promotes a friendly, fun and safe atmosphere, where all members respect each other's activities, property and animals; all of which should not be interfered with at any event.
- iii) Where a financial SABHA member brings disrepute upon the club the committee reserves the right to withdraw or suspend their SABHA membership for the current financial year and the following year if determined to be appropriate.

## 3. BULLYING & HARRASMENT

Engaging in, or attempting to engage in, any action of a threatening nature, berating, harassing, intimidating - either in person, via telephone, email or all forms of social media, assaulting or striking any member or non-member may result in the suspension of your ABHA membership at the ABHA Board's discretion and/or the suspension of your SABHA membership at the SABHA Committee's discretion.

## 4. ALCOHOL & DRUGS

No alcohol or drugs are to be consumed by competitors or officials during an event. No alcohol or drugs are allowed in the warm up or marshalling area or the arena at any time.

If the SABHA Committee have reasonable belief that any rider or member is competing under the influence of any type of drugs or alcohol, they will be asked to dismount and will be disqualified from the event by SABHA, as per the ABHA rules.

## 5. SOCIAL MEDIA CODE OF CONDUCT

The ABHA and SABHA do not condone the posting of any derogatory or slanderous remarks made on any form of social media by any person, member or non-member. Any incidents will be forwarded to the ABHA board to review and may face disciplinary action in accordance with the ABHA Rules.

Any incidents will also be reviewed by the SABHA Committee and appropriate action, as determined by the SABHA Committee, will be taken. This may include:

- Suspension of membership for an event or for multiple events
- Cancellation of SABHA membership for the remainder of the current year and/or exclusion from SABHA membership for the following year
- Ineligibility for end of year SABHA awards and prizes



# SABHA Rules

---

## 6. PHOTOGRAPHY/VIDEOGRAPHY

Compliance with the SABHA Photography and Videography Policy (available on the SABHA website) is required. All photographers and videographers that attend an Australian Barrel Horse Association (ABHA) affiliated competition/event with South Australian Barrel Horse Association (SABHA) are required to have all relevant papers lodged with ABHA prior to SABHA consent.

For ABHA Photographer & Videographer Application [CLICK HERE](#). You can check the approval status of any media personnel by heading to ABHA website and checking the approved list by [clicking here](#).

## 7. DRESS CODE

Compliance with the ABHA Rule book with respect to Dress Rules is required.

## 8. ANIMAL WELFARE

- i) In accordance with the ABHA rules, inhumane treatment or abuse of a horse in any matter whilst in the arena or on the grounds is prohibited.
- ii) Excessive use of the whip or over and under and hitting horses around the head in a barrel race competition will result in disqualification for the duration of the competition and the requirement to leave the grounds. There will be no refund of entry fees or any other fees applicable.
- iii) All incidents will be presented and reviewed by the ABHA Board. Further disciplinary action may be enforced. This may include Fines, and or further suspension. The ABHA and SABHA have a zero tolerance for animal abuse.
- iv) The ABHA and SABHA recognizes the importance of sound animal welfare, which prevents the use of horses which are not fit for competition. Fitness may be gauged as appropriate physical fitness or lack of suitability for competition due to injury or disease. The SABHA Committee reserves the right to exclude a horse from competing on this basis.

## 9. ANIMAL BEHAVIOUR

Whilst SABHA can be used as a training event, if any horse is deemed unsafe or dangerous to its rider, spectators or other horses and competitors, it will need to be either contained to a safe area or be removed from the event.

## 10. TIMERS/JUDGES/OFFICIALS

- i) Members are reminded that timers and gate personnel are classed as officials at an event.
- ii) Disputes need to be lodged in writing to the committee no later than 30 minutes after the end of the event the dispute is regarding. Any disputes after this time will not be taken into consideration.
- iii) Members must comply with reasonable directions from these persons and all rule compliance.
- iv) All persons at an event must comply with the rules of the venue providers at all time.



# SABHA Rules

---

## 11. EXHIBITIONS

Once around the pattern (riders can go around each drum as many times as they like) within a one-minute time limit. Multiple Exhibitions can be purchased and used together or separately. The competitor is required to advise the gate official before entering the arena whether the exhibitions will be used together or separately.

## 12. TINY TOTS BARREL RACE (Led Rider/Unassisted)

- (i) This is a non-competitive event. Prizemoney does not apply.
- (ii) Tiny Tot's are to be aged 7 years and under as of the 1st July each calendar year
- (iii) Rider must be wearing a Helmet as per ABHA Barrel Race Rule No. 26
- (iv) Any Tiny Tot who wants to compete in a junior divisional or junior aged barrel race, will be required to purchase a full junior membership.
- (v) When a Tiny Tot turns 8, they will be required to pay a full junior membership. (\$60 balance payable from the upgrade of the tiny tot membership) Please contact the ABHA Secretary to organize this and inform via email to SABHA [sabarrelhorseassociation@gmail.com](mailto:sabarrelhorseassociation@gmail.com)
- (vi) A Led Rider is any person who is not able to control their mount without aid. A lead rope must be attached to the horse/pony and the rider assisted by the led handler (who must be an ABHA member and in dress code) in led events.
- (vii) A Tiny Toy may have 1 leader and 1 handler. If Tiny tot is riding unassisted, 1 handler is permitted in the arena to help guide the rider, whether that be at the horses shoulder or standing in a safe area of the arena talking the rider through the pattern. Handlers will be required to have completed the [ABHA online handlers course](#).
- (viii) SABHA's focus is to provide a safe and fun environment for our riders.

## 13. JUNIOR ASSISTED BARREL RACE

An assisted rider is any person who requires assistance to compete (either on or off lead). The assistant must be on foot and is required to always be in the arena whilst the assisted rider is in the arena. The rider must be over seven years of age and under twelve years old as of the 1st of July in each calendar year.

As per ABHA rules, riders who are riding 'free' and successfully complete the course, must take placing over riders whose horses are being led.



## SABHA Rules

---

### 14. DAVE WATERS MEMORIAL BARREL RACE

- a) The Dave Waters is a non-competitive event. It is designed for riders of any age who are non-competitive and do not wish to compete in any divisional competition. Once a person enters a divisional event, they are no longer eligible to compete in Dave Waters Memorial Barrel Race.
- b) A horse and/or rider cannot be entered in the Dave Waters Memorial and a Divisional event on the same day.
- c) Once a competitor consistently over six SABHA rounds completes a time that is 23 seconds or faster, that competitor is no longer eligible to enter this event for the remainder of the season and are to move up to a divisional event (Junior or Open Divisional).
- d) Prizemoney is not awarded for this event. All profit from the Dave Waters Memorial Barrel Race will be donated to the Royal Flying Doctor Service at the end of the season.
- e) Riders that are not SABHA financial members are not eligible to win the end of season Dave Waters Memorial Perpetual Trophy and prizes

### 15. OPEN DIVISIONAL BARREL RACE

Open Divisional barrel race is open to any rider or any horse in accordance with the ABHA Rules.

Divisions will be based on number of competitors for an event as follows:

1 - 6 runners will be a one division event 7 - 12 runners will be a two-division event  
13 -21 runners will be a three-division event 22+ runners will be a four-division event.

SABHA points will be awarded in line with the number of divisions at any given event. SABHA end of season prizes for a division will only be awarded where greater than 50% of events have resulted in a division occurring. For example, if 6 of 10 events included a Division 4, then end of season prizes would be awarded for Division 4. If only 5 of 10 events included a Division 4, end of season prizes would not be awarded, as this is not greater than 50%.

If there is a draw at the end of the season, results will be determined by way of a count back, whereby the person with a greater number of higher position results will be determined to be the winner.



## SABHA Rules

---

### 16. JUNIOR DIVISIONAL BARREL RACE

As per the ABHA rules a rider must be under 18 years of age, on the day of the competition. Where a competitor turns 18 years old during the season, they no longer accrue SABHA points in the Junior Divisional event, nor points for qualification for the ABHA finals as a junior. SABHA points earned prior to turning 18 in the Junior Divisional event, do not transfer to Open Divisional. Upon turning 18, payment of SABHA membership to progress from Junior to Open is required. The amount required to be paid is the difference between the Junior and Open membership amount. SABHA points will not accrue for Open Divisions following the SABHA member turning 18 until such time as payment of this amount occurs. Junior Divisional competitors may also compete in the Open Divisional event but points are not transferrable between these events.

Prizemoney and SABHA points are determined in the same manner as for the Open Divisional Barrel Race.

### 17. POLE BENDING

Pole bending is a timed event, where six poles are spaced out 6.4metres apart in a straight line. The competitor may start either to the right or left of the first poles, run straight towards the last pole, weave down and up, then run back towards the timers on the opposite side they started.

Knocked poles will carry five second penalties. A break of pattern will be immediate disqualification.

#### a) TINY TOT LED/UNASSISTED

This is a non-competitive event. Prizemoney does not apply.

Rider must be wearing a Helmet as per Barrel Race Rule No. 26

The rider must be 7 years of age or under as of the 1st July each calendar year.

A led Rider is any person who is not able to control their mount without aid. A lead rope must be attached to the horse/pony and the rider assisted by the led handler in led events.

A Tiny Toy may have 1 leader and 1 handler. If Tiny tot is riding unassisted, 1 handler is permitted in the arena to help guide the rider, whether that be at the horses shoulder or standing in a safe area of the arena talking the rider through the pattern. Handlers will be required to have completed the ABHA online handlers course.

The led/unassisted handler must be an ABHA member and comply with ABHA dress code requirements.

#### b) JUNIOR ASSISTED RIDER POLES

As per above an assisted rider is any person who requires assistance to compete. The assistant must be on foot and is required to always be in the arena whilst the assisted rider is in the arena. The assistant must be an ABHA member and comply with ABHA dress code requirements. The rider must be over seven years of age and less than twelve years old as of the 1st of July in each calendar year.



# SABHA Rules

---

## c) JUNIOR POLES

Rider must be under 18 years of age on the day of competition as per ABHA rules. Where a competitor turns 18 years old during the season, they no longer accrue SABHA points in the Junior Poles, nor points for qualification for the ABHA finals as a junior. SABHA points earned prior to turning 18 in the Junior Poles event, do not transfer to Open Poles. Upon turning 18, payment of SABHA membership to progress from Junior to Open is required. The amount required to be paid is the difference between the Junior and Open membership amount. SABHA points will not accrue for Open Poles following the SABHA member turning 18 until such time as payment of this amount occurs.

Junior Poles competitors may also compete in Open Poles but points are not transferrable between these events.

## d) OPEN POLES

As per ABHA Rules.

## 18. HAT FINES

For every hat lost in the arena during an event, excluding warm up, the competitor will incur a \$5.00 hat fine.

This should be paid prior to their next run, either to the gate official or at the canteen. All hat fines will go to a not for profit charity agreed on by Committee at the end of the barrel racing season.

## 19. ENTRIES & SCRATCHINGS

- a) Entries are to be completed online through the ABHA website.
- b) Entries will open on a Tuesday and close on a Thursday.
- c) Entries are required to be accompanied with full payment by the date of close of entries.
- d) If payment is not received in the required time frame, nominations will not appear on draws. It is the responsibility of competitors to ensure that their entries are paid. It is not the responsibility of the SABHA Committee to follow up on non-payment of entries.
- e) Late entries may be accepted in extenuating circumstances, at the discretion of the Committee, up to two (2) calendar days after the close of entries on the ABHA website. The acceptance of late entries will be determined on an event-by-event basis and all late entries will incur a \$10 late entry fee. Late entries will not be accepted from a competitor who repeatedly endeavours to lodge late entries or who repeatedly does not pay entry fees in the required time frame.
- f) There will be no changes to the draws on the day of an event to keep administrative work to the minimum.
- g) Competitors scratching from an event prior to draws being posted publicly will be refunded entry fees. Yard fees and camping fees (if applicable) are non-refundable.
- h) Competitors scratching from an event after draws are posted and prior to event start time, will be refunded 70% of entry fees, less the arena fee. Yard fees and camping fees (if applicable) are non-refundable. Competitors scratching from an event after the start time, will forfeit all entry fees, arena fees, camping and yard fees (if applicable) unless a veterinary or medical certificate is presented to committee no later than 48 hours after event completion.



# SABHA Rules

---

## 20. CANCELLATION OF AN EVENT

Should SABHA need to cancel or adjust the start time of an event, due to inclement weather, or for any other reason, competitors will be notified via Facebook/website as soon as possible prior to the event start time and as a minimum, the day prior to an event.

## 21. EVENT GUIDELINES

- a) A speed limit of 5km per hour for vehicles applies at all times on the grounds of an event.
- b) The arena will be closed 15 minutes prior to event start time to set the course.
- c) All entry fees are “per horse and rider combination”.
- d) All riders and handlers must be financial ABHA members to compete or assist riders – day membership is available. Memberships can be done online at [www.abha.com.au](http://www.abha.com.au) or via the link to the ABHA website on the SABHA website
- e) All riders at an event must be a financial ABHA member, even if they are not competing.
- f) No alcohol or drugs are to be consumed by competitors or officials during an event. No alcohol or drugs are allowed in the warm up or marshalling area or the arena at any time.
- g) No spectators or dogs are permitted in the horse warm up area, marshalling area arena entry point or the arena. There are designated spectator areas.
- h) Dogs are allowed at an event but must be on a lead and under effective control at all times.
- i) No horses or dogs are to be tied to the arena fence or in or around the canteen or sheds.
- j) The designated horse wash bay area is to be kept clean of manure/hay and any other rubbish. Competitors are responsible for cleaning this area after their use of it.
- k) All buildings and enclosed/undercover areas are designated as smoke free.
- l) All yards and camping areas used need to be cleaned prior to leaving. Any competitor leaving a campsite area or yard dirty/untidy after departure will receive a yard/camping cleaning fee of \$20. This fee must be paid prior to next nominations. Failure to pay may lead to nominations not being accepted.
- m) All children must be supervised by a parent/guardian/carer at all times at events.
- n) Competitors will be called three (3) times to enter the arena for their run. If they are not present at the gate to enter the arena as required, they will be disqualified.





# SABHA Rules

---

## 22. SABHA END OF SEASON AWARDS

### 1) Eligibility

- a) Only SABHA members are eligible for SABHA points and end of season awards
- b) Points will only accumulate once both the SABHA membership form and payment of the SABHA membership have been received.
- c) The SABHA season commences on 1<sup>st</sup> July and is completed on 30<sup>th</sup> June of the subsequent calendar year
- d) To be eligible for end of season awards, a horse/rider combination must have competed in at least 50% of the season's rounds in the relevant event.
- e) A round is defined as each overall day of competition as established with the ABHA
- f) An event is defined as each competition held within a round. For example, Open Divisional is a stand-alone event, Junior Divisional is a stand-alone event, Open Poles is a stand-alone event, Junior Poles is a stand-alone event
- g) If a competitor competes in more than one event eg. Open Divisional and Junior Divisional, they must compete in at least 50% of rounds in each of those events to be eligible for end of season awards in both events.

### 2) Allocation of SABHA Points

- a) SABHA points accumulate for a SABHA member horse/rider combination.
- b) If a SABHA member enters more than one horse, they may earn points on each entry as a horse/rider combination
- c) Each SABHA member horse/rider combination will receive 1 point for each event that they compete in (eg. Open Divisional, Junior Divisional, Junior Poles etc)
- d) For divisional events, points will be awarded for each division based on placings. For non-divisional events, points will be awarded based on placings in the event overall.
- e) Additional points will be awarded based on placings for each event in the following manner:
  - 1<sup>st</sup> place 10 points
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> place 8 points
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> place 6 points
  - 4<sup>th</sup> place 4 points
  - 5<sup>th</sup> place 2 points
- f) Where a non-SABHA member places at a SABHA event, SABHA points are allocated to the next best placed SABHA member. For example, if a non-SABHA member places first in a division and a SABHA member places second, the SABHA member will receive the SABHA points as if they had placed first as they are the first SABHA member within the division.
- g) For the end of season prizes, if a member places in more than one division as the same rider/horse combination, then the member will be provided the opportunity to choose which place they wish to be awarded. For example, a member may place runner up in Division 1 and winner in Division 2, they may select to be the winner in Division 2. That member's points from whichever division they did not choose to be awarded will be dropped, allowing lower placed members to move up.



## SABHA Rules

---

- h) In the event of a tie, a count back will occur, based on placings at events, whereby higher placings will determine the winner. If a winner can still not be determined, a tie will be declared and both horse/rider combinations will receive the same prize (or a prize of equivalent value).

- 23. The winner of the Dave Waters Memorial event will receive a Perpetual Shield/Trophy, which must be returned to SABHA each year. The winner of this event will assist in presenting the Royal Flying Doctor Service with the funds raised from running this event for the relevant year.

### 24. DISPUTE RESOLUTION

- a) Where a SABHA member wishes to formally complain about any matters associated with SABHA, they may raise this with the SABHA Committee in writing via email to the SABHA email address ([sabarrelhorseassociation@gmail.com](mailto:sabarrelhorseassociation@gmail.com)).
- b) The complainant may be asked to attend a meeting with the SABHA Committee (or a sub committee appointed by the SABHA Committee to address the complaint) to explore the complaint further and to identify specifics about the issues being raised. Where this occurs, the complainant will be entitled to bring a support person with them to that meeting.
- c) The SABHA Committee will review the complaint and respond in writing to the complainant, identifying the complaint review process undertaken, including considerations contemplated and the outcome of the review.
- d) Formal complaints will be dealt with in a confidential manner by the SABHA Committee.

--End--