The NB/PEI Barrel Horse Association Code of Practice

WE ARE COMMITTED to the dignity, humane care, health, safety and welfare of horses in all our activities. These are our highest priorities. We are the stewards of our horses and must be firm in the standards and practices that guide us.

WE ARE COMMITTED to making all competitions fair and ensuring all competitors an equal opportunity to succeed. Performance-enhancing drugs, practices or equipment have no place in our competitions or exhibitions. The welfare of the horse must take precedence over the demands or expectations of owners, breeders, trainers, sellers, buyers, organizers, sponsors, officials or spectators.

WE ARE COMMITTED to providing an environment in which anyone aware of equine cruelty or neglect is willing to report it to the NPBHA directors. Should an incident occur at an event, it should be reported immediately.

New Brunswick/ Prince Edward Island Barrel Horse Association Rules **NPBHA Rules effective April 2026**

Section 1 - Competition rules: Our most important rule is – Have Fun Section I - General Regulations

1. It is the responsibility of each competitor to be aware of the rules. Should any dispute arise regarding the interpretation or enforcement of these rules, a competitor may appeal to the show committee. A decision will be made by most of the board of directors present at that event, and that decision will be final.

2. Any situation not covered under these rules shall be decided by the NPBHA board members in attendance at the event.

3. All participants in NPBHA events must be members in good standing; this includes all owners and riders. All owners and riders must carry liability insurance and are responsible for providing the correct insurance information on their entry forms.

4. In years where the NPBHA hosts a FINALS event, eligibility to compete in the open 3D classes at the FINALS is limited to those who have entered and competed in the same class on the same horse at a minimum of 1 event in PEI and 1 event in NB in the same year. This rule does NOT apply to small fry and youth divisions.

5. In years when Youth Rookie of the year awards are offered, 2 awards will be presented based on combined points earned in youth barrel and pole classes. One award will be given to the High Point Youth 13 & under, and one to High Point Youth 14 – 18. To be eligible for these awards the youth rider must not have earned NPBHA points in any previous years.

6. A horse/pony may not be shown by more than one person in a class, except for small fry.

7. All horses entered in a class must be assembled in ample time for runs to start on time and continue without delay. They must remain in readiness in case of a tie.

8. In the event of a tie for first place only, a runoff must be held. Ties for other places will be left as is. However, for example, if a tie occurs for second there will be no third-place award. The prize money for the tied placing will be added with the next placing and split

9. Riders will be called to the ring via the PA system. Riders have 120 seconds to enter the ring and cross the timer. Upon entering the ring there will be no further signal. At shows with a designated start area (chute), riders must have their horses' front feet inside the designated area before starting their run. Riders may be eliminated from that run if commencing their run before the designated area, and/ or if they delay the event because of refusal of the horse to enter the arena. The Judge's decision is final.

10. A horse/pony will be rerun if equipment breakage occurs before the Starting line. The contestant shall be placed at the bottom of the running order and allowed five minutes from the time of breakage to rest and repair the equipment. It is the Judge's decision on when the breakage occurred.

11. If a pole or barrel is hit by a horse/pony or rider in such a manner that it hits the ground, or hits the ground and right itself, that run will be assessed a 5 second penalty for a knock down. Picking up a pole and moving it, or deliberately moving a barrel, will also result in a five second penalty.

12. A contestant will be given a no time if the horse or rider falls during the run in such a manner as to break the pattern, or if the rider falls off the horse.

13. Except for small fry, a handler may not position a horse or pony as to gain an advantage, nor shall a handler physically encourage a horse or pony.

14. Running order will be determined by random computer draw. Horses/Ponies will run in the order of the draw, except when one rider has more than one entry. When the number of entries allow, a rider with more than one entry will be allowed a space of at least five entries between each of his/her mounts. At exhibitions or other large events, order of go may be decided by organizers (e.g., slowest to fastest from previous runs).

15. Judges are required to ensure that the course is properly set. It is recommended that the starting line be set in the same place in the same arena each time unless unsafe conditions warrant a change.

16. An electronic timer must be always used. This is the responsibility of the show committee. Horses are to be timed on the nose.

17. Starting line markers and electric timers are to be set a good distance apart in the arena; at least as far apart as the first and second barrels are set.

18. Should the timer fail then that horse/pony shall be given a rerun after all the others in that class have run or immediately upon timer being reset without leaving the ring. Riders to decide on the option. If the timer fails in any re-ride that person may have their class fee back or another re- ride, it is the rider's option.

19. A minimum distance (or as close as possible to) of 50 feet must be made available between the finish line and the end of the arena to give a reasonable stopping distance. Any situation where the distance can be increased should be taken advantage of.

20. A) In barrel racing, the 1st and 2nd barrels must have at least a 15-foot space from the fence and the 3rd barrel at least a 20-foot space from the fence.

B) In pole bending, begin setting the pattern at the far end of the arena (opposite the start/finish line). The first pole must be a minimum of 21 feet off the fence. The remaining poles must be 21 feet apart (center of pole to center of pole) with a 21 feet space from the top pole to the finish line. In smaller arenas, the distance from the end pole to the fence may be shortened. However, the distances between poles, and between the first pole and the start/finish line, must remain at 21 feet.

21. If the footing is reset partway through a class, the option for a re-ride will be given to the previous riders.

Section II -Disqualifications/Suspensions

1. The judge may prohibit the use of bits, bats or equipment that he/she may consider severe. The judge may disqualify a contestant for what they deem to be abuse. The judge's word is final and may not be disputed.

2. Any act deemed prejudicial to the best interests of the NPBHA may result in the suspension of a member, including but not limited to the following: • Using abusive or intemperate language or attempting to threaten, bribe, influence or harass any contestant, show official or NPBHA official. Also, any remarks made with the intent to cast aspersions on the character or integrity of an NPBHA official or show official. • Abuse of a horse in any way. • Competing while under the influence of drugs or alcohol. • Other conduct that is not in the best interest of the NPBHA or its members. • Failure to make good on a returned check to the NPBHA. • Show Management and/or NPBHA Directors at their sole discretion shall have the authority to disqualify or deny entry to any horse they deem dangerous to the rider, or to other individuals, animals on property.

Section III Divisions

The NPBHA divisions are Small Fry, Youth 13 and Under, Youth 14 and Over, 3D Barrels and 3D Poles, Open Stakes, Adult Class, Green Class. The following rules determine the division you can show in:

1. Small-fry riders are riders 10 years of age and under as of January 1st of the current show year and cannot enter any other division. Once a small-fry enters another division in a show where small-fry classes are offered, they are no longer classified as small-fry. Riders must have a waiver signed and show proof of insurance. At designated events such as exhibitions, no lead entries will be allowed. Any entries led will be placed after all other riders that negotiate the course on their own, even if those riders go off course.

2. Youth are 18 years of age and under as of January 1st of the current show year. No person 18 years of age and under may ride/or handle a stallion at NPBHA Sanctioned events.

3. 3D Barrels - the first 3 fastest horses will be placed to form the 1D (1st division) and then 0.5 second will be added to the third placed horse's time in that division, and the next 3 horses will be placed to form the 2D (2nd Division). Half a second will be added to the third placed horse's time in the 2D to determine the start of the 3D, and three horses will be placed in the 3D. This is to ensure that 3 horses are placed in each division.

Example:

1st division

15.2

16.0

16.3

2nd Division starts at 16.8 and places three

16.8

17.1

17.3

3rd division starts at 17.8 and places three

3D Poles– the first three fastest horses will be placed to form the 1D. 1 second will be added to the third placed horse's time in the division, and the next 3 horses will be placed to form the 2D (2nd division). One second will be added to the last placed horse's time in the 2D to determine the start of the 3D or third division.

If a rider knocks during the 3 D division, in either barrels or poles, they will be disqualified. Their time will be recorded.

4. Adult – Open to riders over the age of 19 that fall within the following parameters:

• If the horse/rider combo runs a barrel time faster than 17 seconds and a pole time faster than 27 seconds, they will no longer be eligible to compete in the Adult Class and must move to the 3D or Open divisions to compete.

5. Green – Open to all riders excluding small fry participants that fall within the following parameters:

• If the horse/rider combo runs a barrel time faster than 20 seconds and a pole time faster than 30 seconds, they will no longer be eligible to compete in the Green Class and must move to the 3D or Open divisions to compete.

Section IV– Fees

1. Entry fees at jackpots will be $10 per Youth class, $10 per Green class, $20 per Adult class and $20 per 3D and Open divisional classes. Class fees are not charged for small-fry classes. Entry forms and fees are due the Friday, one week prior to each event. Forms and or fees received after the due date will be subject to a $30 late fee. Entries will close the Sunday prior to each event.

2. Shows may charge additional fees for grounds use, stabling, and other fees as necessary. Such additional fees shall also apply to Small-fry entries.

3. Refund of show fees for lameness/illness. A refund of 75% will be awarded at the discretion of the board if lameness or illness occurs at a show. If lameness occurs at home, then a VET, FERRIER, CHIRO OR MASSAGE THERAPIST note is required before refund is permitted.

Section V– Show Sanctioning/Payouts/Points/Awards

1. Each person can register and ride no more than 2 horses total per competition day. Points are accumulated on a horse/rider combination. (At the board's discretion upon request, a member may ride a 3rd horse for training purposes without accumulation of year end points).

2. For the purposes of accumulating points, changes to the horse/rider combination may be allowed only in the event of injury to horse or rider. In such a situation, an application must be made to the board of directors to replace the horse. The points won to date by the horse/rider combination will be transferred to the new horse/rider combination. Ex: If Horse A is unable to race, the rider is able to replace with Horse B. If Horse A is able to return at any point later in the season, the points that were previously accumulated by Horse B(replacement) will be added to the initial horse/rider combo. This switch can only happen once during a season.

3. Those clubs, groups, or individuals wishing to host an NBPHA pointed jackpot must send a letter or email requesting the date of the event, the anticipated base prize money, and other awards. The president of the NBPHA will respond to each request.

4. For the small fry divisions, jackpots must provide at least ribbons or prizes for each class

5. A record of Payout monies will be kept by each show committee accompanied by a breakdown per class.

6. For 3D each division will be paid as follows: 1D(45%), 2D(30%), 3D(25%). Within those divisions, percentages will be paid as follows: 1ST(45%), 2ND(30%), 3RD(25%). When there are 40 riders or more we will add a 4D division. Percentages for 4D will be paid as follows: 1D(40%), 2D(25%), 3D(20%), 4D(15%). Once a 4D division is added, percentages within those

divisions will be paid as follows: 1ST(45%), 2ND(30%), 3RD(25%).

7. Open Stakes – Open to all riders, except Small Fry. Payouts calculated as follows: • Entry Fees totaling $299.00 or less, per class will be placed to 6th

• Entry Fees totaling $300.00 to $599.00 will be placed to 8th

• Entry Fees totaling $600.00 or more, will be placed to 10th

The percentages to be paid will be as follows:

• six placings - 32%, 23%, 15%, 12%, 10%, 8%

• eight placings - 27%, 22%, 18%, 13%, 9%, 6%, 3%, 2%

• ten placings - 24%, 19%, 16%, 13%, 8%, 6%, 5%, 4%, 3%, 2%

8. Youth divisions will be paid out to 5th place. The divisions will be paid as follows: ♣ 35%, 27%, 16%, 12%, 10%

9. Adult divisions will be paid out to 5th place, and paid as follows:

- ❖ 35%, 27%, 16%, 12%, 10%

Green Class will not have payouts, but will receive ribbons to 5th place.

10. For year-end divisional awards the point tally will be based on the following:

• All barrel and pole classes will be pointed in the same format. First place in a division will receive 1 extra bonus point on top of the number of entries in that class, all other competitors will be awarded points based on the number of entries.

Those eliminated will receive a time but will not receive points for that run. Example – 25 riders – 1st 25 points +1 for winning the division, 2nd 24, 3rd 23 until all points are awarded. No points awarded to DQ runs in 3D only. Off pattern/scratched runs will not accumulate points in any class.

. • For youth divisional awards (13 & under and 14 and over) All Youth competitors in youth barrels and youth poles will be awarded points same as above:

11. Small Fry riders are riders 10 years of age and under as of January 1st; all small fry participants must attend at least 2 shows to be awarded at the year end banquet.

12. In order to qualify for year end awards the horse/rider combo must attend at least one show in each province (NB & PEI).

13. ALL participating Youth members qualify for year end awards and are not subject to the criteria of having attended a show in each province but must attend at least 2 shows.

14. When year-end overall High Point Barrel and overall High Point Pole awards, or Youth Overall High Point Barrel and High Point Pole Awards are given, all points from all barrel and pole runs will be added together to determine the winners. The point tally will be based on the number of competitors in each class. For example, if 25 competitors run, first place will receive 26 points, 2nd 24, etc. until all entries in the class have received points. If entries are disqualified, they will be placed at the bottom of the class and will not receive points for that run.

Section VI– Dress Code and Equipment

1. Western type equipment must be used.

2. Competitors must make a point of being dressed neatly and cleanly. Apparel must include a western hat or helmet, a collared long or short sleeved western shirt, jeans, and western type boot. This rule also applies to the warm up ring, 30 minutes prior to the event.

3. Short sleeved shirts of a western design may be used at jackpots if decided upon by the organizing committee of that event.

4. Any contestant crossing the starting line without a western hat or helmet on his/her head will be disqualified. If a contestant loses their hat/helmet they will receive a warning. If they lose it a 2nd time during the same day of racing, they will have 5 seconds added to their time. Hat chin straps and tie downs are permitted.

5. Riders 18 years of age and under (age as of January first of the current year) must wear a C.S.A. approved helmet, properly fastened, in competition and on show grounds.