

**ABRA RULE BOOK:  
version:  
NOVEMBER 23 2023**

## MEMBERSHIPS

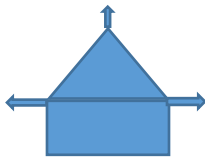
1. Membership is offered to any person regardless of gender or age. ABRA has the right to refuse membership at its full discretion and without explanation.
2. Purchase of an ABRA membership is mandatory to compete at ABRA sanctioned events.
3. All members are required to provide the host with a current season membership number.
4. Membership must be purchased through the ABRA Office. Once your application for membership is received by the office, expect a 48 business hour time period to be processed. Respect posted business hours and office holiday and closure times.
5. You cannot compete until you receive your card from the office.
6. The ABRA acknowledges all blacklist received from other associations, and may at the full discretion of the board to choose to honor these blacklists in issuing memberships or accepting finals entries.
7. The ABRA year is from July 1 to June 30. Your age on January 1 between these two dates determines your age for the membership year. Membership for each year will expire November 30 of the following year.
8. Membership Fees: July 1 to November 30 of current season.
  - a. OPEN FULL CARD: \$110
  - b. YOUTH FULL CARD: \$85
    - i. Anyone who 16 years & under as of Jan 1 of the current ABRA year is eligible to buy a Youth membership.
  - c. PEE WEE FULL CARD: \$30 all pee wee must wear a helmet.
    - i. Anyone who 10 years & under as of Jan 1 of the current ABRA year is eligible to buy a peewee membership.
  - d. OPEN PERMIT CARD: \$70
  - e. YOUTH PERMIT CARD: \$50
  - f. PEE WEE PERMIT CARD: \$20
9. Membership Fees: December 1 to June 30
  - a. OPEN FULL CARD: \$120
  - b. YOUTH FULL CARD: \$95
  - c. PEE WEE FULL CARD: \$40
10. Full Cards are entitled to compete at all ABRA approved events and are eligible to qualify for the finals once the full card is processed. Permit cards are entitled to compete at regular ABRA events, however are not entitled to compete when ABRA has contributed to added money jackpots and are not eligible to qualify for the finals. Permit members may upgrade to a full card, however they will have to pay the price of a full card and cannot begin qualifying until they receive the full card from the office.
11. Permits cannot begin accumulating jackpots towards qualification until full membership card is received from the office.
12. Youth may not compete in Pee Wee division.
13. A Youth contestant may enter the Open if they are the sole Youth entry. This jackpot will not count towards the finals qualification. The sole Youth entry may also choose to stay in the Youth and run against themselves. This jackpot will count towards the finals qualification.
14. A Pee Wee can not enter the open and may only enter the Youth if they are the sole Pee Wee entry. This jackpot will not count towards the finals. The sole Pee Wee entry may also choose to stay in the Pee Wee and run against themselves. This jackpot will count towards the finals qualification.
15. If two or more Youth are in attendance at any particular jackpot, they must remain in the Youth class and be paid with the #D format. This holds true for the Pee Wee category as well.
16. ABRA memberships for the next ABRA year will be available for sale Oct 1. Members who purchase between Oct. 1 and Nov 30 will be able to count all jackpots attended from July 1 onward towards finals qualification.

Those who purchase after Nov 30 forfeit the jackpots attendance and begin qualifications from the time purchased to the end of the ABRA year June 30.

17. Permit members or new members may purchase a full card at any time in the ABRA year.
18. Youth and Pee Wee members who move up an age category during the ABRA year can choose to remain in the current age category until Nov 30. However, when they purchase membership renewal for that ABRA year they will no longer be able to compete in that age category. Any jackpots entered in the previous age division will not count towards finals qualification. Youth or Pee Wee may also finish a series that has already begun in the previous series year but these jackpots will not count towards finals. Youth and Pee Wee should not start a new series on previous card if they are moving up a category. They should compete in the new age category they belong in. When entering a new category please indicate to the host that your age change is now in effect and you are now eligible to enter appropriate category.
19. All districts who collect sponsorship through out the year will be eligible to one free membership per district for every \$1500 collected. Each member who brings in \$1000 Cash Sponsorship or \$1500 product sponsorship will be entitled to a free membership and sponsorship above \$2000 will receive a free finals entry.

## FORMAT

1. Open, & Youth divisions are determined by a 5/10, 7/10, or One Second Split. All divisions to have equal split. Time splits are determined by the host and at the discretion of the director for final approval.
2. Jackpots Hosts can choose a 3D or 4D format at the discretion of the director for approval.
3. ABRA recommends 5 second time split for Pee Wee during the regular season however a host can request for a different split to be approved by the director.
4. FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES THE ABRA RECOMMENDS TO HOSTS: Patterns with total footage under 234 feet use a smaller time split and patterns with total footage over 234ft use 1 second split.



5. The pattern size and/or time bracket used must be submitted with jackpot approval request form. The time split will be posted with the jackpot schedule. Time split changes from one jackpot to the next must be made 1 week in advance of the jackpot.
6. The fastest penalty free time in the Open, Youth, and Pee Wee will determine the divisions.
7. Knocked barrels are considered a no time. Not following the clover-leaf pattern will receive a no time. A broken pattern shall be defined as breaking their forward motion to retrace their tracks to finish the pattern and/or passing the plane of the barrel on the off side. Example: Should a contestant run by a barrel and have to back up or turn around and retrace their tracks, this would be considered a broken pattern.
8. Barrels 1 and 2 will be a minimum of 15feet off the fence and barrel 3 a minimum of 25feet. Jackpot hosts can have an open or closed gate. If closed stopping distance must be 45feet minimum.
9. Time Split Format for the finals to be at the discretion of the board and posted with the Opening of entries for the finals.
10. Example of division splits:
  - a. 1 second time bracket-fastest time 16.5

Division	Time
One	16.500-17.499
Two	17.500-18.499
Three	18.500 Up

- b. 7/10 time Bracket – Fastest Time 15.500

Division	Time
One	15.500-16.199
Two	16.200-16.899
Three	16.900 Up

c. 5/10 time Bracket – Fastest Time 15.500

Division	Time
One	15.500-15.999
Two	16.000-16.499
Three	16.500 & Up

## SHOW SANCTIONING

1. For a Jackpot to be an ABRA sanctioned a host must contact their director for approval. Initial approval is at the full discretion of the director. Once the director approves the jackpot it is submitted to the ABRA tracking clerk to be posted on the website. The approval form must be received by the ABRA tracking clerk no later than one week prior to jackpot date for approval. Canceled jackpots may be rescheduled with 48 hours' notice. Regular approved jackpots can be turned into Double Header jackpots with one week notice, at the discretion of the director. Changes may be submitted up to 48 hours prior to a jackpot and must go through the director. However, time splits will not be changed under 1 week's notice.
2. Anyone wishing to host an ABRA approved jackpot must hold an ABRA membership. If the host is a facility/ag society that facility/ag society will be required to choose a representative that has a membership or purchases a membership on their behalf. Hosts are required to follow sanctioning rules and maybe subject to enforcement and/or membership in good standing consequences.
3. Jackpots will not be approved over top of ABRA Finals or ABRA Casino Dates.
4. ABRA board of directors reserves the right to refuse sanctioning of any event at its complete discretion.
5. ABRA will only co-sanction an event if our rules are followed first and that everyone competing has an ABRA membership.
6. The number of jackpots/week is determined by the director. Any discrepancies to be sent to the director and if further discrepancies arise board members shall make the decision.
7. Jackpot are booked 1<sup>st</sup> come 1<sup>st</sup> served to the best interest of the district; jackpots can be moved and changed to benefit fairness and opportunities for districts members and hosts.
8. All district Directors have the authority to approve jackpots outside of their district. However, it can be over ruled by the director within the district to the discretion of the board.
9. A Jackpot Host has the right to appeal the approval process to the board of Directors in writing.
10. All competitors must run horses in their draw order. Running out of draw order will result in a No Time.
11. Jackpots may be held out of province, but must be approved by the closest District Director to that area or a director chosen by the board.
12. Host arena wishing to use a two-run average must have approval and be advertised as such on the jackpot schedule posted on the ABRA website.
13. The decision of the timer will be final. If a dispute of the timers was to arise the decision of the jackpot host shall be the final ruling. If contestant wishes the ruling to be reviewed, they must submit to their director within 5 days of the jackpot in writing and the director shall consult the board of directors. If the timer fails during a run and time is not recorded, the horse and rider shall receive a penalty free re-run.
14. When western attire is mandatory, it must be advertised in the official ABRA publication and submitted on the approval form. Failing to comply will result in a no time.
15. Time Only's and/Exhibitions runs will be at the discretion of the host.
16. Memberships are required for Exhibitions/Time Only's.
17. For Every 3 jackpots hosted by an individual host, the host will receive 1 jackpot credit towards finals qualification so long as they have not competed in the jackpots.
18. Criteria for Host Arenas;

- a. Follow the ABRA Rules and Regulations
  - b. Mark the pattern and score line
  - c. Maintain good and consistent ground conditions using proper grooming equipment. Reworking/raking rotations should be determined prior to the start of the jackpot. The max in each rotation will be 8 runs.
  - d. Take entries and calculate payout.
  - e. When appropriate provide random draw to accommodate riders on multiple horses.
  - f. Utilize an electric timer (with times to 1/1000)
  - g. Utilize 45 gallon metal or plastic closed end barrels
  - h. Collect \$3 per run for the ABRA sanctioning fee to be used as ADDED Money at the finals & prizes.
  - i. Complete supplied ABRA jackpot entry form in full detail or excel spread sheet with all items from entry forms.
  - j. Host must forward all completed jackpot form and finals fees to the director within 10 Days of the event, or the next jackpot will be cancelled and host blacklisted.
19. If a host decides to offer at a single jackpot best of two runs this must be declared before the jackpot starts.
  20. Double header jackpots will only be approved with 1 run per jackpot.
  21. Hosts will have the option to book a double header with a roll over. Double Headers with roll over work as follows. Contestant may enter the first jackpot and choose to roll their time to the second jackpot OR enter both jackpots and make 2 runs. Contestant must declare their roll over option (1 run or 2) at time of entry prior to the start of the jackpot no exceptions. Rider may not decide to take your second run if you knock a barrel or get a no time if roll over was declared. Both jackpots will be paid out separately and both jackpots will count towards the finals.
  22. Roll overs from a non-sanctioned ABRA futurity and/or Derby event may be approved so long as the following criteria is met.
    - a. same location
    - b. same pattern
    - c. same day
    - d. same rake schedule and working of the ground
    - e. Fees are paid prior to the roll
  23. Double header jackpots the option to roll over their 1<sup>st</sup> jackpot time to the 2<sup>nd</sup> jackpot time. 1st run must be mounted attempt at the pattern. Rider must declare if running twice or rolling time at the time of entry and full fees to be paid for both runs. NO exceptions. Both jackpots will be counted for the finals. Hosts have the option of doing either a regular double header or this option. Option must be advertised on the website and declared when jackpot form is submitted to the director.
  24. Jackpots out of province can be approved as a co-approval event or solely ABRA for an additional \$2 fee to the already \$3 finals fee per run for those wishing to qualify. Proof of liability Insurance for a co-approved event must be submitted with approval. Full event results plus the fee of \$5 shall be submitted to the director and include (for those participating in the ABRA qualification) the Member name, Horse name and Membership Number. Co-approval will be at the discretion of the director. It is recommended that the host choose the director closest to them.

## **ENTRY FEES & PAYOUT**

1. Host arena may set the entry fees and deduct a reasonable amount for Timer, Arena rental etc. Minimum entry fees for Open will be \$20 Youth \$10 and payout must be completed at all jackpots or sent by etransfer within 10 calendar days. The choice to do payout via cash or etransfer or combination of both is at the discretion of the host. If the contestant who is entitled to winnings does not pick up winnings or provide a proper email address to receive their winnings within 10 days the host is to keep the funds and use at their discretion.
2. Jackpots that do not meet the minimum Entry Fee requirement and payout will not be approved.
3. Each host must collect a minimum of \$3 per entry in the Open, Youth, & Pee Wee divisions for finals fee to be sent to the district director with their jackpot results.

4. Payouts must be split equally between the divisions.
5. Added money is to be split equally between the divisions.
6. If no horses fall into any one particular division the payout for that division will be divided equally between the remaining divisions.
7. If only one horse places in a division that horse shall receive the entire payout for that division.
8. Knocked barrels are considered a NT
9. Results and placings must be made available for viewing by posting at the event or on social media 24 hours following.
10. Members are entitled to contact the director for archived results for that current season.
11. In case that any contestant is disqualified, the runner-up will receive any money and awards, if applicable.
12. The number of placings in each division is determined by the total number of entries.
13. Once a jackpot entry is paid, circumstances under which refunds are allowed are at the full discretion of the host. If a discrepancy arises member can write a letter to the board.
14. Late fee charges are to be allowed for large events such as added money jackpots. Regular weekly jackpots that have pre-entries shall not have a late entry fee for those entering on-site.
15. Events / Jackpots that take pre-entries and payment shall have a refund policy declared when seeking approval from their director.

### 3D OPTION

TOTAL ENTRIES	PLACINGS/ DIVISIONS	PERCENTAGES %
10 & Under	1	100
11-20	2	60-40
21-30	3	45-35-20
31-40	4	40-30-20-10
41-50	5	34-26-18-14-8
51-75	6	29-24-19-14-9-5
76-99	7	25-22-17-14-10-7-5
100+	8	23-20-17-14-11-8-5-2

### 4D OPTION

TOTAL ENTRIES	PLACINGS/ DIVISIONS	PERCENTAGES %
15 & Under	1	100
16-25	2	60-40
26-40	3	45-35-20
41-60	4	40-30-20-10
61-80	5	30-25-20-15-10
81-120	6	28-22-18-14-10-8
121-160	7	26-20-15-12-10-9-8
161-200+	8	23-20-17-14-11-8-5-2

### FINALS QUALIFICATION

1. Must be a member in good standing.

2. To qualify for the finals a member (horse/rider combo) must attend the required number of jackpots listed below in their membership category as a horse/rider combo on a valid membership during the jackpot season of July 1 to June 30. A valid membership is determined by membership rules listed above.
  - a. OPEN members: each horse/rider combo attend a minimum of 6 jackpots.
  - b. YOUTH members: each horse/rider combo must attend a minimum of 6 jackpots.
  - c. PEE WEE members: each horse/rider combo must attend a minimum of 4 jackpots.
3. All competitors must complete the pattern on their own. Open and Youth members may enter as many horses as they wish in the finals. Pee Wee members can only enter one horse at the finals. Pee Wee cannot be lead or accompanied by anyone on foot or horse past the plane of the arena at the finals.
4. Members may qualify for the finals by competing at jackpots throughout the province, regardless of the district.
5. Members are responsible for viewing their qualification status online at the ABRA website. If there are any discrepancies, the member must notify the Tracking Clerk ASAP to have them reviewed. Members must be fully qualified prior to entering the finals.
6. A mounted attempt of the cloverleaf pattern must be made in order for a jackpot to count unless Finals Qualification Rule 7 applies.
7. Jackpot Cancellations due to ground:
  - a. Jackpots can be cancelled by the director at any point whether in attendance or in consultation with other members or host.
  - b. If a jackpot is cancelled during or prior to the start due to ground conditions being declared unsafe anyone who is in attendance and entries already paid shall receive the following options:
    - i. Full Refund no qualification count.
    - ii. Full refund minus \$3 Finals Fee and attendance will count for finals.
8. Finals Entry will be refunded when a death in the immediate family, father, mother, children, brother and sister and step and in-law. Timeline from entry date to the finals start date, includes full refund.
9. A member is allowed to substitute a horse within 10 days before the start of the first go so long as the horse and rider have qualified together entering the Open, Youth, and Pee Wee divisions.
10. Finals rules will be published with the finals format on the website when entries open. These will be subject to the same enforcement as laid out in these rules.

## **DISTRICTS**

1. The province is divided into 12 districts.
2. Each district will be required to host a minimum of six jackpots.
3. Each member shall declare his/her district upon purchase of a membership and shall contact his/her District Director with any questions or concerns. The ABRA reserves the right to re assign a member to a district if the board determines the declared district is in appropriate. The member will have a right to appeal the assignment of the district to the ABRA board in writing.
4. Each district shall have one elected District Director whose responsibilities include:
  - a. Approving jackpots
  - b. Address concerns
  - c. Keep members informed
  - d. Assist in organizing the Provincial Finals and organize your districts duties and gate schedule.
  - e. Maintain and distribute all needed materials to jackpot hosts.
  - f. Submit all Results and Finals Fees to the ABRA office within 10 Days of jackpot date.
  - g. All Results and Finals fees must be submitted to the ABRA office by the director no later than 30 days past the quarter point of which the jackpot was held in. If the director fails to submit the Results and Finals fees, the director will be removed and the District members will have two weeks to appoint a new director. The Director will be blacklisted from the ABRA until results and finals fees are received.

5. District Directors may appoint a District Secretary to assist with the director duties.

## **DISTRICT JACKPOTS**

1. Each District will be entitled to \$1200 ABRA added money for the purposes of hosting a District Added Money Jackpot. \$300 of added money must go to the Youth. This is granted for one single race not for a two day or two run average.
2. Submissions for ABRA added money jackpots will go into each director by May 1 for the following season that starts July 1. The Director will choose no later than June 1 which host will receive the funds for the next season. Considerations will be given for location, experience, and which jackpot will benefit the most members. If no submissions are received by May 1<sup>st</sup> it will be a first come first serve basis within the district and the first to apply shall receive the approval. Added money must stay in the district lines.

## **GENERAL**

1. All members are required to read and comply with the rules and bylaws of the ABRA. Up to date rules and bylaws will be made available at all times to the members and hosts on the ABRA website. Only rules published on ABRA website will be enforceable.
2. Members must be mounted and ready to enter the arena when name called. The host has full discretion to turn a member out if they determine that they are not in compliance with this rule.
3. A contestant may ride any horse, regardless of ownership.
4. No horse may be ridden by more than one person in the open division. A horse be ridden by more than one person in the youth & pee wee so long as neither contestant is showing any other horse in the same class. In no case will the same horse be run more than twice in the same class.
5. A horse can be run in the pee wee and youth or youth and open by different members so long as not in the same class.
6. All pee wee must wear a helmet.
7. Anyone tendering an NSF cheque or failure to pay for entry fees at a jackpot, membership dues, or finals entry fees you may be required to pay all future jackpot, membership, and finals fees with cash or money order for the lifetime of his/her membership. The following fines shall also be imposed:
  - a. First Offence - \$25 Fine
  - b. Second Offence - \$50 Fine
  - c. Third Offence to be brought before the Board of Directors for review and action.
8. If a horse in attendance to an event is considered a danger to the facility, the rider, the spectators, or members the host, director, facility owner reserves the right to disqualify an entry to ABRA sanctioned events.
9. The member has the right to appeal the decision to the board.
10. The Following will not be tolerated at any ABRA approved event and each incident of the following will be considered an infraction of the ABRA rules.
  - a. Yelling or any foul language.
  - b. Altercations or quarreling at any time.
  - c. Being intoxicated by alcohol or drugs while on site of an ABRA approved event
  - d. Tampering or removing markers for pattern
  - e. No excessive disciplining of any kind to a horse or general inhumane treatment on site of ABRA sanctioned event.
  - f. Non-payment of entry fee
  - g. Leaving ill-mannered horses unsupervised where the safety to other members, horses, property, and/or spectators is at risk
  - h. Any person accompanying a member or complaining on behalf of said member.
  - i. Failing to follow the rules of the facility of where the ABRA sanction event is occurring.
  - j. Practicing on markers after the course has been set to the discretion of the host.



- k. Entering a jackpot when knowingly on ABRA or ABRA honored blacklists.
- l. Any member showing disrespect to a host in any manner, be it foul language, altercations, quarreling, or otherwise.
- m. Individuals caught entering without a membership or using someone else's membership or entering in any way that can be considered fraudulent.
- n. Western cowboy boots with heel for safety, and western tack and/or equipment must be used and shall be enforced at all ABRA Approved events. Additional western dress code (long sleeve shirt, cowboy hat or helmet) will not be enforced unless advertised as such in the official jackpot listing.
- o. Conduct unbecoming of a member that could negatively affect the representation of the ABRA or not reflect the high standard the ABRA expects from its members.

#### **ENFORCEMENT:**

All enforcement is at the discretion of the board the following is recommend as level of enforcement:

First Offence – Letter of Reprimand up to and or including a fine of \$500. Member will remain on file for 3 year period.

Second Offence - \$100-2500 fine with potential of suspension of 1 year to the discretion of the board. To remain on file for life.

Third Offence \$500-\$10,000 fine and potential of life time suspension to the discretion of the board.

#### **Blacklist:**

Being on the ABRA blacklist means that you are not member in good standing and that you not eligible to enter any jackpots, finals, or renew membership. The Blacklist will be posted publicly on the website and social media outlets to the discretion of the board and may at the discretion of the board be circulated to other affiliated associations. Hosts are encouraged to review the blacklist posted to the ABRA site and not to allow members who are on the blacklist to enter jackpots.

The ABRA acknowledges all blacklists received from other associations and will require written approval from those associations that removal requirements have been met.

#### **TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP**

1. The Association may, by Special Resolution at a Special General Meeting called for such a purpose, expel any Member for any cause which is deemed sufficient in the interests of the Association.
2. This decision is final.
3. On passage of the Special Resolution, the name of the Member is removed from the Register of Members. The Member is considered to have ceased being a member on the date their name is removed from the Register of Members.

#### **OF INTEREST**

ABRA members are eligible for the following opportunities:

1. ABRA Scholarship – A scholarship is offered to any member in good standing who applies by June 1 of each year. The scholarship funds must be applied towards secondary education and confirmation of enrollment must be received before release of funds. Application forms for the above mentioned programs may be obtained from [www.albertabarrelracing.com](http://www.albertabarrelracing.com)
2. ABRA Finals Incentives – For additional fee, Youth and Open finalists may enter one or more of the incentives offered at the finals, if eligible. Currently there are incentives for Senior Riders (50+), Futurity Incentive for horses 5 and under. Derby incentive for horses 8 and under.