



## **RULE BOOK 2024 ONWARDS LAST REVISED OCTOBER 2023**

### **MISSION, VISION AND CORE VALUES**

The National Barrel Horse Association's mission is to promote and expand the sport of barrel racing, utilising a divisional format, which allows a diverse membership to compete on any breed of equine. The vision of NBHA is to be the leading association for barrel racing. NBHA values passion, integrity, diversity, innovation, and a commitment to our members. The goal of NBHA is to increase the number of participants, improve the quality of shows and enhance the sport of barrel racing. NBHA supports the expansion of events by providing director support at the local, state, and regional level.

Here in the UK, 4 Strides Equestrian along with the UKBHA also adopt these core values, and vision with the addition of supporting dreams & ambitions.

4 Strides Equestrian prides itself on providing a safe and non judgemental environment for riders and supporters. The act of cheering, supporting and complementing each other and other riders is strongly encouraged. 4 Strides Equestrian is a fully inclusive service regardless of age, race, sex, ability, horse breed etc. Growing the sport in the UK, and to have the UK represented overseas are our key goals. 4 Strides presents opportunities on a domestic and international scale.

The following references to the NBHA UK are referring to events run by 4 Strides Equestrian UK.

If in any doubt on a rule or classification of rule, please refer to the show staff or head time keeper / official.

## **INTRODUCTION**

Official NBHA UK rules address the needs of NBHA UK members, promote fairness, eliminate confusion, and assist show organisers in the production of an event that reflects the standards. 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 NBHA UK Directors, Show Management and Headquarter staff have the necessary competence, sound judgement and absolute objectivity. Too detailed a rule might deprive the official of his/her freedom of judgement and thus prevent him/her from finding the solution to a problem dictated by fairness, logic, and special factors.

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### **Section A. Competition Rules**

1. A NBHA UK barrel race is an electronically timed event using three identical barrels set in a cloverleaf pattern. Barrels may not be weighted (i.e., sand or water). Barrels must be metal and must be enclosed on both ends.
2. The starting gate or gates must remain the same throughout the entire event. If more than one start gate is available, it must be offered or denied to all riders regardless of the direction they run.
3. The start/finish line and the barrel positions should be permanently marked and must remain the same throughout the entire event. An exception to this rule is to save the arena surface. If the pattern does move it will only be between classes.
4. The pattern at an NBHA UK show must meet the following conditions: a. The first two barrels must be 60ft (18.29m) apart. b. Between barrel 2 & 3, there must be 90ft (27.43m) c. a minimum of 30ft (9.14m) between the timeline and the first barrel. If the arena size does not permit, then no personal bests or records can be awarded. In this case, the pattern will be 3 strides away from the exterior fence for all 3 barrels.
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 levelled. Drag intervals must be consistent. Example: After every 3, 4 or 5 riders. b. The preferred method of working the ground is with a ground tool pulled by some type of motor vehicle ,NBHA UK permits the use of rakes in case a mechanical tool is not available..
6. Any time a contestant crosses the starting line, time will begin and this will constitute an

attempt at a run.

7.i (**Average Time Class**) A contestant will be given a "+100 secs" for any of the following reasons:

a. Off Pattern (see note below)

b. 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. In the case where the announcer clearly announces the wrong running order and can identify their mistake, a contestant shall be offered a rerun.

c. If the rider falls off after crossing the starting timer. A rider who falls off a horse completely, before the starting line, regardless if the horse breaks the timer, a re-run will be offered at that moment in the same draw position, and not at a later time.

d. If a barrel or timer is moved off its marker during competition, they must be reset prior to the next competitor's run to the proper markers. If a or multiple of the barrels / time equipment are knocked over on any given run then a +100 secs penalty is awarded.

ii. (**Best Time Class**) A contestant will be given a "No Time DQ" for any of the following reasons:

a. Off Pattern (see note below)

b. 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. In the case where the announcer clearly announces the wrong running order and can identify their mistake, a contestant shall be offered a rerun.

c. If the rider falls off after crossing the starting timer. A rider who falls off a horse completely, before the starting line, regardless if the horse breaks the timer, a re-run will be offered at that moment in the same draw position, and not at a later time.

d. A DQ no time will be issued for knocking over 1 or multiples of the barrels or timing equipment.

**NOTE** Off pattern is described as, the horse making a stride beyond the 180° that a forward motion would suggest, this stride is in forward or reverse direction. Off pattern is also described as running the incorrect way around a barrel so as not completing a clover leaf pattern.

8. If a barrel or timer is moved off its marker during competition, they must be reset prior to the next competitor's run to the proper markers. A 'No Time DQ' or (+100secs) will be entered for the rider who moved such item dependent on which scoring of class.

9. 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 more than twice in the same class.

10. Formal entries for classes close before the competition starts, additional entries can be taken prior to the start of each class. No additional runs can be entered once the class has started.

11. At all NBHA UK sanctioned shows, the draw shall be done in a random manner (computer, shuffling cards, drawing numbered chips, etc.). Riders with multiple entries must ride their horses in the position in which they draw up. Once set, the draw may not be changed.

12. Only one horse may be on the barrel pattern at any time during competition. Horse & riders may be held in a 'safety zone' in the arena away from the barrel pattern.

13. 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 re-run shall result in a penalty.

14. Contestants who are given a +100 secs or DQ, either for missing the pattern or falling from their horse, may complete the pattern. However, show management may, at its discretion, ask a rider who is taking excessive time to leave the arena immediately. If such request is not complied with, a £25 fine may be assessed by the officiating officer.

15. NBHA Officials have the right to disqualify any uncontrolled horse which does not begin performance within one minute of the time the rider has been called.

16. Each average time class will use a 3 run MEAN average for final class placings per competitor.

17. Each best time class will be ordered by the fastest time first for final class placings per competitor.

18. A rider who loses tack or equipment must retrieve these items from the event staff at an appropriate time for the staff.

19. The head timekeeper of any event must not be interrupted while racing is occurring.

### **Section B. Show Sanctioning**

1. The Shows presented by 4 Strides Equestrian UK LTD are sanctioned by representatives of NBHA UK.

There will be classes of competition as follows (Proof of age may be required at the discretion of Show Management):

1 Walk trot only class open to all

2a MEMBERS Youth (12 years of age and under as of January 1st of the competition year)

2b MEMBERS Teen (13-18 years of age and under as of January 1st of the competition year)

2c MEMBERS Open (19-49 years old as of January 1st of the competition year)

2d MEMBERS Senior (50 years of age and over as of the date of the show)

3 First Time Turners (Those competing for their first time at a NBHA UK / 4 Strides Event.)

4 Turn and burn Under 18 Years Old (17 years 364 days and under as of 1st January of the competition year)

5 Turn and Burn Over 18 Years Old (18 years old and over as of 1st January of the competition year)

6 Horses 14.2 HH or Over

7 Horses & ponies 14.1 HH or under.

8 MEMBERS International qualifying class

9 Jackpot money race (1 run per rider only)

10 Open Poles Class (any age of rider / any size of horse / pony)

11 MEMBERS Poles Class Under 18 years old (17 years 364 days and under as of 1st January of the competition year)

12 MEMBERS Turn and Burn Over 18 Years Old (18 years old and over as of 1st January of the competition year)

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

The measurement of horses and ponies is by the NBHA UK Representative and uses a calibrated height stick and their decision is final.

12. A contestant's current NBHA UK membership card or a copy of current membership application must be presented to the show secretary prior to entering an NBHA UK Members Class.

### **Section C. Membership & Earned Points**

1. To earn and maintain points, a competitor must be a member in good standing of the NBHA UK membership scheme.

2. Membership runs from Jan 1st - Dec 31st

3. NBHA UK Membership is subject to the correct application and the discretion of the NBHA UK Staff. Membership can be revoked at any time if deemed necessary. No refunds on membership in any circumstance

4. NBHA members may accumulate points throughout the year (Jan 1st - Dec 31st)

5. There is a Hi Point Award for each event (Total points barrels and poles) and individual Hi Point awards for barrels and poles annually.

6. NBHA UK points will be awarded in all classes and divisions as follows : Win the class (1point) +1 additional point for everyone you finish ahead of. Remainder of placings up to 6th 1 point for everyone you finish above.

EXAMPLE 5 Entries in class - Riders A,B,C,D,E

Rider A comes 1st - 1 point for winning +4 points for finishing ahead of 4 riders = 5 points

Rider B comes 2nd - Finishes ahead of Riders C,D,E = 3 points

Rider C comes 3rd - Finishes ahead of Riders D,E = 2 Points

Rider D comes 4th - Finishes ahead of Rider E = 1 Point

Rider E comes 5th - Finishes ahead of no riders = 0 Points

Only the top 6 are eligible for points.

EXAMPLE 12 Entries in Class - Riders A,B,C,D,E,F,G,H,I,J,K,L

Rider A comes 1st - 1 point for winning + 11 points for finishing ahead of 11 riders =12 points

Rider B comes 2nd - Finishes ahead of riders C,D,E,F,G,H,I,J,K,L, =10 Points

Rider C comes 3rd - Finishes ahead of riders D,E,F,G,H,I,J,K,L = 9 Points

Rider D comes 4th - Finishes ahead of riders E,F,G,H,I,J,K,L = 8 Points

Rider E comes 5th - Finishes ahead of riders F,G,H,I,J,K,L = 7 Points

Rider F comes 6th - Finishes ahead of riders G,H,I,J,K,L = 6 Points

Rider G comes 7th - no points as outside the top 6

Riders H,I,J,K,L - no points as outside the top 6

7. If two or more riders tie, the points for the tied positions should be added together and divided equally among the riders who tied.

8. Competitors may enter more than one class.

9. Competitors may ride as many horses as they wish in each class. However, the competitor with multiple entries will receive points only for the highest placing in each division. Any subsequent points on another horse will be taken out of the points and will not be rolled down to the next placing.

EXAMPLE - 4 Entries in Class - Rider A rides 2 horses - Riders B,C, ride only 1 horse

Rider A Horse1 comes 1st - 1 point for winning + 3 points for finishing ahead of 3 other riders. = 4 points

Rider A Horse 2 comes 2nd - No points allocated as rider A as already collected points above.

Rider B comes 3rd - 1 point for finishing ahead of Rider C = 1 Point

Rider C comes 4th - No points

10. NBHA UK Points, in all classes and divisions, are awarded to the rider regardless of which horse.

11. Points earned at events are added to this current years, NBHA UK Hi Point League for Barrels & Poles

12. Points earned are per rider and rider only. It stands no bearing as to which horse they are riding. Riders can use multiple horses throughout an event and season but will only score in the highest placing per class per event.

13. Horse points will be collected throughout the year to aid in resale and value as a barrel horse.

### **Section D. Payout**

The NBHA UK Sanctioned Show has prize money and is made up of all of the entries from class 9 (Jackpot) split between division winners in the Jackpot Race. Division on placings and not timings.

There is also prize money from sponsors awarded to select classes along with prizes.

### **Section E: Penalties and/or Disqualifications**

NBHA UK membership and participation in NBHA UK events is a privilege, not a right.

Behaviour which is damaging to the Association or its membership will not be tolerated.

Violation of any of the following provisions may subject a member to disqualification from NBHA UK events, being denied entry to NBHA UK events, loss of points, or suspension from the Association.

1. Any act in connection with an NBHA UK sanctioned show or other NBHA UK / 4 Strides business in violation of this section by a rider / member or the family of an NBHA UK member may be deemed to have been committed by the NBHA UK member and subject him or her to penalties.

2. Any act deemed prejudicial to the best interests of the NBHA UK 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 NBHA UK official. Also, any remarks made with the intent to cast aspersions on the character or integrity of an NBHA UK official or show official.

b. Moving or attempting to move markers, barrels or equipment at any time.

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

d. Abuse of a horse, official or any other competitor in any way.

e. Competing while impaired and under the influence of drugs, alcohol or any other substance.

f. Misidentifying a horse in any NBHA UK class will disqualify a contestant from the full event.

g. Other conduct that is not in the best interest of the NBHA UK / 4 Strides or its members.

### **Section G. Dress Code**

1. (NOT MANDATORY) To enhance the image of our sport, the NBHA UK encourages and promotes appropriate western attire throughout all NBHA UK sanctioned events. This includes a long-sleeved Western full button, snapped or zipped shirt with collar, and a western cowboy hat

or helmet. Shirt sleeves must be rolled down and buttoned or snapped. Shirt tails must be tucked in. Jackets or coverings may be worn, but the western attire must exist regardless of cover.

2. Anyone in any practice pen, holding area, or competition area must wear closed-toed shoes. When sufficiently posted, full western attire can be mandated in holding pens for all individuals, not just contestants.

### **Section H. Protests & Complaints**

1. Persons who believe a rule violation or infraction has occurred at a NBHA UK event, may file a written protest with NBHA UK Willow Farm, Brant Road, Lincs NG32 3JA

The written protest must be accompanied by a £25 protest fee. The protest must be made within 14 days of the incident which is being protested. If the protest proves to be valid, the protest fee will be returned to the person filing the protest. If the protest proves to be invalid, the protest fee will be used for year end awards. 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 NBHA official on site.

Amendments to any published scoring or announcement will be made via the 4 Strides Equestrian website and or facebook page.

Errors made by staff or the time keepers can be corrected, any awards presented or won, and any associated points will be amended.

These rules and regulations are updated regularly. 4 Strides & NBHA UK strive to achieve the accurate recording of national, regional and local scoring. An amendment to any rule may be added at any time and this will be shown on the 4 Strides Equestrian website.

### **Poles**

At NBHAUK events, pole classes are offered. These are split into 3 classes. (Open - any entry, Members under 18 years old and Members over 18 years old.)

Knocking a pole over will result in a 10 second penalty in the open. Knocking a pole over in the members average class will result in a 10 second penalty. Each subsequent pole is a further penalty.

If the pole is knocked down, then the rider must still weave as if the pole is standing, failure to weave will result in a DQ No Time or +100 secs in average time class.

Points are awarded in the pole class as follows :

Finish 1st - 1 point plus 1 point for every rider you finish ahead of. Max 6 points

Finish 2-5th - 1 point for every rider you finish ahead of. (upto 6th)

Finish 6th - no points

There will be a national league for pole bending points.

**END**