

ABRA RULE BOOK - YEAR **2026**

ARTICLE VIII GENERAL CONTEST RULES

1. All spectators, participants, members and all other persons taking part in any event connected with ABRA should understand the Association's involvement with any competition or event is merely organizational. ABRA is not responsible for any animals, competitor's equipment, portions of the arena and/or any portion of the event site. As with any competition, certain rules and regulations must be enforced to preserve the organization of the event so all participants, spectators and other persons can enjoy the event.
2. Contest rules will be adopted by the Board of Directors and set forth in a document entitled "ABRA RULE BOOK".
3. A printed copy of the "ABRA RULE BOOK" may be requested by a member at the time membership is obtained. It will be available online to everyone on ABRA's website.
4. Rules may be changed from time to time by majority vote of the Board of Directors.
5. All members, participants, contestants, and other persons taking part in the event do so at their own risk and should understand they are responsible for the care, inspection, custody and control of the animal, the equipment and all other aspects of the event, including the area where the event will take place. Any inspection and/or check for dangerous conditions should be made by the participant prior to participation in the event.
6. The ABRA is not in any way responsible for any of the facilities used either by participants and/or spectators. Any complaints or observations regarding the arena should be addressed with the arena personnel as soon as possible.
7. The decisions of the Arena Director or his/her designee are final. ABRA will not tolerate any verbal disputes at the announcer's desk during the show. If there is a question concerning a ruling, a written grievance may be submitted to: info@laabra.com.
8. Members, non-members, participants or persons representing said individuals (parents, spouse, sibling, etc) are expected to conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike fashion at all times while participating in an ABRA sponsored event. Failure to do so may result in disqualification, loss of points, a monetary fine, or dismissal from the Association. ABRA's Board of Directors will make that decision by a majority vote and will inform the individual of the final decision in writing.
9. Excessive whipping or other cruelty toward the horse will not be tolerated.
10. Memberships available for the **2026** season are: a) Individual - \$40 and b) Family \$70.00. "Family" is defined as a mother/father and their children, age eighteen and under. Children age nineteen (19) or older must have their own membership. Age is determined as of January 1st of the current competition year. Non-competing board members will be given complimentary membership.
11. When ABRA sponsors a barrel race sanctioned by another organization the rules of the sanctioning organization will be followed. In the event something occurs for which the other organization has no specific rule, ABRA rules will prevail.
12. **Boots with a heel must be worn by all riders.** No other kind of foot covering will be allowed. It is requested each participant dress neatly and appropriately for the event. NO SPAGHETTI STRAP OR HALTER TOP SHIRTS!!!
13. Electric timers will be used at all shows. In case of total electrical failure, if lighting becomes an issue, the show will be cancelled and rescheduled.
14. In case of a timer malfunction, the rider will be given a re-run. Penalties incurred during the first run will NOT be carried over to the re-ride. Any penalties incurred on the re-run WILL be applied.
15. In the event stop watches are used, a designee will utilize one (1) stopwatch while seated at the clock.

16. The alleyways will remain clear except when tractor is in motion during a drag. Failure to abide by this rule can result in disqualification, loss of points, a monetary fine, or dismissal from the Association. Parents must monitor their children to ensure that they are staying clear of the alleyway when it is not their turn to ride.

17. Entering the ARENA: A contestant will have (3) calls to cross the plane of the arena and start the pattern. The 3rd call will be the final call and result in a no time. A rider will have 30 seconds to enter the alley once called. Then 30 seconds to enter the arena. The rider will have 30 seconds to cross the timer once they enter the arena.

18. A rider is responsible for his/her own riding equipment. There will be no re-rides because of equipment failure.

19. Any rider, who is found to be illegally entering a horse or riding a horse in a class in which the horse does not qualify, will be fined two hundred dollars (\$200.00), plus any money won. The rider **will lose all points in ALL CLASSES** up through the date of discovery and will not be allowed to ride any ABRA jackpot shows until the fine has been paid in full. **An inquiry can be submitted to any Board Member or emailed to info@laabra.com notifying the Board of a rider/horse illegally entered. A fee of \$25 is required for any inquiry. If information obtained results in a fine for the offender, an award of \$50 will be given to the individual that submitted the inquiry. Inquiries will be kept anonymous.

20. In the event a rider's novice horse should die during the year, points may be transferred to another horse that qualifies for the same novice class. A written statement from a veterinarian must accompany this request and the rider should notify the President or Vice President of ABRA before the next point show.

21. Points are kept on each horse/rider team in the Novice Horse Classes. Points are kept on the rider in age or open division classes (see rule #33). Points are kept on members only. Contestants begin accumulating points and participation after an ABRA membership has been purchased.

22. A point system will be utilized to determine year-end standings. One (1) point will be awarded for each entry in the class. Example: 20 entries in a class – 1st place = 20 points, 2nd place = 19 points and so on, with 20th place receiving 1 point. Only members will receive points. Members will not move up in points based on non-members placing before them. Exception: 8 & Under Beginner & OPEN 5D Barrels – see rule #33. Results and current point standings will be available on the ABRA website.

23. Online entries will close at midnight the day before our regular shows and midnight two days before for morning slack. **There will be no money refunded after the books close.** SHOW ENTRIES WILL BE ACCEPTED for the Open 5D Barrels until rider #50. Entries will be accepted until the first horse in the class entered runs for all other classes. Show entries will be placed after pre-entries. ** NO ENTRIES WILL BE TAKEN AFTER THESE DEADLINES HAVE PASSED. Online entries draw will be posted at least one hour prior to show start.

24. Running positions for each class will be drawn after books close. You must pre-enter online to be put in the initial draw. Riders must run each horse in drawn position. There will be no changing of draw positions unless ABRA finds an error on their part. The arena announcer will announce the running order of each class prior to the running of the class. It is the responsibility of riders to check the running orders and promptly notify the entry desk of any errors. **Please do not disturb the timer or announcer for this information**. If a rider has two horses entered in the same class, the first horse will be the points horse in all age or open pole classes. If a rider pre-enters and is accidentally left out of the draw, the rider will be entered at the end of the draw before the late entries.

25. Non-member fees will be waived for **2026** Season.

26. There will be a pen fee of **\$10.00** per rider at our regular shows. Riders entering exhibition only will not be charged a pen fee.

27. The barrel pattern will be a minimum of fifteen feet (15') from the fence. Distances between the barrels will be according to the arena size. During pre-show exhibitions and 8 & Under Beginner barrels, the barrels may be placed off the pattern used for the show. Contestants MAY touch or hold a barrel upright to keep the barrel from falling over.

28. There will be a "no time" issued to any horse and rider who breaks the regulation barrel pattern. Breaking the regulation barrel pattern consists of, but is not limited to, going around the wrong side of the barrel, going around the wrong barrel, or circling the barrel more than once. Breaking the timeline before the pattern is complete will also result in a "no time".

29. The pole pattern will be according to AQHA rules. Contestants ARE allowed to hold the poles upright and/or keep them from falling over.

30. There will be a "no time" issued to any horse and rider who breaks the regulation pole pattern. Breaking of the pole pattern consists of, but is not limited to, going on the wrong side of the pole, around the wrong pole, circling a pole more than once, or breaking the timeline before the pattern is complete.

31. There will be a five (5) second penalty for any barrel or pole knocked over. This includes barrels and poles that are turned completely, touching the ground and coming back upright. A knocked over barrel will result in a no-time for Open 5D purposes only. All times rolled over will incur the penalty.

32. With the exception of the Open 5D, 8 & Under Beginner & Special Needs Barrels and Time Only Bogus Barrels, all classes are jackpotted with ABRA retaining \$5.00 per entry. 8 & Under Beginner & Special Needs & Open 5D jackpot payout is covered under class description – see Rule #33. Payout for all other classes will be as follows:

1-4 Riders Pays one place: 1st 100%

5-8 Riders Pays two places: 1st 60%, 2nd 40%

9-12 Riders Pays three places: 1st 50%, 2nd 30%, 3rd 20%

13-16 Riders Pays four places: 1st 40%, 2nd 30%, 3rd 20%, 4th 10%

17-20 Riders Pays five places: 1st 30%, 2nd 25%, 3rd 20%, 4th 15%, 5th 10%

21+ Riders Pays six places 1st 28%, 2nd 22%, 3rd 18%, 4th 14%, 5th 10%, 6th 8%

Every horse and rider combination is unique, thus a horse may be ridden by multiple riders. The same horse & rider combination may not enter the same class more than once (including rollover).

Any winnings not picked up at a show will be held until the next show. Money can be sent electronically, but this request must be initiated by the contestant. Any winnings not picked up or requested within 6 months will be returned to ABRA.

33. **Classes** for the year **2026** season will be as follows:

Barrels will not be set up, nor is barrel work allowed in the arena prior to exhibitions.

PRE-SHOW EXHIBITION BARRELS & POLES: Open to all riders. No excessive training or working of the pattern will be allowed. Riders should limit the length of their exhibition to one (1) minute. A \$5.00 fine will be imposed to anyone exceeding a one (1) minute time limit (for each occurrence). This does NOT count towards participation.

OPEN POLES: Available to any horse and rider. Points are kept on RIDER only. A rider may choose to roll their time over to Youth Poles but must make this decision at time of entry and all penalties will carry over.

13 & UNDER YOUTH POLES: Rider must be 13 years of age or younger as of January 1st of the current year. Points are kept on RIDER ONLY.

8 & UNDER BEGINNER BARRELS OR ANY RIDER WITH SPECIAL NEEDS: Rider must be 8 years of age or younger as of January 1st of the current year or require assistance in riding. Each rider will receive \$2 payout per show to be collected at that show or the payout is VOID. Points are kept on RIDER ONLY. Riders will get one (1) point per show regardless of their time. ABRA reserves the right to make judgment calls for the safety of the child regarding the way the child is /or is not seated in the saddle. The child should be assisted in a fashion that is safe for the child. It is not required to have a lead line attached to the horse.

TIME ONLY BOGUS BARRELS: Open to all riders. No pay-out, but this does count towards participation.

OPEN 5D (DIVISIONAL BARRELS): Available to all riders and all horses. This class will run in a 5D format with .5 second splits. A minimum of 75% of entry fees will be jackpotted. An Equal+ Payout will be used with 10% of jackpot added as Bonus Money based on the following – 4% to 1D, 3% to 2D, 2% to 3D, and 1% to 4D. Remainder will be divided equally - 18% to each division. The number of places paid will be determined by the ABRA payout scale below. A rider may choose to roll their time over to any other classes they qualify for, but must make this decision at time of entry and all penalties will carry over.

1-24 Riders one place per division: 1st 100%

25-44 Riders two places per division: 1st 60%, 2nd 40%

45-64 Riders three places per division: 1st 50%, 2nd 30%, 3rd 20%

65-84 Riders four places per division: 1st 40%, 2nd 30%, 3rd 20%, 4th 10%

85-104 Riders five places per division: 1st 30%, 2nd 25%, 3rd 20%, 4th 15%, 5th 10%

105-124 Riders six places per division: 1st 28%, 2nd 22%, 3rd 18%, 4th 14%, 5th 10%, 6th 8%

125-144 Riders seven places per division: 1st 26%, 2nd 20%, 3rd 15%, 4th 12%, 5th 10%, 6th 9%, 7th 8%

145-204 Riders eight places per division: 1st 24%, 2nd 18%, 3rd 15%, 4th 12%, 5th 10%, 6th 8%, 7th 7%, 8th 6%

205+- Riders ten places per division: 1st 21%, 2nd 18%, 3rd 15%, 4th 12%, 5th 9%, 6th 7%, 7th 6%, 8th 5%, 9th 4%, 10th 3%

Points will be awarded to MEMBERS ONLY on a 5,4,3,2,1 basis for 1st place through 5th place in each division regardless of the number of entries or paid places. The fastest MEMBER time in the Open 5D will determine divisions and points. If two or more members tie, the points for the tied positions will be added together and divided equally among the riders who tied. If non-members place among the top point positions the points skip those riders and continue down to members. Contestants may enter as many horses as they wish, but points will only be awarded to the highest placing horse in each division. No money or points will be awarded to anyone with a penalty for this class (see rule #31).

8 & UNDER ADVANCED YOUTH BARRELS: Rider must be 8 years of age or younger as of January 1st of the current year. Points are kept on RIDER ONLY. A rider may choose to roll their time over to all other classes they qualify for but must make this decision at time of entry and all penalties will carry over.

9-13 YOUTH BARRELS: Rider must be 9-13 years of age or younger as of January 1st of the current year. Points are kept on RIDER ONLY. A rider may choose to roll their time over to all other classes they qualify for but must make this decision at time of entry and all penalties will carry over.

14-18 YOUTH BARRELS: Rider must be 14-18 years of age as of January 1st of the current year. Points are kept on RIDER ONLY. A rider may choose to roll their time over to all other classes they qualify for but must make this decision at time of entry and all penalties will carry over.

19 AND OVER ADULT BARRELS: Rider must be 19 years of age or older as of January 1st of the current year. Points are kept on the RIDER ONLY. A rider may choose to roll their time over to all other classes they qualify for but must make this decision at time of entry and all penalties will carry over.

****HORSE INFORMATION SHEETS MUST BE FILLED OUT FOR EACH HORSE PRIOR TO COMPETING IN ANY NOVICE CLASS.** NO POINTS WILL BE AWARDED FOR A RUN THAT WAS COMPLETED PRIOR TO TURNING IN THE HORSE INFORMATION SHEET.****

\$500 NOVICE HORSE BARRELS- A horse qualifies for this class if it has won less than \$500 in any barrel racing competition in its lifetime as of January 1st of the current year. Awards such as ribbons, tack, feed, trophies, etc. are not included. However, if ten (10) points or more (ROM) have been earned in any registered breed association, the horse is not eligible for this class. Points are kept on HORSE/RIDER combination.

NOVICE HORSE CLASSES ARE LIMITED TO MEMBERS ONLY.

EXHIBITION BARRELS: Open to all riders. No excessive training or working of the pattern will be allowed. This does NOT count towards participation.

34. FINALS REQUIREMENTS - Finals will be held at the end of the year and are for **QUALIFIED MEMBERS ONLY**. Finals will consist of 2 go-rounds and an average. A member must meet **ALL 3 OF THE FOLLOWING REQUIREMENTS IN ORDER TO QUALIFY**:

- A. **PARTICIPATION** - A MEMBER MUST PARTICIPATE IN AT LEAST 8 SHOWS FOR THE YEAR TO QUALIFY FOR THE FINALS. Participation in the Bayou Classic will count towards the 8 show minimum and Perfect Attendance. Anyone not participating in our Bayou Classic fundraiser will be required to pay \$25 to qualify for finals. **Entering a show counts for participation, even if the rider is a scratch.** All members can enter the Open 5D at the finals, on as many horses as they wish, if all requirements are met. The maximum number of riders in open poles, age division or novice classes to advance to the finals will be fifteen (15), unless there is a tie between 15th and 16th place, then both will go to the finals. All 8 & Under Beginner / Special Needs Barrel Racers, who have met their finals requirements will be eligible for the finals. Any member not qualifying in the top 15 of a class that has met all finals requirements should enter the Open 5D at the finals (even if they have never participated in the class throughout the year).
- B. **SPONSORSHIP** - Each finalist must SELL A MINIMUM OF \$50.00 IN SPONSORSHIPS, RAFFLE TICKETS, OR A COMBINATION OF THE TWO to satisfy their sponsorship requirement.
- C. **RAFFLE/AUCTION ITEMS** - each finalist must PROVIDE A RAFFLE/AUCTION ITEM (OR \$25) FOR THE BAYOU CLASSIC AND AN AUCTION ITEM (OR \$25) FOR THE FINALS.

Finalist awards will not be presented to anyone that has not met all requirements and paid their finals entry in full. Finals entry fees and sponsorships are non-refundable. DEADLINES FOR ALL FINALIST REQUIREMENTS WILL BE POSTED AT OUR SHOWS, ON OUR WEBSITE, AND SOCIAL MEDIA. **IT IS THE MEMBER'S RESPONSIBILITY TO MEET ALL DEADLINES.**

37. Year-end awards will be determined after the tenth (10th) point show and will be based on the participation in each class and the funds available. Regular Barrel and pole classes must average FIFTEEN (15) or more entries to earn a year-end Champion Saddle (or equivalent). Open 5D Barrels must average SEVENTY-FIVE (75) or more entries to earn year-end Champion Saddles (or equivalent).

38. FINALS - If a tie should occur for 1st and 2nd place, a flip of a coin will determine winner. Both riders must consent to a coin flip. If either rider wants a run-off, a run-off will ensue. Should a rider forfeit, he/she will move to the next position. In the event a tie occurs for any other position, 2nd place or beyond, the tie will be broken by the fastest finals average time.

39. FINALS - In the event a rider receives a "No Time" during a run at the finals, he/she will not receive points for that go-round, but will be placed and allotted points in the average if they receive a time in the other go-round. A scratch in one or more go-rounds will not earn any points in the average.

40. Suggestions can be sent to info@laabra.com. Suggestions for items such as, but not limited to, show improvements, fund raising, awards, etc. are welcome.

41. EXTRA MILE AWARDS – every member can qualify for up to 3 extra mile awards:

- a. **Perfect Attendance** – participate in all 12 point shows AND ABRA's Bayou Classic.
- b. **Sponsorships** – submit at least \$200 in sponsorships and/or annual raffle ticket sales.
- c. **Raffle Donations** – donate at least 8 raffle items throughout the year at our regular shows

Those qualified for at least one Extra Mile award will have priority in our Flag Ceremonies.

ABRA 2026 Board Members

(REMINDER: Please understand that these board members are volunteers and may not be able to return your call immediately, but will do their best to answer your questions or direct you to someone who can in a timely manner)

President / Bayou Classic	Susan Krieg	337-288-5374
Vice President / Program / Arena	Adrian Menard	337-380-1045
Secretary / Data Entry	Kayla Knapp	337-523-7066
Treasurer / Arena Setup	Rebecca Kopp	337-704-6101
Sponsorship Director / Jr Board	Natalie Guidry	337-316-6970
Website / Social Media	Cypress Melville	337-789-4784
Announcing	Venessa Metz	337-967-5608
Entry/Payout / Bayou Classic Auction	Heather Rodrigue	985-258-0215
Entry/Payout / Flags / Jr Board	Aimee Dronet	337-247-1117
Finals / Bayou Classic Socials	Shannon Benjamin	337-680-0001
Show Raffles / Shirts / Auctions	April Bridges	843-737-1098
Exhibitions / Show Raffles / Arena	Makayla Simoneaux	337-680-0027
Arena Workers / Exhibitions	Sam & Madison Simoneaux	337-230-6448
Bayou Classic / Jr Board / Exhibitions	Logan Krieg	337-445-9131
Finals Auction / Year-End Raffle	Tiffany Broussard	337-344-4749