



# 2025 RULEBOOK

Updated March 2025

## 2025 Officers

President: Edwyna Koetter

Vice President: Gina Benton

Secretary/Treasurer: Tammy Lemond

Arena Director: Charles Koetter

Awards Director: Krystal Burris

## Board of Directors

1. Diana Ulery

2. Laura Forbus

3. Becky Oglesby

4. Devon Bouldin

5. Kim Brand

## **Competition Rules**

1. Barrel race will be electronically timed using three identical barrels set in a cloverleaf pattern. Barrels may not be weighted. Barrels must be metal or plastic and must be enclosed on both ends.
2. The start/finish line and the barrel positions should be permanently marked and must remain the same throughout the entire event.
3. The pattern must meet the following conditions:
  - a. The first two barrels must be a minimum of 15 feet off the side fence.
  - b. A minimum of 30 feet between the third barrel and the back fence.
  - c. A minimum of 30 feet between the timeline and the first barrel.
4. The ground conditions within the arena must remain consistent throughout the event. The ground around the barrels must be reworked and leveled after no more than 5 contestants have competed. Drag intervals must be consistent. Example: after every 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 draw numbers. If scratches exist, the drag must remain in the same position.
5. Any time a contestant crosses the starting line, time will begin, and this will constitute an attempt at a run.
6. A contestant will be given a “no time” for any of the following reasons:
  - a. Off pattern
  - b. Knocking over a barrel completely, regardless of if it stands back up on either end. Touching the barrel is permitted, without penalty.
  - c. Running out of turn and/or riding a horse other than the horse in the drawn position. It is the contestant’s responsibility to know their drawn position. At the completion of the ‘out-of-order” run, the ground shall be drug for those riders remaining in the drag, if any.
  - d. If the rider falls off after crossing the starting line. A rider who falls off a horse completely before the starting line, regardless of if the horse breaks the timer, will be offered a re-run in that moment in the same draw position, and not at a later time.
  - e. Intentionally slowing or pulling up a horse. A rider must make an attempt to maintain forward motion.
7. Entries will close at the start of the final 2 drags in the open.
8. Only one horse may be in the competition arena at any time during the competition.
9. Reruns or credit for the same TOBRA season shall be granted if the timer fails to work properly, if the barrels are not placed properly on their markers or if there are any other situations that show producers and/or a TOBRA representative deems may have had a negative impact on a run. Any penalty incurred on the original run shall not be applied against the rerun; however, any penalty occurring on the rerun shall result in a no time. Option of a fresh drag must be offered to the contestant.
10. TOBRA representatives have the right to disqualify any uncontrolled horse and/or a rider that may present a danger to other contestants, riders abusing their horse or that have not begun their run within 2 minutes of the time the rider has been called.

- 11.** Exhibitions will be run prior to each race. Riders will be given a 1 min time limit for each exhibition and will then be asked to exit the arena. If rider fails to exit in a reasonable time an additional exhibition fee will be assessed.
- 12.** Pre-entries will be accepted for all classes and side pots. Pre-entries must be paid prior to the final 30 minutes of exhibitions. If payment is not received pre-entries will be removed from the running order.
- 13.** Any person that pre-enters for exhibitions and misses their exhibition time and fails to notify the race office will be required to paid for the pre-entered exhibitions.
- 14.** Any person that pre-enters and no shows a race without notification more than 2 times will no longer be allowed to pre-enter.

### **TOBRA Approved Classes**

- 1. Open Class**

The Open Class is open to all riders regardless of age. Points will be awarded on a 5-D basis with ½ second splits.

- 2. Senior Class**

Senior age is 50 and over, on the day of the race. Points will be awarded on a 3-D basis with ½ second splits. Senior class is a roll over class only.

- 3. Adult Class**

Adult age is 19-49, on the day of the race. Points will be awarded on a 3-D basis with ½ second splits. Adult class is a roll over class only.

- 4. Junior Class**

Junior age is 18 and under as of March 1<sup>st</sup> of the current season. Points will be awarded on a 3-D basis with ½ second splits. Riders may choose to run in the Juniors or Open and roll their time or run in both classes for two separate times. Decision on rolling time over versus running separate must be made at the time of entry.

- 5. Youth Class**

Youth age is 10 and under as of March 1<sup>st</sup> of the current season. Points will be awarded on a 2-D basis with 1 second splits. Riders in the Youth class may not roll their time to another class.

## **Payout**

1. 80% of entry fees will go to the jackpot.
2. All classes are paid based on equal pay out.
3. All prize money must be paid out. If not enough riders qualify in a division based on numbers of places paid, the money which is unaccounted for shall be divided equally among those who have placed in that division. If no riders qualify in a division, the prize money for that division shall be equally divided among those riders in the other divisions of that class who have won prize money.
4. The following table shows the number of places to be paid for the stated number of entries:

<b>Places Paid</b>	<b>#Entries</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>1-20</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>21-35</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>36-80</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>81-143</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>144-200</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>201-250</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>251-333</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>334-500</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>501-666</b>
<b>15</b>	<b>667-1000</b>
<b>20</b>	<b>1001-1500</b>
<b>30</b>	<b>1501+</b>

[illegible]

## Membership

1. Membership runs from season to season (March 1st - December 31st).
2. Memberships are open to any person who agrees to follow the rules and guidelines of this association. To earn and maintain points, a member must be in good standings of the TOBRA.
3. TOBRA reserves the right to refuse membership to anyone who is or has caused hardship to fall upon the association or the sport of barrel racing.
4. All members must attend at least 6 races per year to be eligible for year-end awards.
5. All members must earn 10 work points each year to be eligible for year-end awards.
  - a. 1 work point will be given for every 30 minutes of setting barrels or working the gate for each race.
  - b. Work points may be purchased for \$5 per point.
  - c. Members may choose a representative to serve in their place to earn points. Points are non-transferrable between members.
  - d. It is the responsibility of the member to sign the work sheet at each race to earn points.

## Year-End Points

1. Points will be given on horse and rider combination. You may accumulate points on as many horses as you would like. There is a separate nomination fee per horse that points will be accumulated on. Points cannot be given if the additional nomination fee has not been paid.
2. It will be the responsibility of each member to check and verify their season ending points. There will be NO CHANGES made to correct points after December 31<sup>st</sup>.
3. First place points will always earn 10 points regardless of the number of entries. From first place, the point values per place decrease by {9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1}. Should there be more than 10 places in each D each person after 10<sup>th</sup> place will receive 1 point. Points are awarded to members only. Nonmembers will be skipped when awarding points.

PLACE	1 <sup>ST</sup>	2 <sup>ND</sup>	3 <sup>RD</sup>	4 <sup>TH</sup>	5 <sup>TH</sup>	6 <sup>TH</sup>	7 <sup>TH</sup>	8 <sup>TH</sup>	9 <sup>TH</sup>	10 <sup>TH</sup>
POINTS	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1

4. In case of a tie, both contestants will receive points for the highest position they tied for. Example: If they tied for 2nd/3rd, they both would receive 2nd place points. The 4th place person would then get 4th place points.
5. Top 10 points will be given to any member winning money at a show and will be divided out in a similar matter as standard points. Nonmembers will be skipped when awarding points.
6. **Substitutions: Are only accepted due to injury or death of the horse.** One (1) substitution is allowed per season, per horse rider combination. Once substituted you must stay with that horse for the remainder of the season. Substitution Horse may only be a horse that you have not received points on for the year it is being substituted in.
7. **Injured riders:** If a member has a medical injury preventing them from riding, per approval, may choose another member in good standing as a substitute rider.

## **Penalties, Suspensions and/or Disqualifications**

*TOBRA membership and participation in TOBRA events are a privilege, not a right. Behavior which is damaging to the Association, its membership or the sport of Barrel Racing, will not be tolerated. Violation of any of, but not limited to, the following provisions may subject a member to disqualification from TOBRA events, being denied entry to TOBRA events, loss of points, or suspension from the Association.*

1. Using abusive language, threatening or bribing, to influence or harass any contestant, or TOBRA/show official. Any remarks made with the intent to cast aspersions on the character or integrity of a TOBRA representative or the TOBRA.
2. Abuse of a horse in any way is prohibited. Actions classified as "Abuse" may be decided by TOBRA Directors and Representatives.
3. Misidentifying a horse in any TOBRA class will disqualify a contestant.
4. **BAD CHECKS WILL NOT BE TOLERATED.**  
There will be an automatic \$30 fee for each time a check is returned. The party that wrote the bad check will have 7 days to make the check good along with the \$30 returned check fees. Should the party still be delinquent after the 7 day grace period, the contestant bouncing the check or the member or members for which the check was written will be placed on suspension and will not receive points for the show for which the check was written. If restitution is not made within 30 days of the date of the check, the member/members will lose ALL points and be placed on a suspended list until payment is made. Lost points will not be reinstated. Any non-member who presents a returned check will be restricted from participating until the check and fine is made good and will be on a cash only basis for the remainder of the show season.
5. The following list of actions are considered one-warning infractions at TOBRA sanctioned events with minimum \$100 fine and can result in an immediate suspension of membership upon second offense:
  - a. Using abusive or intemperate language or attempting to threaten, bribe, influence or harass any contestant, show official or spectator. Also, any remarks made with the intent to cast aspersions on the character or integrity of any TOBRA affiliates.
  - b. Excessive training on an animal, or intent to do anything other than provide the animal its best care
  - c. Creating or instigating any social media content or comments in which TOBRA, its members, or affiliates are defiled
  - d. Not correcting a bounce check or unpaid balances, additional fees included, within 30 days of producer's request
  - e. Failure to adhere to reasonable individual rules as set forth by individual races/producers/facilities
  - f. Attempting to damage, destroy, or manipulate the reputation of TOBRA with its members, producers, partners and supporters
6. The following list of actions are considered unacceptable at TOBRA sanctioned events and can result in an immediate suspension of membership:
  - a. Animal abuse or neglect of considerable amount
  - b. Harassment of any type, to include but not limited to stalking, blocking, chasing, verbally attacking, epithets, slurs or negative stereotyping; threatening, intimidating or hostile acts;

denigrating jokes; and written or graphic material that denigrates or shows hostility or aversion toward an individual or group, including by e-mail, phone (including voice messages), text messages, social networking sites or other means.

- c. Physical harm to any person, structure, auto, or like being anywhere on the sanctioned facility
- d. Theft of any type
- e. Threat of bodily harm to any contestant, spectator, race staff, etc.
- f. Threats or misconduct by an adult to a minor, regardless of relationship
- g. It is the policy of TOBRA to ensure equal participation without discrimination or harassment on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age, disability, marital status, citizenship, national origin, genetic information, or any other characteristic protected by law. TOBRA prohibits any such discrimination or harassment.

### **Photographs**

A competitor's entry provides consent for their image to be used for TOBRA promotional purposes across digital and print platforms



## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

### **Conclusion**

These rules cannot cover all possible situations that may arise during a show, nor can they regulate all administrative questions. Where cases are not precisely regulated by a rule, it should be possible to reach a reasonable decision by looking at the Rule Book. The rules assume that Directors and Officers 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, special factors, and logic. TOBRA chooses to be a nonprofit organization; therefore, members, officers and area directors must follow the rules and regulations of a non-profit organization.

Warning: TOBRA, its Members and Board of Directors are NOT responsible for Contractual, Consequential and or Civil Damages. Under Texas Law (chapter 87, Civil Practice and Remedies code) An Equine professional is NOT liable for an injury to or the death of a participant in equine activities resulting from the inherent risk of equine activities.