



Pole Barrel Race Association™

Rules & Judge's Guide

Updated: June 1, 2020

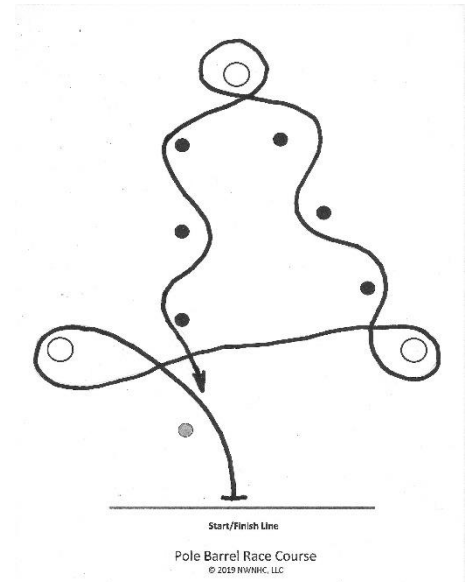
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Race Pattern

The competitor may start as far back from the Start Line as the race venue permits to get up to speed. Horse and rider must then continue to the Turn Cone and turn left towards the first barrel. Horse and rider proceed to the right side of the first barrel and turn to the left (counter-clockwise) and then proceed to the left side of the second barrel and turn to the right (clockwise). Upon completing the turn they proceed to the right side of the first pole to begin their weave. After completing the weave, competitors continue to the left side of third barrel and turn around to the right (clockwise). Upon completing the turn, they proceed to the right side of the first pole to begin their weave towards the Finish Line, being sure to weave all poles and the Turn Cone.



Ground conditions

The ground conditions must remain consistent throughout the event.

The ground around the barrels must be reworked and leveled after each 5 contestants have competed.

Race Timing

Time starts and ends when one of the horse's front hooves crosses the start/finish line or when the horse's body crosses the electronic timing gate.

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

A contestant will be disqualified for running out of turn.

A contestant will be given a "no time" for knocking over a barrel, pole or cone. A "no time" will also be given if a barrel, pole or cone is knocked over and it sets up again on either end.

A contestant may touch a barrel or pole if it does not result in alteration of the course or an obstacle's position. Should the course or position be altered, the competitor will receive a "no time."

A contestant will be given a "no time" if the horse falls during the run or the rider falls off the horse.

Barrels, poles or cone moved off its marker during competition must be reset prior to the next competitor's run.

Scoring

The horse/rider relationship and the competitor's skills are of paramount importance in pole-barrel racing. As such, each competitor will receive a horsemanship score from 1 - 10. Each point is equivalent to a .5 second reduction in their time for a score between 6 and above, and a .5 second increase in time for a score of 4 or less.

A minimum of two qualified judges will provide a score for each competitor and run. Scores are at each judge's discretion.

Starting at five (5) as an average mark, judges will add or subtract points based on the following criteria. One (1) is considered a poor relationship and technique. Ten (10) is considered an exemplary relationship and technique.

10 points

Willing horse, quiet use of the hands and legs in the poles, lack of spurring and/or whipping between barrels, correct lead changes, appreciation for horse's performance (no matter the result)

1 point

Horse refuses, behaves poorly or dangerously, rider uses reins/bit aggressively or in the poles, spurs or whips horse aggressively, punishes the horse for poor performance.

Horsemanship scores between judges will be averaged for competitor's horsemanship score.

Equine Competitors

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 one person in a class, unless the following conditions are met:

- Both contestants are members of the same immediate family who reside in the same household (husband, wife, siblings, children and grandchildren). Children and grandchildren who are attending school away from home, but who reside part of the year with their parents or grandparents are included under this rule.
- Neither contestant is showing any other horse in that class.

In no case will the same horse be run more than four times in a competition and will require at least a five-minute break between runs. Competitors or race officials may adjust draw positions to assure the safety of the horse.

Entries and Draw

Entries will close when the first horse in a class runs, or at an earlier time as specified by the race organizer(s). No entries will be accepted after the first horse in that class has entered the arena.

The draw shall be done in a random manner. 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, as

defined above, which have drawn up close to each other. The draw may not be changed to give preference to any rider or to accommodate another rider commitment.

Only one horse may be in the competition arena at any time during competition.

Runs & Reruns

Reruns shall be granted if the timer fails to work properly or if the obstacles are not placed properly on their markers.

Contestants who are given a no-time, either for missing the pattern or knocking down an obstacle, may complete the pattern. However, show management may, at its discretion, ask a rider to leave the arena if they are taking excessive time to complete the course.

Race officials have the right to disqualify any uncontrolled horse which does not begin its run within three minutes of the time the rider has been called.

Competition Classes

There can be up to six different classes in a competition. A minimum of four competitors in any one class is required to award ribbons, trophies or prize money for that class. PBRA members may compete in any class, no matter the number of competitors, in order to earn points towards district or national totals.

Open Any amateur* of any age

Senior Any amateur 50 years and above

Adult Any amateur 19 - 49

Teen Any amateur 14 - 18

Youth Any Amateur 8 – 13

Professional Any adult who is “recognized” as an equine riding instructor/trainer, who’s primary occupation is as an instructor/trainer, who competes professionally in equine sports or is a sponsored competitor.

*An amateur is any person who enjoys equine activities and sports for the love of the experience and is not compensated as an equine instructor/trainer.

Show management may allow a competitor in any class to rollover their time into the Open Class. Contestants wishing to do so must declare their intent to a judge or race official before the start of the event and pay the entry fee for both classes.

Tack

Western Tack is preferred for all events, but not required. We wish to encourage all horse owners to participate. Horses may race in a bit, bitless bridle, hackamore, halter or cavesson (with bit or snaffle). Mechanical hackamores, tie downs, martingales, drop nose bands and any form of gag bit or slip bit is

not allowed. Horses must not be shown with artificial appliances that would tend to alter their performance; no material of any kind, including tongue-ties, may be placed in the horse's mouth other than a standard western bit or a snaffle bit. Spurs are allowed but excessive use will be penalized.

The PBRA judges and/or event veterinarian have the obligation, responsibility and authority to prohibit any tack they consider harmful to the horse's welfare.

Race Attire

Contestants at officially-sanctioned events must abide by the following dress code:

- Jeans or riding breeches
- Long sleeve shirt
- Cowboy or riding boots
- Helmet, cowboy hat or ball cap

All contestants are encouraged to wear an ASTM/SEI certified riding helmet when mounted. Minors under the age of 18 MUST wear a helmet at all times when mounted. (See details below)

Horse Welfare

Horses competing in PBRA events may be of any breed. They must be no younger than three years of age based on their date of birth (DOB). Proof of birth date may be by official birth records or examination and certification by a licensed veterinarian. There are no gender restrictions. All riders are expected to make certain their horse is in condition to compete in the competition.

Every horse shall be treated with dignity and respect. Any action or treatment that is deemed to be cruel, abusive or inhumane will result in immediate disqualification from a PBRA event, whether sanctioned or not.

Any such disqualifications shall be reported to the PBRA by the host or other participant within three days of the event. The report must include the horse's name (common and/or registered), participants name, address, email, and particulars of the incident. The PBRA will review the details of the incident and have the right, at its discretion, to revoke membership and award points and ban participant from further competitions for not less than one year. Individual participants and/or hosts who condone such behavior may be reported.

The PBRA judges and/or event veterinarian have the obligation, responsibility and authority to disqualify any horse that is obviously lame. Lameness is determined if:

- Horse is showing consistent lameness at a trot
- Obvious nodding, hitching and shortened stride
- Minimal weight bearing while moving or standing still

Competitors are expected to be of appropriate weight for the size and condition of their horse. Judges and/or event veterinarian have the obligation, responsibility and authority to disqualify any competitor

for excessive loadbearing. Appropriate weight is defined as the recommended standard of no more than 20% of the horse's body weight. That include both tack and rider.

All competitors are encouraged to use sport boots to support and prevent injury to their horse's hocks, tendons, and suspensory ligaments. Proper warm-up exercises and after-race care to reduce inflammation are encouraged. This may take the form of ice bathing, photobiomodulation (i.e. red light therapy, laser therapy, photonic therapy), or acupuncture.

Use of equine stimulants, narcotics, anti-inflammatories, etc. used to enhance equine performance or mask injury are strictly forbidden and subject to disqualification and disciplinary action by the event host and PBRA. United States Equestrian Federation (USDF) guidelines for drugs and medications are used as the PBRA standard (https://www.usef.org/forms-pubs/2Zp2C_YKs4s/drugs-medications-guidelines). Any medications given to the horse within the past 30 days must be reported to the event host/club at the time of registration. Use of Phenylbutazone (Bute) is permitted, but no earlier than 12 hours before racing.

Current vaccinations for equine competitors are encouraged for the welfare of all. Vaccination requirements are at the discretion of the event host/club.

All District, National or International PBRA-sanctioned events should have post-race exams by a licensed veterinarian.

Human welfare

All riders are expected to compete within their individual capabilities.

A competitor may be prohibited or disqualified to participate in a PBRA event if suspected of, known to be, or proven to be under the influence of alcohol, narcotics, cannabis, or any natural or artificial stimulant. All event participants and officials are under obligation to report infractions to event authorities for review and any possible action.

All competitors are encouraged to wear an ASTM/SEI certified equestrian helmet when mounted. Those who chose NOT to have this protection must sign a separate waiver indemnifying the PBRA and the race organizers from any legal or financial responsibility for injury. CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF 18, WHETHER COMPETING OR NOT, **MUST** WEAR AN ASTM/SEI CERTIFIED HELMET WHEN MOUNTED. THIS REQUIREMENT APPLIES WHILE COMPETING, PRACTICING OR PLEASURE RIDING ANYWHERE AT THE EVENT LOCATION. Failure to follow these requirements can result in disqualification of a competitor whether they are racing or are the guardian of the person(s) racing.

A parent or their adult designate may be on the course when a minor is competing. The purpose of the parent or designate is for safety, not coaching the rider. Due to safety, fairness, and insurance

standards, it is prohibited for anyone to follow a rider or “speak from the sidelines” for the purpose of coaching, promoting, encouraging, or assisting the rider during their run. Positive spectator cheering to encourage all competitors is acceptable.

Abusive language or physical threats towards race officials or other competitors by a competitor, trainer or supporter will result in immediate disqualification of competitor and horse from the PBRA event. Further restriction or ban from competing in PBRA events may result.

The rider or the parent(s) / legal guardian in the case of riders under the age of 18, assumes all responsibility for participation in a PBRA event and must sign a Release of Liability form to participate. Any saddle adaptation or device that holds a youth competitor in the saddle is PROHIBITED.

Liability Insurance

Clubs/organizations holding Pole Barrel Race events must carry liability insurance of at least \$1 million. Sanctioned events must name NWNHC, LLC as co-insured.

Member & Entry Fees

Competitors wishing to be eligible for District or National award points and annual honors must become a member of the Pole Barrel Race Association. Membership fees may be paid by, check, bank card or through PayPal. Membership forms may be completed online or downloaded from the PBRA website and sent to: NWNHC Productions, 32925-A SE 46th St., Fall City, WA 98024

Annual PBRA Membership

Adult	\$50 USD
Youth	\$30 USD
Family Membership	\$100 USD

Recommended Event Entry Fees

Adult or Youth Non-Member	\$30 USD
Adult Member	\$25 USD
Youth Member	\$20 USD

Awards & Payouts

Added Money Payout	100%
Entry Fee Distribution Payout	50%
Year End Awards	30%
Club Management	20%

This is exclusive of other fees which may be charged for specific purposes such as, timer fee, horsemanship judges, or arena fee. While we permit such charges, they must not be excessive, must be

clearly stated in all advertising and show bills, and must be directed to the specific purposes as labeled, for example, the timer fees must either be paid to the timer owner/operator, or put toward the purchase of a timer for the sponsor or local club.

The suggested payoff schedule per Class is:

1st Place	50%
2nd Place	30%
3rd Place	20%

Sanctioned Events

A “Club” may be an individual PBRA member or a group of PBRA members that host sanctioned PBRA events during the year.

A Club shall submit a PBRA Event Application a minimum of 30 days prior to the scheduled event.

A one-time event fee of \$100 may be paid for organizations or event producers who would like to host a trial event. Fees paid will be credited towards an annual Club membership.

There is a \$265.00 annual sanctioning fee for each Club. The Club may host one or multiple events during the year. The Club President or a designated Club representative must also be a full member of PBRA for the purpose of hosting events.

The Club establishes the amount of the entry fee for each of their events. PBRA shall receive \$10.00 per entry fee for administrative services.

Following the PBRA Event, the Club must send the original Excel score sheets to pbra@nwnhc.com. Mail check for administration fees (\$10 per rider, per class) to PBRA within 5 business days of the conclusion of an event. Mail to: NWNHC Productions, 32925-A SE 46th St., Fall City WA 98024. Credit card payments may be arranged. Any score sheets not submitted within five business days from the conclusion of the event will be subject to a fine of \$25.00 per day.

Following an event, points will not be posted until all paperwork and fees have been received by the PBRA office.

Questions & Inquiries

Pole Barrel Race Association
32925-A SE 46th St
Fall City, WA 98025
nwnhc@nwnhc.com
425-222-3623

Judge's Guide

Time Scoring

Time scoring may be done with an electronic timing device within 1000th of a second. Manual timing (stopwatch) shall be done by at least two judges and a backup timekeeper. The clock starts when a front hoof crosses the start/finish line and ends when a front hoof crosses that same line. Any discrepancy in time between judges will default to the faster time. Backup time will be used in the case of one judge forgetting to click or engage the stop on their watch or in mediating a large time discrepancy between judges.

Horsemanship Scoring

The horse/rider relationship and the competitor's skills are of paramount importance in pole-barrel racing. As such, each competitor will receive a horsemanship score from 1 - 10. A horsemanship score of 5 is considered average and your starting point. A score of six and above is equivalent to a .5 second reduction in a competitor's time, per point. A score of 4 or less will result in an increase in time of .5 seconds for every point below 5.

Examples:

Score of 6+		Score of 4 or less	
Course Time	20.000 sec.	Course Time:	20.000 sec.
Horsemanship Score	8	Horsemanship Score	2
Time Reduction	1.75 sec. (3 x .5)	Time Increase	1.75 sec. (3 x .5)
Run Score	18.250	Run Score	21.750

Horsemanship points are at the discretion of the judge based on their knowledge, experience and the average skill level of the class that is being judged. An approximately .5 point increase or decrease in scoring of the following may be used as a guide.

Point reductions (- .5 per incident)

- Incorrect lead(s)
- Gaping mouth
- Excessive spurring/kicking
- Hanging on or using reins to maintain balance
- Being heavy handed
- Having excessive speed going into an obstacle creating an unnecessary risk for the horse and rider
- Going too fast for conditions
- Unbalanced horse and human

Point increases (+ .5 per incident)

- Starting on and maintaining the correct lead(s)
- Riding on a loose rein
- Effective and appropriate use of legs
- Secure seat and balance
- Quiet hands through the poles
- Good speed control
- Appropriate speed for conditions
- Keeping the horse collected and maintaining proper balance through obstacles

Other Considerations

Horses competing in PBRA events may be of any breed. There are no age or gender restrictions. All riders are expected to make certain their horse is in condition to compete in the competition.

Every horse shall be treated with dignity and respect. Any action or treatment that is deemed by the judges, event organizers or PBRA officials to be cruel, abusive or inhumane will result in immediate disqualification from a PBRA event, whether sanctioned or not.

The PBRA judges and/or event veterinarian have the obligation, responsibility and authority to disqualify any horse that is obviously lame. Lameness is determined if:

- Horse is showing consistent lameness at a trot
- Obvious nodding, hitching and shortened stride
- Minimal weight bearing while moving or standing still

A parent or their adult designate may be on the course when a minor is competing. The purpose of the parent or designate is for safety, not coaching the rider. Infractions of this code will result in disqualification of the competitor.

Due to safety, fairness and insurance standards, it is prohibited for anyone to follow a rider or “speak from the sidelines” for the purpose of coaching, promoting, encouraging, or assisting the rider during their run. Positive spectator cheering to encourage all competitors is acceptable.

Those not abiding by these rules shall be warned to refrain from such actions on first offense. Second offense will result in disqualification of the competitor being “coached” or a request for the offender to leave the area.

Abusive language or physical threats towards race officials or other competitors by a competitor, trainer or supporter will result in immediate disqualification of competitor and horse from the PBRA event. Further restriction or ban from competing in PBRA events may result.

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