



# CONDITIONS AND RULES

[www.orba.ca](http://www.orba.ca)

## MISSION STATEMENT

The Ontario Barrel Racing Association (OBRA) has been formed to promote western speed events, particularly barrel racing, in Ontario.

## ACTION PLAN

To this end, we will seek to improve the skills and abilities of speed event competitors, by providing for events with adequate prize money, organizing or endorsing clinics by competent instructors and encouraging the breeding and training of horses specifically for speed events. We will strive to obtain sponsorship whenever possible, as this will strengthen and give exposure to our sport. As this is a nonprofit organization, all proceeds of OBRA activities will be returned to tasks that benefit the members and promote speed events in Ontario.

## GENERAL CONDITIONS AND RULES

### INTRODUCTION

The following is a set of rules that govern the OBRA. As we consider each rule we must bear in mind that to attract audiences, sponsors and prize money, we must be show oriented in our dress, in our training and in our sportsmanship. Show your pride in your sport.

### MEMBERSHIP

To compete in an OBRA sanctioned 4-D barrel race, you must be a member in good standing, of OBRA, or you must purchase a day membership. Membership fees are as follows:

Permit:	\$15.00
Youth:	\$45.00
Individual:	\$55.00
Family:	\$110.00

One day memberships, also known as "permits," will be \$15 per day. This will allow previously non-member horse/rider combinations to compete in OBRA event(s) at one show after paying the appropriate entry fees. Permit holders do not receive points under any circumstances, nor, are they entitled to a newsletter/rider or any other benefits of membership. Permits are not allowed for OBRA Finals. Non-members can enter an unlimited number of shows paying permit fees. No points will be earned until membership fees are paid and points will not be retroactive to paying membership.

### ENTRY CONDITIONS

- Entries may be made by cash or cheque, subject to rule number 2.
- Any person(s) whose cheque is not honoured, (ie.N.S.F.) will incur a \$40.00 service charge. That person forfeits any

prize money and further cheque writing privileges.

- Prize money may be withheld from a winning entrant until his/her cheque has cleared the OBRA account. Should such a cheque be returned NSF, that winning position will be forfeited to the next highest placing entry.
- Complaints must be submitted by the complainant, in writing and signed, within 30 days of the subject event. Written complaints will be addressed by the executive committee within 30 days of receipt.
- Members must receive a minimum of 30 days notice of an OBRA event in order for points for that event to be counted. Posting on the OBRA web site constitutes valid notice.
- Entries will be accepted only from members in good standing and/or a permit.
- At all OBRA recognized shows, the draw shall be done in a random manner. ie. drawing number chips, or a random computerized draw. Once set, the draw may not be changed except in the event that a contestant is showing more than one horse, when drawing for the second horse etc., may occur until a minimum of 5 horses are between.
- Cheque's will be stamped "Void after 60 days".
- To enter an OBRA recognized Pony class, entrants must have been 12 years of age or younger on January 1 of the present year. Ponies must not exceed 56" in height.
- To enter an OBRA recognized Youth class, entrants must have been 18 years of age or younger on January 1 of the present year.
- OBRA will maintain a hotline (226) 228-4577 for show information.

### GENERAL RULES

- To enhance the image of our sport, appropriate, tidy western dress shall be worn at all times. This includes; western hat, long or short sleeved collared western style shirt, and western boots. Hat must be worn in arena, and may not be deliberately knocked or shaken off. In the interest of safety, contestants may wear appropriate riding safety helmets. Untidy dress or unsafe footwear may bring disqualification, at the discretion of the executive/show manager.
- (1) All riders under the age of 18 must wear a helmet that meets current standards for equipment designed and manufactured for use while riding horses as established by the American Society of Testing and Materials (ASTM), the British Standards Institute (BSI) or the European Safety Standards while mounted at all times.
- (2) All riders under the age of 18 must wear hard-soled footwear with a heel of no less than 1.5 centimeters.
- (3) All riders under the age of 18 must have tack properly fitted on the horse.

- 3.** Western tack, except for bits, must be used at all times. The executive/show manager has the authority to require the removal and/or alteration of any equipment judged to be inappropriate, unsafe and/or inhumane.
- 4.** Bats, crops, scat bats, spurs and over-and-unders are to be permitted. Excessive spurring, cropping or any other abuse of the horse may bring disqualification at the discretion of the executive/show manager.
- 5.** Use of abusive language, harassment of other contestants or show officials, competing under the influence of drugs or alcohol, will result in disqualification, at the discretion of the executive/show manager.
- 6.** Subsequent infractions, as described in rule 5, may result in multiple show suspensions, or canceling of membership for the balance of the show season. There will be no refund of any fees paid in any case.
- 7.** No horse/rider combination may compete in a restricted entry Barrel Race, (ie. Junior, Ladies etc.) prior to the OBRA class of the same event, on the same day, unless a practice session or open race is also available prior to the event. A barrel race prior to the OBRA barrel race, must be open to all competitors to enter at their discretion.
- 7a.** Only one rider/horse combination is permitted per class.
- 8.** Electronic timers shall be the only method of timing. Should a failure of electric timers occur during a run, a new set of electric timers will be placed on the exact (marked) spot/position of the original timers. The running order for the class will resume as scheduled, with reruns as per rule #9.
- 9.** Should the timing equipment fail when a contestant is being timed, he or she will be allowed a maximum of 2 reruns to get an official time.
- 10.** Each contestant shall be ready to enter the arena/ring when called. Once called, the contestant will have a maximum of 60 seconds to start the pattern. Failure to do so, or running out of order, will result in disqualification. The show manager may overrule this only when extenuating circumstances apply.
- 11.** If there is an elimination heat(s), each horse must be ridden in the final by the same rider in the elimination round(s).
- 12.** Ties will not be broken except to determine class and championship winners. Monies will be split equally between tying entries. A coin will be flipped to determine allocation of the ribbons and other awards. A tie for year-end high point awards will constitute a dual Dual Championship and both winners will be recognized as champions.
- 13.** When a host club has drug rules, OBRA members are responsible for knowing and obeying that policy and are subject to the same penalties for infractions as are the members of the host club.
- 14.** All dogs must be on a leash.
- All stallions must be contained in a solid enclosure, ie: not left tied to trailers, etc.
- 15.** Barrel setters will be assigned at large shows, however, volunteers will be required at small shows.
- 16.** Excessive mess left at a show by any contestant will result in a \$200.00 fine, payable prior to that contestant's

next run.

- 17.** No circling of barrels or training during competition runs. If the pattern is broken, rider may complete the pattern from the point of the break in a timely fashion or leave the arena immediately. Failure to do so will result in a \$25.00 fine payable before the contestant's next run. (This does not include 3 and 4 year old exhibitions).
- 18.** There will only be ONE OBRA sanctioned show on any given day.
- 19.** Any OBRA show must have a MINIMUM of two Open 4-D classes for a one day show, three Open 4-D's for a 2 day show and four Open 4-D's for a three day show. OBRA highly recommends that hosts hold all specialty classes on each day of a show but does enforce it.
- 20.** Any OBRA member is allowed to compete at the OBRA Finals, provided they paid entries at a minimum of 1 OBRA sanctioned show during that show season. In order to gain points at the Finals, you must have competed at a minimum of 3 OBRA sanctioned shows during that show season.
- 21.** 3 & 4 year old exhibitions will be offered at all shows.
- 22.** **CELL PHONES:** In the interest of safety, cell phone use while in the holding pen, warm up area or arena is strictly forbidden. First infraction will receive a warning and rider will be fined \$25.00 for each subsequent infraction and must be paid prior to being permitted back in the arena.

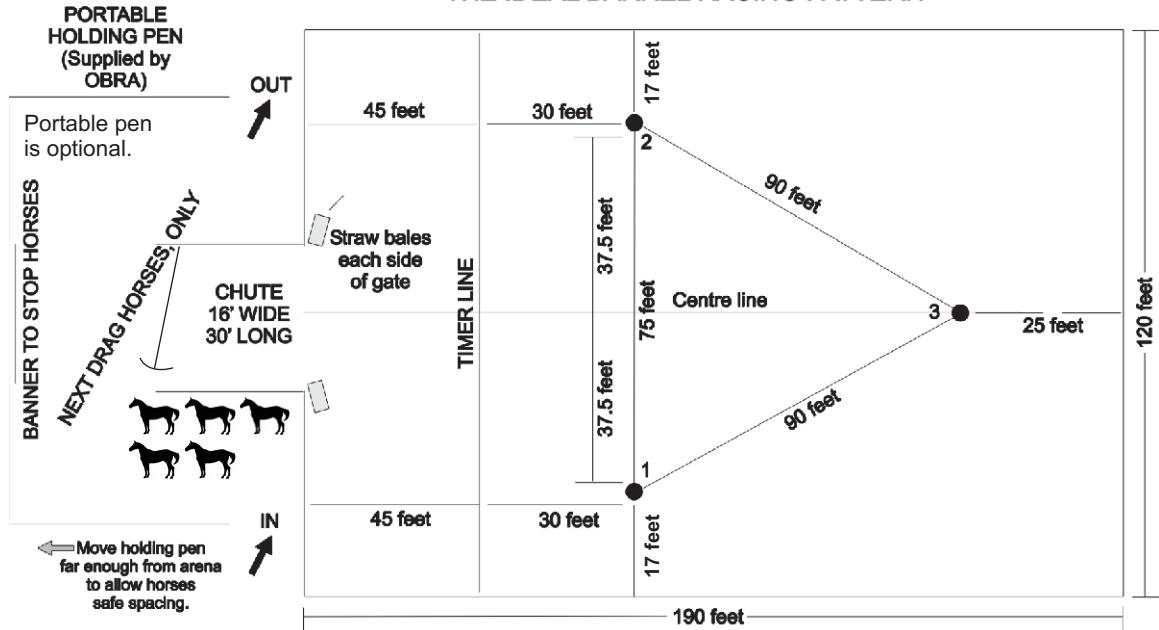
## SHOW SANCTIONING

1. A show approval form must be filled out and submitted to the OBRA secretary 45 days prior to the show date. This will allow executive time to get the information out to our membership at least 30 days prior to the show.  
Contact your District Director (Please refer to our web page).
2. Organizations and individuals requesting OBRA sanctioned shows must allow OBRA to display OBRA and their sponsors' promotional items.
3. Open exhibition runs will be at the discretion of the individual holding the show, but must be held and completed prior to the scheduled start time. If open exhibition runs are held, entries for the show must be completed before contestants have an exhibition run.
4. The actual show arena will be open for general riding prior to the show.
5. Arena grooming should be provided to give the same safe footing to each horse. There will be a drag after every 5 horses, but this can be changed by the executive/show manager if the ground will hold up to more runs. OBRA executive/show manager reserves the right to refuse to stage or sanction OBRA runs if the ground or arena conditions are not suitable or are deemed to be unsafe.
6. The OBRA will sanction shows on a first come, first served, basis, and reserves the right to refuse sanctioning for a particular date or show, if it is determined not to be in the best interest of the OBRA. To be sanctioned, a show must offer all OBRA members in good standing the opportunity to compete.
7. All sanctioned shows must have electronic timing systems timed to the thousandths of a second, and conform to OBRA rules. 205 litre, empty, metal barrels, with both tops and bottoms intact, must be used. OBRA can supply reliable timing systems, if required.

## THE IDEAL BARREL RACING PATTERN

This pattern is strongly suggested, when space permits. Move holding pen away from arena entrance as far as seems reasonable to prevent crowding the horses waiting to run.

*At show organizers' discretion the barrel pattern may be altered to have a minimum 60 foot shut-down and alter the pattern accordingly. No horse/rider are permitted in the chute during a drag.*



**8. OBRA** endeavors to make every sanctioned show as safe as possible for all riders and spectators. We are offering the following recommendations to achieve this end. Arena with solid type fencing, with the boards inside of posts (ie. no snow fence or rope gates) and the use of a sufficiently wide chute are strongly recommended. Steel projections should be covered or removed. A warmup and on deck area is recommended to separate spectators and vehicles from horses and riders. A minimum of 45' stopping zone after the timer and the use of straw/hay bales to protect the riders is recommended to protect the riders from running into chute mouth corners is recommended.

**9.** Availability of a first aid kit or St. John's Ambulance personnel on the show grounds is highly recommended

**10.** The barrel pattern at an OBRA show must meet the following conditions a) a minimum of 17 feet from each of the first two barrels to the side fences. 2) a minimum of 25 feet from the third barrel to the back fence, 3) a minimum of 30 feet from the timer line to the first barrel. The show organizers should use a barrel pattern that best fits their arena, subject to the above recommendations.

**11.** The course must be exactly the same for all competitors. Position of each barrel must be precisely measured and staked so the course can be restored exactly after a knockdown.

**12.** OBRA recommends that a chute boss be used to promote safety and keep show running efficiently.

**13.** In the event that the executive/show manager determines that the barrel positions must be changed for safety reasons, in the middle of a class, the entire class will be restarted from the position that it is stopped. The competitors that rerun will do so in the original order after the last horse of the original draw.

**14.** If at any time, the arena is deemed to require water for the safety of horse & rider, then it shall be watered no matter how many horses have run and the order shall continue where left off.

### BARREL RACING PATTERN

The correct pattern shall be: run across the start line to barrel #1, pass to the left of it and complete an approximate 180 degree turn around, then go to barrel #2 pass to the right of it, and do another 180 degree turn around, then go to barrel #3, pass to the right of it, and do another 180 degree turn around, and then sprint to the finish line, passing between barrels #1 and #2. This course may also be run to the left, in exact reverse of the pattern described above.

**2. Failure to follow the course shall cause a contestant to be disqualified.**

**3.** A 5-second penalty will be incurred with each barrel knocked down in the Futurity class only, a knocked down barrel in all other classes will result in a disqualification.

**4.** Each barrel of the pony barrel race pattern will be moved inward 2 paces from the open pattern.

### POLE BENDING RULES

**1.** Each contestant will begin from the timer line and run straight up to the top pole. The pattern is to be run with 6 poles. Each pole is to be 21 feet apart, and the first pole is to be 21 feet from the timer line. Poles shall be set on top of the ground, 6 feet in height, with no base more than 14 inches in diameter (rubber bases are recommended). A horse may start either to the right or left of the first pole and then run the remainder of the pattern accordingly. The top pole shall be set a minimum of 21 feet off the back wall. Electronic timers must be used.

**2. Failure to follow the course shall cause a contestant to be disqualified.**

**3. Knocking over a pole shall be recorded as a "NO TIME". A contestant may touch a pole, however, if the course is altered from the original pattern it will constitute a "NO TIME", ie: a pole is picked up off the ground and placed back down.**

**4. Pole Bending shall be run as a 3D format with 1 second splits.**

**5. Poles will be the first class of the day.**

## **SENIOR BARREL RACE**

1. Must be 50 on Jan. 1st. of the year you are showing.
2. This is a 3-D class with one second splits.
3. You may only rollover the immediate preceding 4D placing to your Senior run.

## **POINTS**

Points will be awarded to each horse/rider combination in all OBRA sanctioned barrel races and all OBRA sanctioned events (youth, pony, poles etc.) when earned. Standings will be based on points earned, not payback money. One point is earned for each horse placing below each entrant, to a maximum of 10. Points will be awarded only to the top 10 competitors. Example: 1st = 10 points, 10th = 1 point. If less than 10 in a class, it will be 1 point for each horse in that class.

All barrel race runs will count toward year-end awards, except those made by permit holders. Year-end point recognition will go to the top 5 in each division of the 4-D classes, top 5 in the Youth 1-D & 2-D classes, top 5 in the Rookie Barrels, top 5 in the Futurity 1-D & 2-D classes and top 5 in the Poles 1-D, 2-D & 3-D classes.

## **4-D BARRELS**

1. This is our main class & divisions shall be top time (1-D), ½ second behind top time (2-D), 1 second behind top time (3-D) and 2 seconds behind top time (4-D).

Example: 15.089 (1-D), 15.589 (2-D), 16.089 (3-D), 17.089 (4-D).

2. A knocked down barrel will be recorded as a "NO TIME".

## **PONY DIVISION**

1. If you are only in the pony class, arena & office fees do not apply.

2. Pony division riders are not permitted to ride on the grounds without adult supervision.

3. Payback in the Pony classes will be equally distributed among all competitors.

## **FUTURITY DIVISION**

1. Registered horses or non-registered horses accepted with proof of age. The horse must be entered under their registered name only, at all events. Contestants must be able to provide proof of age upon request. Executive/show manager decision on acceptable proof of age will be final. A copy of the horses papers ( both sides ) must be mailed to the current Futurity Director ( please refer to the OBRA web page ).

2. Horses must be 5 years of age or younger as of January 1 of present year, and not have competed in any barrel classes prior to December 1 of the year previous to the futurity year. Horses may have entered other events. 3. If there is a tie for awards, then the contestant with the most wins will receive the year end award.

4. All Futurity classes will be 2-D with a 1 second split.

5. A knocked down barrel will result in a 5 second penalty including a barrel knocked down and setting up on its opposite end. Touching a barrel is permitted.

6. If a Futurity has \$1,000.00 or more in added money and is at least a 2 day show, the class can be split into 2 go's & an average paid out at 30% to the 1st & 2nd go's and 40% to the

average. In the event of a knocked barrel, the contestant will not be eligible for an average payout.

7. Year-end awards will be for both divisions.

8. Year-end champion will be decided by number of points accumulated during the current season. Points will be given to each go round, average and finals, if any. Points will not be awarded when a barrel is knocked down but contestant will still be eligible for purse money. In the event of a tie for year-end championship, the winner shall be decided by the most number of superior placings.

9. Points will be allocated to horse & rider combination. A change of owner will not affect the standings as long as the rider remains the same.

10. **"Only Second Run Of A Two Day Show"** Futurity class will be run prior to the 4-D class so that Futurity riders have the option to carry to the following 4-D run only.

## **YOUTH BARRELS**

1. To enter an OBRA recognized youth class, entrants must have been 18 years of age or younger on January 1 of the present year. Youth barrels shall be run as a 2-D format with a 1 second split.

2. Youth may only rollover the immediate preceding 4D placing to your Youth run.

## **ROOKIE BARRELS:**

*Mandate:* To bring new barrel racers into competing at the provincial level.

*Objective:* To provide a fun class which is not intimidating to people new to barrel racing.

*Eligibility:*

1. Cannot have shown in OBRA, NBHA Midwestern or Rodeo in the last 2 years.

1.A. May only compete in this class for one year.

2. Cannot have made over \$500.00 in a life time of barrel racing.

3. If a competitor runs within 1 second of the fastest time of a show at more than 3 shows before August 1st., they will no longer be able to compete in the Rookie class.

4. Katie Marshall will be the moderator of the 2017 Rookie class concerning eligibility.

5. This change was made to improve the Rookie class and attract more competitors to it.

## **OFFICE CHARGE**

Each OBRA entry (horse/rider combination) shall pay an office charge.

## **PAY BACK**

Payback in all OBRA events will be 100% of added money plus 80% of entry fees. (With the exception of OBRA produced shows which will be 100% of added money plus 70% of entry fees).

**For information regarding the current  
OBRA Executive, Sweepstake & Ontario  
4-D Champions, please refer to the  
OBRA web page.**



Our web site is  
[www.obra.ca](http://www.obra.ca)