Maritime Barrel Racing Association Rules
(Updated June 2026)

Membership applications and signed waivers, accompanied by the appropriate fees, are due by

May 1st each year and are valid until April 30th of the following year. Notice will not be given. The Individual membership fee is $40.00 and the Family membership fee is $80.00.

Family memberships are defined as 2 adults (maximum) and any number of youth residing at the same address. All applications will be subject to approval by the Board of Directors. Membership cards will be issued to those accepted for membership in the association.

With the exception of new members, membership applications received after ***May 1st,*** of the current year will be levied a $10.00 late fee. As for Exhibitions; with the exception of new members, membership applications received after the closing date of the Exhibition's entry form will be levied a late charge that is double the yearly fee.

For Jackpots, exhibitors, except for pony and small fry must either be an MBRA member or apply for a temporary membership. Temporary members will be charged a $20.00 temporary membership fee per event. Temporary members are subject to approval by the Board of Directors and will be bound by all the rules, regulations and policies of the MBRA and will also be subject to any penalties that may be imposed as a result of the violation of said rules, regulations and policies. The temporary fees, together the signed waiver and application form are to be remitted to the MBRA Board of Directors by the Jackpot organizer, for approval, prior to the start of the event.

SECTION ONE

Competition rules

1.1 The judge may prohibit the use of bats or equipment that he/she may consider severe. The judge may disqualify a contestant for excessive abuse.

1.2 All horses entered in a class must be assembled in ample time for runs to start on time and continue without delay. They also must remain in readiness in case of a tie. Once the instructions to enter the ring have been given the competitor has 60 seconds to enter the ring. Failure to do so will result in elimination. The decision of the judge is final.

1.3 Riders are to be given a signal to enter the ring. Upon entering the ring, there will be no further signal.

1.4 Any time a horse or rider crosses the start line, time will begin.

1.5 If an equipment breakage occurs and provided the horse or rider does not start the timer, the rider will be placed at the end of the running order, allowing at least five minutes from the time of breakage to repair the equipment.

1.6 A rerun shall be granted if the timer fails to work or; if the barrels are not properly placed on their markers. When this occurs then that horse/pony shall be given a rerun after all the others in that class have run. If the timer fails in any re-ride that person may have their class fee back or another re-ride, it is the rider's option.

1.7 In the event a rider drops a piece of clothing or equipment the contestant will not remain in the ring after his/her pattern is completed. One of the show officials will return the dropped item to the warm up ring.

1.8 If a pole or barrel is hit by a horse, pony or rider in such a manner that it hits the ground or hits the ground and rights itself, that run will be assessed a five seconds penalty for a knock down. Picking up a pole and moving it will also result in a five second penalty.

1.9 In the event of a tie for first place only, a runoff must be held. Ties for other placings will be left as is. However, for example, if a tie occurs for second there will be no third place award. The prize money of the tied placings will added be with the next placing and split.

1.10 In the event of a tie for an overall award, barrels will be run off to determine the winner. In the event of a tie for reserve place it is awarded based on the aggregate of time over the three runs.

1.11 In the event of a tie, if the first contestant is disqualified in the runoff, the horse/pony declared the winner in the runoff must rerun the pattern within two seconds of the original time or the runoff must be held again.

1.12 With the exception of small fry a handler may not position a horse or pony as to gain an advantage, nor shall the handler physically encourage the horse or pony.

1.13 A running order will be drawn. Horse/pony will run in the order of draw except when one rider has more than one entry. When the number of entries allow, a rider with more than one entry will be allowed a space of at least **ten** entries between each of his/her mounts.

At Exhibitions the show committees, after consulting with the Board of Directors, may draw both barrels and poles as follows: the first run at random; in subsequent runs, the fastest ½ of the preceding class (excluding knockdowns) will run after the slowest ½. Spacing for riders with more than one entry will be reduced but still accommodated when possible. At exhibitions the running order must be posted at least an hour before the start of the class.

1.14 Each show committee with input from the Board of Directors will determine the number of horses between rakes. This must be decided prior to the first draw and the number must remain the same for all classes for the entire day. Once the draw is posted, the rake must remain as marked regardless of scratches or no shows. Exception: For the Smallfry Division only the number of ponies to run between each drag will be

detirmined by the show committee at each event.

1.15 Judges are required to ensure that the course is properly set. For the barrels it is recommended that the starting line be set in the same place in the same arena each time. The start/finish line and the barrel positions should be permanently marked and must remain the same throughout the entire event unless decided upon otherwise by the board of directors.

1.16 An electric timer must be used at all times. This is the responsibility of the show committee. Horses are to be timed on the nose.

1.17 Starting line marker and electric timers are to be set a good distance apart in the arena, at least as far apart as the first and second barrels are set.

1.18 A minimum distance (or as close as possible to) of 50 feet must be made available between the finish line and the end of the arena to give a reasonable stopping distance. Any situation where the distance can be increased should be taken advantage of.

1.19 Forty five gallon drums must be used for barrels. Barrels must be empty, with closed ends. If metal barrels are not available plastic barrels, with a proper bottom, may be accepted at the directors' discretion.

1.20 In barrel racing, the 1st and 2nd barrels must have at least a 15 foot space from the fence and the 3rd barrel at least a 20 feet space from the fence. The distance between the first and third barrels and the second and third barrels must be equal.

1.21 In pole bending, begin setting the pattern at the far end of the arena (opposite the start/finish). The first pole must be a minimum of 21 feet off the fence. The remaining poles must be 21 feet apart (centre of pole to centre of pole) with a 21 foot space from the top pole to the finish line.

1.22 Ponies and horses are limited to 3 runs per day, with the exception of the smallfry division.

Dress Code & Equipment

1. 23. Western type equipment must be used.
1. 24. Competitors must be dressed neatly and cleanly at all times. Apparel must include a western hat or helmet; jeans, and western type boot.

At Exhibitions: A long sleeved western shirt with collar must be worn.

At Jackpots: Long or short sleeved shirts (not sleeveless) of a western design may be used at jackpots. No hoodies, jackets or sweat shirts.

These rules also apply to the warm up ring 30 minutes prior to the event. Handlers, when in the ring, also must be neatly dressed.

Show committees, with approval from the Board of Directors, may require the stricter dress code.

1. 25. At Exhibitions, competitors must return to the ring for presentations, dressed as above, with horses neatly presented.

1. 26. Hats must remain on a contestant's person for the entire time that they are in the ring. If a contestant loses their hat they will first receive a verbal warning, second time losing a hat, and thereafter, they will be disqualified from that run. It should be noted that the first warning stands for the entire show or jackpot. Hat chin straps and tie downs are permitted.

1. 27. Riders 18 years of age and under, as of January 1st of the current show year, must wear a CSA approved helmet, properly fastened, in competition and on show premises at all times when mounted. (Note, bicycle helmets are not appropriate)

SECTION TWO

Divisions

The MBRA divisions are Small Fry, Pony, Futurity/Derby, Youth, Novice and Open and the following rules determine the division you can show in.

Any member with special needs can enter a class based on the discretion of the board of directors, with the exception of the open division.

2.1 A horse/pony may not be shown by more than one person in a class, except for small fry.

2.2 Animals to be shown as ponies must be 14.2 hands high and under. Any pony whose size is deemed questionable by the board of directors will be measured by 2 directors or 2 people appointed by the directors. All ponies visibly 13hh or under will not necessarily be measured unless the board feels it necessary. All animals will be measured according to MBRA specifications. These specifications will be provided. The MBRA will give the owner(s) or Person(s) Responsible written confirmation of the measurement which then must be presented at the time of entry to any MBRA show.

Small Fry Division:

2.3 Small Fry are 10 years of age and under as of January 1st of the current show year.

- Small Fry riders cannot enter any other divisions.

- Once a small fry enters another division in a show where small fry classes are offered

they are no longer classified as small fry.

- Small Fry cannot accumulate points in another division.

- Small Fry who are being led may be mounted on a horse. That horse is then eligible to enter other divisions.

- Small Fry must be led by a handler 16 years of age or older. The handler must be appropriately dressed.

- Small Fry who execute the pattern without being led must be mounted on a pony.

- Small fry riders that complete the pattern without a handler, even if off course, will place ahead of riders who have been lead around the course.

Pony Division:

2.4 Ponies must be ridden by a youth and may enter youth classes.

- Once a pony enters another division, except Youth, in a show where pony classes are offered, they are no longer classified as pony for the rest of the show season.

- Ponies cannot accumulate points in another division, except for Youth.

Youth Division:

2.5 Youth are 18 years of age and under as of January 1st of the current show year.

- No person 18 years of age and under may ride/or handle a stallion at MBRA sanctioned events.

Open Division:

2.6 Open Barrels - A horse or rider that runs *within 0.80* seconds of the winning Open Barrel Race time, in a class on the same day under the same conditions, will be classified as Open division horse or rider.

2.7 Open Poles - A horse or rider that runs poles in ***22.499*** seconds or less will be classified as an Open division horse or rider.

2.8 Once a rider has proven him/herself an Open Rider they shall remain so indefinitely.

2.9 No Open Rider shall ever race an open horse in the Novice horse division.

2.10 An Open Rider may race a Novice horse in the Novice division.

2.11 A Novice Rider may race an Open horse in the Novice Horse division.

2.12 Once you are bumped out of any novice class you are out for the remainder of the show season. If you are bumped on day one of a jackpot, your open status will become effective at the next show not the next day.

a.) ***To be re-classified as Novice Horse***, a horse must run barrels or poles slower than 0.80 seconds of the average time of the top five Open horses for three consecutive clean runs in the Open division. 3D does not count for re-classifying. Anyone wishing to be re-classified as Novice must apply, in writing to the Board of Directors in ample time to allow for the re- classification to be done. Applicants must include the shows in which they feel qualify them to return to the Novice divisions.

Show secretaries will be given a list of horses that were bumped or re- instated to the novice division prior to the opening of the show office for entries. Therefore all applications, must be received, and processed, before the show office opens at a jackpot.

b.) If a horse and rider combination is bumped out of novice, said rider/horse combination is able to re-apply one time only. After that, said horse/rider combination is bumped out of novice permanently, effective January 2019.

Futurity / Derby Division:

3.1 Futurity / Derby will follow the Canadian Barrel Horse Incentive rules and regulations.

SECTION THREE

Show Sanctioning

1. In order for a show to be MBRA pointed, the show must have a minimum of $1200.00 added money available per day to be split between the Open, Novice, Youth, Futurity/Derby classes in the following way:

50% to the Open Division

25% to the Novice Division

25% to be divided equally between the Youth Division, Futurity/Derby Barrels.

The $1200.00 minimum does not include any added money for the 3D.

The MBRA secretary or president must receive notice of the show, in writing, at least two months in advance stating the minimum amount of added money per day and the number of runs in each division per day. Established pointed shows have priority for show dates.

2. a) Upon approval of a jackpot, an approval letter will be sent and must include the current rules and break down of prize money.

a. Jackpot organizers will provide the MBRA with a list of any charges that competitors will be asked to pay, in addition to their class fees, (i.e. head fees, stall fees, timer, bedding, campers), together with any restrictions with regard to stabling, in advance of the event, so it can be posted on the website.

Divisions for Show Sanctioned Events

4.) All MBRA pointed jackpots must offer Small Fry and Pony divisions, followed by Futurityy/Derby Barrels, Youth, Novice and Open Divisions.

Barrels, Poles and Dash (in that order) will be offered to the Ponies and Small Fry. The Small Fry and Pony divisions will be run in their entirety prior to the start of any other division or class.

Youth, Novice and Open divisions will offer Barrels and Poles only. Barrel classes will be run before the poles classes in these divisions.

- Exhibition Runs to be held at the beginning of each day of jackpot, when time allows. Show Committee to determine if the runs will be held and what time during the jackpot.

Exceptions need approval by the Board of Directors at the time of the show date application.

In addition to the above divisions MBRA pointed jackpots will offer the following class. **3D Barrel Race**

5. Open to all riders 10 years of age and older as of January 1st of the current year. This class will be run at the end of the above divisions. In the case of a two day jackpot (Saturday/Sunday) this class will be run on Saturday.

Divisions are determined by time brackets, not by the order of finish.

- 1st division - Fastest time in the class and those who place in this division
- 2nd division - Fastest time in the class plus one second and those who place in the division
- 3rd division - Fastest time in the class plus two seconds and those who place in the division.

Knockdowns are considered no time. All contestants must make a good faith effort to run the pattern as fast as their ability will allow.

3D Payout:

- In a 3D payout, the total jackpotted entry fees of a class are to be divided equally. 33.3% to the 1st division; 33.3% to the 2nd division (1 second off fastest time), and 33.3% to the 3rd division.

- The MBRA will add $100.00 to the 3D barrels at each MBRA pointed jackpot. This will be in addition to any other monies the organizers may secure.

- Entry fee for this class will be ***$15.00.*** All entry fees are to be paid back.

3D Roll-Over Rule:

Each rider has the option, at time of entry only, to choose to roll over the time of their first barrel run of the day and pay the 3D entry fee. The time from that first barrel run will be rolled over to the 3D class and placed accordingly within the class, without having to actually run.

Each division will be paid ***equally*** as follows:
If there are 29 entries or less in the class:
1st 50%
2nd 30%

3rd 20%
If there are 39 entries or less in the class
1st 40%
2nd 30%
3rd 20%

4th 10%
If there are 40 entries or more in the class
1st : 35%
2nd: 25%
3rd: 20%
4th: 15%
5th: 5%

The 3D is a pointed class and times run in this class can be used to determine Novice eligibility.

Payouts, Points and Placings for Sanctioned Events

6. For pony and small fry divisions, jackpots must provide ribbons and /or prizes for each class plus a high point prize.

7. Entry fee per class is $20.00 for Open; $10.00 for Novice and Futurity/Derby; $5.00 for Youth; Pony and Small Fry are free.

8. If the last show of the season limits entries, the show will remain a pointed MBRA event. If a show other than the last show of the season limits entries, the method of entrant selection and the decision of whether to point the event or not will be at the discretion of the board of directors.

9. A prize list must be posted prior to the beginning of the show, at all MBRA jackpots, stating the amount of prize money per class, the entry fee per class, as well as the percentage of entry fees added back, which must be a minimum of 85%.

10. All pointed classes are to be run in the order stated. Any additional classes not covered above will be run at the end of all other classes. Exceptions must be approved by the Board of Directors.

11. A notice must be posted at each show, by or on the running order, indicating who the MBRA representatives are for that show.

12. Payout monies will be accompanied by a written break down per class.

13a. Payout monies for **exhibitions**:
The number of placings to be awarded in each class will depend on the amount of money being offered in each class. (Purse means prize money plus added money)

- purse containing $299.00 or less, per class will be placed to 6th
- purse containing $300.00 to $599.00 will be placed to 8th
- purse containing $600.00 or more, will be placed to 10th

The percentages to be paid will be as follows

- six placings - 32%, 23%, 15%, 12%, 10%, 8%
- eight placings - 27%, 22%, 18%, 13%, 9%, 6%, 3%, 2%
- ten placings - 24%, 19%, 16%, 13%, 8%, 6%, 5%, 4%, 3%, 2%

The total purse must be paid back even if percentages have to be altered due to lack of entries.

13b. Payout monies for **jackpots**:
Determination of Placings: With the exception of the 3D class, the number of placings awarded and paid out in each class is determined solely by the number of entries, calculated at **40% of the total class entries**.

- **Maximum Cap:** No more than six (6) placings will be paid out in any class.
- **Minimum Cap:** A minimum of three (3) placings will always be paid out (unless total class entries are fewer than 3, in which case all entries are paid).

Payout Splits: The total purse (prize money plus added money) must be paid back in full. If a class has fewer entries than the designated placings, the remaining purse will be redistributed among the placing riders. Payouts will be distributed according to the following percentages:

- **3 Placings:** 50% / 30% / 20% *(Standard 3-way split)*
- **4 Placings:** 40% / 30% / 20% / 10% *(Standard 4-way split)*
- **5 Placings:** 35% / 25% / 20% / 12% / 8% *(Standard 5-way split)*
- **6 Placings:** 32% / 23% / 15% / 12% / 10% / 8% *(Retained from exhibition rule)*

14.Anyone wishing to compete for MBRA points must have, and use, an officially authorized MBRA number for each horse/pony. Once an MBRA number is used on any horse/pony, that number must remain with that horse/pony for the entire show season or points will be forfeited. Numbers must not be used on more than one animal per year, with the exception where rule # 20 applies. MBRA numbers that were assigned to people who are no longer members or; numbers which have been assigned to current members and have not been used for an extended period of time; may be reassigned by the Board of Directors.

- To Retire an MBRA Ring Number a letter needs to be sent to the MBRA's Board of Directors requesting approval for a certain ring number be retired. Fee to retire the number will be $25.00.

15a) All competitors must be an MBRA member in good standing to run for MBRA obtained sponsorship prize money at Exhibitions. These competitors must also display an MBRA stall sign and wear an MBRA back number.

b.) Competitors who compete on horses owned by a non-member or a person whose membership has been denied, suspended or revoked will be responsible for ensuring that any non-member owner, or any owner whose membership has been denied, suspended or revoked complies with all of the rules, regulations and policies of the MBRA and any penalties that would be imposed, or could be imposed, as a result of their actions will be levied on the person who entered the horses.

3.16 For championships at individual shows the point structure is as follows:

1st - 10 points
2nd - 9 points
3rd - 8 points
4th - 7 points
5th - 6 points
6th - 5 points
7th - 4 points
8th - 3 points
9th - 2 points
10th - 1 point

3.17 a) Year-end awards the point tally will be based on the number of entries in each class. For example, if 15 run, the first place will be awarded 15 points, second place 14 points and so on. All those that finish the class will be awarded points. There will be no points awarded to horses/ponies that are disqualified. Example, if 30 run and 2 are disqualified, the first place horse/pony will receive 30 points and so on to the last placed horse/pony who will receive 3 points. The two disqualified will each receive zero points for that run

b.) . In the 3D, each division will accumulate its own points based on the number of horses that fall under that division in that race. For year-end awards, points will be on the horse only, regardless of the rider. Horses can be shown by more than one rider throughout the year but cannot be shown by more than one rider in any given 3D class. Horses can obtain points in more than one division. Year end awards will be given to the top horse in each division only.

3.18. In the event of a tie for any year end champion award the winner will be determined by the horse/rider with the greatest number of first place finishes and if a tie still exists the horse/rider with the greatest number of seconds place finishes, and so on.

Determining Points

3.19. a) In the Open & Novice division points will be carried with the horse/pony regardless – of horse/pony - rider combination for individual shows and year-end awards.

a. In the Youth, Pony and Small Fry divisions the points are to be individually counted for each horse/pony/rider combination.

b. In the Youth, Pony and Small Fry divisions only, when a horse/pony dies or is injured for the entire season and ceases to run in all divisions, the rider can transfer their MBRA number and points to a new horse/pony. Proof, in the form of a vet certificate, must be approved by the Board of Directors in order for this to be done. If the horse or pony is sold during the season they forfeit their points.

SECTION FOUR

Miscellaneous & Conduct

- It is the responsibility of the competitor to know the rules. Should any disputes arise regarding the interpretation or enforcement of the rules, a competitor may appeal to the show representative, who in turn will contact the Board of Directors who will decide the matter.

- No horse/pony shall be turned out in any area normally used for riding.

- Horses/ponies must not be left unattended in either the show ring or warm-up area.

- No horse/pony will be tied anywhere in the warm-up ring, show ring or chute area.
  - ***The on deck horse has control of the chute and it is at their discretion whether***

to allow another exhibitor in the chute with them. Horses and riders wishing to use the chute for training purposes must be out of the way when the horses competing are exiting or entering the ring.

This rule does not allow competitors or their horses to stand in the chute or alley way just in order to watch a class.

The area between the ring, chute or holding area must be kept clear enough to allow for easy entry and exit of the ring.

Exhibitions/show committees have the right to determine that this area must kept clear at all times.

- All competitors are entitled to equal use of barrels and poles set up for practice purposes and equal use of the warm up area in general. However, members are limited to 3 practice runs per day per horse.

- Any horse deemed to be dangerous or out of control will be excused from the show at the discretion of the board of directors.

- When sponsors flags are available they will be paraded around the arena prior to the start of the race. The members involved in that show will decide among themselves who should carry the flags. Consideration is to be given to the running order of that day's racing. However, should a member flatly refuse to carry a flag without a valid reason then they will lose all points earned at that specific show with regards to the MBRA year end awards.

- If you do not clean out your stall at the end of the a show, there will be a $75.00 charge that must be paid in full before you will be allowed to compete at the next event.

Points of Conduct

Any of the following actions may result in suspension or disqualification from the MBRA during the competitive year:

- Use of abusive language or attempting to threaten, bribe, influence or harass any contestant or show official
- Abuse of any horse/pony, in any way, including but not limited to; excessive whipping or beating of a horse/pony.
- Excessive or persistent spurring, or jabbing a horse/pony in the mouth
- Riding an obviously exhausted, lame or injured horse/pony
- Exhibiting with excessive raw or bleeding sores
- Competing under the influence of alcohol or drugs
- Any other conduct that, in the opinion of the board of directors is not in the best interest of the MBRA or its members.

- All members shall conduct themselves in a courteous and sportsman like manner at all times, at all MBRA sanctioned events, and to respect not only the rules and regulations of the MBRA but the rights of others who attend and compete in such events.

- When a situation arises where the Board of Directors are called upon to render a decision, that decision will be made by a majority of the directors present at that event.

- If the directors feel that they are unable to render a decision at that time then the matter will be held over for a period of no less than 2 weeks and all subsequent decisions regarding the matter at hand will be made by a majority of all the Board of Directors.

If, in the opinion of the board of directors, an outside arbitrator needs to be used then all matters relating to this must be dealt with within 30 days.

- In all instances the Board of Directors have the right to determine when, where and how the matter shall be heard and shall provide an opportunity for anyone alleged to have contravened the MBRA Rules to respond prior to rendering a decision

- If the Board of Directors decides that there has been a violation of any kind, then that person(s) will be notified of the decision and be made aware of the penalties involved either verbally, or in writing, as determined by the Board

- The decision of the Board of Directors in all instances will be considered final. These rules will be reviewed by the Board of Directors from time to time and will be adjusted as they see fit.

SECTION FIVE

Horse Substitutions aft Exhibitions

1. a.) A rider can substitute an injured horse

b.) If the 1st horse entered at a given exhibition is unable to compete due to injury, then the 2nd horse must have enough points in order to be used as a substitution. Rider on the original entry must be the rider on the 2nd entry (substituted) horse

Entry Process for Jackpots

1 a.) Once an entry is received, if a competitor wants to add/change a class, they may do so, up until Friday evening at 7:00pm, subject to a $10.00 fee per class charge. After this time, there will be no changes and no post entries accepted.

b.) Any entries received after the cut off date will be automatically placed at the bottom of the running order draw.

c.) If you cancel your entry by the Wednesday before the show, you will be charged the administration fee from your entry. If you fail to cancel and are a no show, there will be no refund to your entry. All cancellations/ refunds will be at the discretion of the board of directors.

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