

The purpose of the United Kingdom Barrel Horse Association is to provide Barrel Racers with an organisation that will promote the sport of barrel racing and its growth.

Our goals are to increase the number of participants, improve the quality of shows and enhance the image of barrel racing.

These rules have been adopted to address the needs of UKBHA members, promote fairness, eliminate confusion, and assist show organizers.

## **INTRODUCTION**

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 and the Director's Handbook. The Rules assume that UKBHA Directors, Show Management and Headquarters staff 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, logic and special factors.

# **SECTION A: COMPETITION RULES**

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1. A UKBHA barrel race is a timed event using three identical barrels set in a cloverleaf pattern. (The UKBHA Championships will use 55-gallon metal barrels with closed ends. All other shows are not required to use metal barrels, however, barrels must be empty. They must not have any weights in them which will make it less likely for them to be knocked over.)
2. The starting gate or gates must remain the same throughout the entire event. A contestant may request that the gate be closed after they enter the arena. If an arena has more than one gate at the end where riders enter the arena, riders may be given a choice of starting gates as long as the choice is extended to all riders.
3. The start/finish line and the barrel positions should be permanently marked and must remain the same throughout the entire event.
4. The pattern at a UKBHA show must meet the following conditions:
  - a) The first two barrels must be a minimum of 10 feet (3 metres) off the side fence.
  - b) a minimum of 20 feet (6 metres) between the third barrel and the back fence.
  - c) a minimum of 20 feet (6 metres) between the time line and the first barrel.

## 5. Ground conditions

a) The ground conditions within the arena must remain consistent throughout the event. The ground around the barrels must be reworked and leveled after each 10 or fewer contestants have competed. An amount less than 10 may be set by the show organisers/management and/or judges.

b) The preferred method of working the ground is with a ground tool pulled by some type of motor vehicle. Hand raking will be acceptable at regional shows only.

6. Any time a contestant crosses the starting line, time will begin.

7. A contestant will be given a "no time" for missing the pattern.

8. A contestant will be disqualified for running out of turn. It is the contestant's responsibility to know his/her draw position.

9. A contestant will be given a "no time" or a 5 second penalty for knocking over a barrel. A "no time" or 5 second penalty will also be given if a barrel is knocked over and it sets up again on either end. Touching a barrel, including to keep it from falling, is permitted without penalty. Show organisers, management and/or judges will predetermine whether a knocked down barrel will result in a "no time" or a penalty. The same rules will apply to all competitors.

10. A contestant will be given a "no time" if the horse or rider falls during the run in such a manner as to break the pattern, or if the rider falls off the horse.

11. If a barrel is moved off its marker during competition, the barrel must be reset prior to the next competitor's run.

12. Contestants may ride any horse, regardless of ownership, and may ride as many horses as they choose in a class. However, a horse may not be shown by more than two people in a class. Under no circumstances is a horse to compete with more than two riders.

13. Entries for a UKBHA class will close when the first horse in that class runs, or at an earlier time as specified on the show bill. Under no circumstances will entries be taken for a class after the first horse in that class has entered the arena.

14. At all UKBHA sanctioned shows, the draw shall be done in a random manner. (computer, shuffling cards, drawing numbered chips, etc.) All horses in the draw must be named. Riders with multiple entries must ride their horses in the position in which they draw up. Once set, the draw may not be changed, except to accommodate entries with the same horse or rider, or entries involving members of the same immediate family, which have drawn up close to each other. What constitutes "close to each other" will be determined by Show Management; however, a consistent standard should be adhered to for the class. The draw may not be changed to give preference to any rider or to accommodate another commitment of a particular rider such as

work or another barrel race. Changes must be moved to the end.

15. Only one horse may be in the competition arena at any time during competition. A second horse may be used to help the competing horse enter but must then leave the arena before the run starts. Failure to do this will result in a "no time".

16. Reruns shall be granted if the timer fails to work properly or if the barrels are not placed properly on their markers. Any penalty incurred on the original run shall not be applied against the rerun; however, any penalty occurring on the rerun shall apply.

17. If the pattern is altered in any way during the running of a class, such that it cannot be restored to its original layout, all runs made to that point are void for the purpose of UKBHA points. UKBHA points may be awarded only if the entire class is rerun. (An altered pattern includes, but is not limited to: Changes in the staked position of the barrels; a change in the position of the timing device, either vertically or horizontally; or a change in the position of the entry gate(s).

18. Contestants who are given a "no time" or penalty, either for missing the pattern or knocking down a barrel, may complete the pattern. However, show management may, at its discretion, ask a rider who is taking excessive time to train, to leave the arena immediately. If such request is not complied with, a £15 fine may be assessed, payable to the UKBHA.

19. UKBHA Officials have the right to disqualify any uncontrolled horse which does not begin performance within three minutes of the time the rider has been called. This rule does not apply to competitors who have not checked in with gate personnel.

## **SECTION B: SHOW APPROVAL**

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1. To run an approved UKBHA event, a show, association, riding club or arena owner must put in a written request to the UKBHA President.
2. The UKBHA will approve only one show on a given date within a county, except that two separate UKBHA runs may be approved on the same day at the same arena. No request to run a show will be approved for dates that would interfere with members from attending the National Championship Series Show held each year.
3. Shows will be approved on a first-come, first-serve basis. The UKBHA reserves the right to refuse approval for a particular date or show if it is determined not to be in the best interest of the UKBHA or its members.

4. To be approved, a show must offer all UKBHA members in good standing, regardless of age or sex, the opportunity to compete. UKBHA members may not be required to enter any other class, or join any other association or club, or pay any non-member fee or permit fee to any association or club, as a condition of riding in an UKBHA approved class.

5. There will be three classes of competition as follows:

Open

Youth/Teen (18 years of age and under)

Senior (50 years of age and over)

Proof of age may be required at the discretion of Show Management.

(a.) Show Management may allow eligible contestants to use their time in the Open class for the Youth or Senior class. Contestants wishing to do this, must declare their intent before event begins. Any contestant carrying time must pay the applicable entry fee for both classes and is eligible to win prize money just as if the time was run in the other class. If this is done, the competitor must ride in the Open category for their time to count for more than one class. The pattern for the Open, Youth and Senior must be exactly the same and must not be changed in any manner

class (Youth or Seniors).

6. a) A competitor's age in the Youth class will be determined as of the first day of the UKBHA competition year, which is January 1 of each year.

b) A competitor may ride in the Senior class at any time on or after his/her 50th birthday.

7. All approved shows must have an electronic timing system and conform to the UKBHA rules. In the event that the electronic timing system fails, then two stop watches must be used and the average time between the two will be the time taken. All competitors must be timed using the same method.

8. The Show Judges/Organisers must submit show results of all UKBHA classes (Open, Youth, and Senior) to the Association President or Secretary **WITHIN SEVEN DAYS** after the show. Please note that results must be recorded in place order from 1st in the 1st Division and so on with all times accompanying. **SHOW STANDINGS MUST BE POSTED IN A PUBLIC LOCATION BY THE SHOW ORGANISERS AT EVERY SHOW FOR MEMBERS TO SEE.** When a member disagrees with a decision made at a show, that member will have 14 days, from the date of the show, to bring any discrepancies to the attention of the President and, if necessary, to file a written protest. If times are not posted in a public location at a show, members should notify the Show Organisers/Judges. If that fails to resolve the problem, notify the UKBHA President or Secretary in writing.

9. A contestant's current UKBHA membership card or a copy of current membership application

must be presented to the show secretary prior to entering a UKBHA approved show. All members will be required to provide their individual Membership Number on all show engagements and applications.

10. Non-members may compete for prize money at a UKBHA approved show only upon payment of a non-member permit fee. A non-member permit fee, in the amount of ten pounds (£10) will be collected from each non member seeking to enter each UKBHA approved show. The fee collected will permit non-members to enter one UKBHA show and compete in all classes for which they are qualified. Non-member permit fees collected will be deposited in the Association account.

11. Organisations and individuals requesting UKBHA approved shows must use the official UKBHA logo in all show and display advertising. Classified advertising and show listings must contain the words "UKBHA Approved". Camera-ready copies of the UKBHA logo are available through the President and Secretary of the Association.

12. As a condition of approval, shows may be asked to display promotional items provided by select UKBHA national sponsors.

## **SECTION C: Payout**

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There is no requirement to offer a payout in order to run a UKBHA approved show. Guidelines for using the 5-D format to organise payoff for UKBHA approved shows is as follows:

1. In a 3-D payout, the total jackpotted entry fees of a class is to be divided 50% to the 1st Division, 30% to the 2nd Division (1 second off fastest time), and 20% to the 3rd Division (2 seconds off fastest time). In a 4-D payout, the total jackpotted entry fees of a class is to be divided 35% to the 1st Division, 30% to the 2nd Division, 20% to the 3rd Division, and 15% to the 4th Division. In a 5-D payout the total jackpotted entry fees of a class is to be divided 30% to the 1<sup>st</sup> Division, 25% to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Division, 20% to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Division, 15% to the 4<sup>th</sup> Division, and 10% to the 5<sup>th</sup> Division.

2. Added money will be divided in the same ratio OR split evenly among all divisions.

3. There are no restrictions regarding how added money is apportioned among classes at a show. For example, a show may add money to the Open but not to Youth or Seniors.

4. The following table shows the MINIMUM number of places to be paid for the stated number of entries:

### 3-D Format

#### Number of Entries

Places.....	1-10	11-15	16-30	31-60	61-90
1st .....	100%	60%	50%	40%	30%
2nd .....		40%	30%	30%	25%
3rd .....			20%	20%	20%
4th .....				10%	15%
5th .....					10%

#### Number of Entries

Places ....	91-120	121-150	151-180	181-210	211+
1st .....	28%	26%	24%	22%	20%
2nd .....	22%	20%	18%	16%	15%
3rd .....	18%	15%	15%	14%	13%
4th .....	14%	12%	12%	12%	11%
5th .....	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%
6th .....	8%	9%	8%	8%	8%
7th .....		8%	7%	7%	6.5%
8th .....			6%	6%	6%
9th .....				5%	5.5%
10th .....					5%

### 4-D Format

#### Number of Entries

Places ..... 1-12 ..... 13-20 ..... 21-40 ..... 41-80 ..... 81-120

1st ..... 100% ..... 60% ..... 50% ..... 40% ..... 30%

2nd ..... 40% ..... 30% ..... 30% ..... 25%

3rd ..... 20% ..... 20% ..... 20%

4th ..... 10% ..... 15%

5th ..... 10%

### Number of Entries

Places ... 121-160 ..... 161-200 ..... 201+ .....

1st ..... 28% ..... 26% ..... 24% .....

2nd ..... 22% ..... 20% ..... 18% .....

3rd ..... 18% ..... 15% ..... 15% .....

4th ..... 14% ..... 12% ..... 12% .....

5th ..... 10% ..... 10% ..... 10% .....

6th ..... 8% ..... 9% ..... 8% .....

7th ..... 8% ..... 7% .....

8th ..... 6%

### 5-D Format

Places...1-20...21-40...41-80...81-150...150-200...201+

1st..... 60%... 50%.... 40%..... 30%..... 28%..... 24%

2nd .....40%... 30%.... 30%..... 25%..... 22%..... 18%

3rd .....20%.... 20%..... 20%..... 18%..... 15%

4th .....10%..... 15%..... 14%..... 12%

5th .....10%..... 10%..... 10%

6th .....8%..... 8%

7th .....7%

8th .....6%

5. Show Organisers will check payback in all UKBHA classes. Paying more than the minimum places requires approval of the Show Organisers/Judges or the UKBHA President.

6. All prize money must be paid out.

7. At any UKBHA show, if not enough riders qualify in a division as monies to be 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.

## **SECTION D: PENALTIES AND/OR DISQUALIFICATIONS**

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\*UKBHA membership and participation in UKBHA events is a privilege, not a right. Behavior which is damaging to our Association or its membership will not be tolerated. Violation of any of the following provisions may subject a member to disqualification from UKBHA events, being denied entry to UKBHA events or suspension from the Association.

1. Any act in connection with a UKBHA approved show or other UKBHA business in violation of this section by a member of the family of a UKBHA member may be deemed to have been committed by the UKBHA member and subject him or her to penalties.

2. Any act deemed prejudicial to the best interests of the UKBHA may result in the suspension of a member, including but not limited to the following.

a. Using abusive or intemperate language or attempting to threaten, bribe, influence or harass any contestant, show official or UKBHA official. Also, any remarks made with the intent to cast aspersions on the character or integrity of a UKBHA official or show official.

b. Moving or attempting to move markers at any time.

c. Use of electronic and/or remotely controlled devices to alter the outcome of a run.

d. Abuse of a horse in any way.



- e. Competing while under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
  - f. Misidentifying a horse in any UKBHA class will disqualify a contestant.
  - g. Other conduct that is not in the best interest of the UKBHA or its members.
  - h. Failure to make good on a returned check to the UKBHA or to any UKBHA approved event, or to any other association which has a cooperative agreement with the UKBHA on returned checks.
  - i. Show Management and/or UKBHA officials at their sole discretion shall have the authority to disqualify or deny entry to any horse they deem dangerous to the rider, or to other individuals, animals or property.
3. A member who has been suspended or disqualified under this section may appeal to an appeals committee of UKBHA officials. The date, time, and location of such meeting will be determined by the UKBHA President. The decisions of such appeals committee shall be final and binding on all parties.

## **SECTION E: DRESS CODE**

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To enhance the image of our sport, the UKBHA encourages and promotes appropriate western attire throughout all UKBHA approved events. This includes a long-sleeved Western shirt with collar or Western motif, and a western hat. Shirt sleeves must be rolled down and buttoned or snapped. Shirt tails must be tucked in. This dress code will be strictly enforced at The National Championships. Anyone making a run at this show that is found to be in violation of the dress code will be assessed a £15 fine. During all National Shows, contestants will be assessed a fine of £10 for losing their hat during a run. At local shows approved by the UKBHA show organisers may waive these rules and fines as they deem appropriate. However, the same rules must apply to all contestants and be applied from start to finish. Members who fail to pay such fines will be ineligible to enter any UKBHA approved shows until such fines are paid in full. All disputes over dress code and fines will be decided by Show Management. The decision of Show Management will be final and binding. In the interest of safety, contestants may wear appropriate riding safety helmets. All riders under the age of 18 must wear safety helmets.

# **SECTION F: PROTESTS & COMPLAINTS**

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Persons who believe a rule violation or infraction has occurred at a UKBHA event, may file a written protest with UKBHA offices, 31 Flat B Allfarthing Lane, Wandsworth, London, SW18 2PG. The written protest must be accompanied by a £25 protest fee. The protest must be made within 30 days of the incident which is being protested. If the protest proves to be valid, the £25 protest fee will be returned to the person filing the protest. If the protest proves to be invalid, the protest fee will go into the UKBHA account. In certain cases, determined by the President, the UKBHA may reserve the right to return the £25 protest fee even if the protest proves to be invalid. This is the ONLY manner in which a protest or complaint will be accepted.

*(NOTE: This rule does not prevent Directors and Show Managers from correcting obvious problems brought to their attention, without the submission of a written protest fee.)*

Any situation not covered under these rules shall be decided by the UKBHA official on site.