

## **Above Barrel Association**

**Founder: Laci Brooke Bearden Bellew**

**Above Barrel Association (ABA) was created to give barrel racers and their families a place to participate in the sport we love while worshiping our Lord and Savior. It is a chance for us all to be the disciples he wants us to be through prayer, fellowship, leadership, compassion, and encouragement that we all can show to each other. We pride ourselves on making sure we put prayer first before all things, show good sportsmanship at all times and have a family, fun atmosphere for everyone to come and enjoy the sport we love. God gave us this vision to use our passions for his work, and we are striving to see it through.**

**The blessings that have come through this organization in the past years are phenomenal. The growth of the organization's membership and the participation and payout at each show are more than we ever imagined. The hard work of everyone to help the shows run smooth and be something to encourage others to attend is a true gift from God.**

**With growth always comes a greater need for more options, direction and organization. Attached is an updated list of classes and rules for the 2025 ABA season.**

**Above Barrel Association wants this to be another great year of His blessing!!**

**Always remember to put GOD and PRAYER first!**

# Above Barrel Association

## 2025

### Memberships

1. Anyone is welcomed to run at an ABA show. Non Member fee is \$5.00 at each show or membership is \$100.00 for the whole year for open/adult/highstakes/youth riders. \$50 for the whole year for Pee Wee riders. \$30 for leadline. Only members will receive points for year-end awards.
2. Family Discount up to 3 family members who live in the same household.
3. \$10.00 off each additional family member.

### Classes

1. 4D Pee Wee Barrels – 10 yrs and under as of January 1, 2025
  - This class is intended for beginners and novice riders
  - A horse can be ridden by multiple riders
  - D's are in 4 second splits on payout
  - This class is intended to be a NOVICE PEE WEE class. If you enter the Pee Wee, YOU CANNOT ENTER OPEN OR YOUTH.
2. 5D Open Barrels – All Ages (Points 5D)
  - D's are ½ second splits on payout
3. 4D Youth Barrels – (over 25 entries will be 4D) - 19 yrs and under as of January 1, 2025
  - D's are whole second splits for 3D. Over 25 entries 4D format of ½, whole, whole.
4. Lead line – 7 years old and under

This class is for assisted riders only.

To participate in this class, you must be either lead or have a helper walking with you the entire time in the arena.

This class will run with the Pee Wee Barrels class and then be given payback and points separately. Payback on this class will be Ribbons or Small Awards each show. No Money Payback Except at the finals.

Entry Fee for this class is \$5.

Points for this class is straight 1-10 places. No Divisions.

Age exception for this class will be any child with a disability.

This Class will run with the Pee Wee Class & awards given seperatly
5. ADULT CLASS- AGES 19 AND OVER

This is a side-pot class.

You must roll over from Open to have money and awards count for this class.

2023 Top 2 in each D will receive awards.

4D ½, whole, whole payout and points.

Entry Fee will be \$25 for 2023.

Entry fees will vary according to added money.

No Buy Backs in any event this year.

## General Rules

1. There is a \$5 gate fee that ALL persons must pay when entering the grounds unless under the age of 6 years old. This fee helps to pay for use of arenas and awards. OR, There is a \$10 Office charge per rider.
2. No use or possession of alcohol or drugs at or during an ABA event.
3. All contestants must be in appropriate attire when entering the arena. No shorts, spaghetti strap tanks, strapless tops, or open toe shoes. No shirts or caps with inappropriate language or pictures. We want you to be safe while giving the right impression for what the organization stands for.
4. All equine must be saddled and equipped when entering the arena for competition. Failure to do so will result in a No Time.
5. All entry forms must be completely filled out and signed by rider or guardian before competing. Please designate someone to fill out your entry form to get you entered when needed but be sure to go by and sign. Please do not call or text office staff or messenger to enter. Things get really busy for these people and we don't want anyone missed because it wasn't seen in time.
6. All fees should be paid in cash the day of the show. This helps with having cash for the payouts at the end of the show. If an exception is made to take a check and it is returned; there will be a \$30 fee and any other bank fees charged. You will not be allowed to enter any races as long as the fees are not paid.
7. All tabs must be paid before the end of the show.
8. Entries for each class will close when the first horse runs in that class, unless specified at an earlier time in the show bill. Under no circumstances will entries be taken for that class after the first horse has entered the arena.
9. No scratches will be refunded after the first horse runs in that class.
10. Rider or position changes will not be made after the first horse runs in that class.
11. Only one horse may be in the competition arena at any time during competition.
12. Open arena is in designated time slots before the show starts. Must be signed up for time slot before entering the open arena and have arm band. Please be respectful and courteous to other riders in the arena with you. (no stopping behind barrels, etc)
13. 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 except the Pee Wee Class and Novice Class.(unless Immediate Family Member in same household and only have one horse)
14. An ABA barrel race is a timed event using three identical barrels set in a cloverleaf pattern. (Barrels must be empty. They must not have any weights in them which will make it less likely for them to be knocked over.)
15. The starting gate or gates must remain the same throughout the entire event.
16. The start/finish line and the barrel positions should be marked and must remain the same throughout the entire event.
17. Any time a contestant crosses the starting line, time will begin.
18. A contestant will be given a "no time" for missing/breaking the pattern or a knocked down barrel.
19. A contestant will be disqualified for running out of turn. It is the contestant's responsibility to know his/her draw position.
20. A contestant will be given a "no time" for knocking over a barrel. A "no time" will also be given if a barrel is knocked over and it sets up again on either end. Touching a barrel, including keeping it from falling, is permitted without penalty.
21. 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.
22. If a barrel is moved off its marker during competition, the barrel must be reset prior to the next competitor's run.

23. 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 rerun shall result in a no time.
24. ABA Staff have the right to disqualify any uncontrolled horse which does not begin performance within 90 Seconds of the time the rider has been called. This rule does not apply to competitors who have not checked in with gate personnel.
25. You may only go around a barrel one time. NO Exceptions.
26. When the tractor is going, No horses are to be in the arena. No horses are to be in the arena or in the alleyway during a big drag.
27. Pre-Entry Refunds will be given up until the first horse runs in a division. Stalls will not be refunded. You may sell your own stall. Exhibitions will not be refunded. You can sell your exhibitions but they must be paid for. Any type of electronic Payments must be sent friends and family.

## **PENALTIES AND/OR DISQUALIFICATIONS**

\*ABA membership and participation in ABA events is a privilege, not a right. Behavior which is damaging to our Association or its membership will not be tolerated. Violation of any of the following provisions may subject a member to disqualification from ABA events, being denied entry to ABA events, loss of points, or suspension from the Association.

1. Any act in connection with an ABA sanctioned show or other ABA business in violation of this section by a member of the family of an ABA member may be deemed to have been committed by the ABA member and subject him or her to penalties.
2. Any act deemed prejudicial to the best interests of the ABA 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 ABA staff. Also, any remarks made with the intent to cast aspersions on the character or integrity of an ABA Staff or show official. There will be a 50.00 fine for anyone who breaks this rule. You will not be allowed to return until said fine is paid.
  - b. Moving or attempting to move markers at any time.
  - c. Use of electronic and/or remotely controlled devices to alter the outcome of a run.
  - d. Abuse of a horse in any way.
  - e. Competing while under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
  - f. Other conduct that is not in the best interest of the ABA or its members.
  - g. Failure to make good on a returned check to the ABA or to any ABA sanctioned event, or to any other association which has a cooperative agreement with the ABA on returned checks.
  - h. Show Management and/or ABA Staff 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 or property.

I. Contestant that has been deemed failed to comply with the above rules can be banned, suspended or fined \$50.00 for any un-sportsman like conduct or continuing to break the rules. No tolerance will be accepted for any contestant to be ugly or rude or un-sportsmanship like to any staff member or rider.

j. Intentional Misrepresentation of age or novice status can result in a \$100 fine and disqualification.

## Payout

The required payoff for ABA shows is as follows:

1. A minimum of 75% of all entry fees must go to the jackpot.
2. Added money will be divided in the same ratio OR split evenly among all divisions.
3. There are no restrictions regarding how added money is apportioned among classes at a show. For example, a show may add money to the Open but not to Youth or Novice.

## 3-D Format

### Number of Entries

Places.....	1-10 .....	11-15.....	16-30 .....	31-60.....	61-90
1st .....	100% .....	60% .....	50% .....	40% .....	30%
2nd .....	40% .....	30% .....	30% .....	25%	
3rd .....	20% .....	20% .....	20%		
4th .....	10% .....	15%			
5th .....	10%				

### Number of Entries

Places ....	91-120 .....	121-150 .....	151-180 .....	181-210 .....	211+
1st .....	28% .....	26% .....	24% .....	22% .....	20%
2nd .....	22% .....	20% .....	18% .....	16% .....	15%
3rd .....	18% .....	15% .....	15% .....	14% .....	13%
4th .....	14% .....	12% .....	12% .....	12% .....	11%
5th .....	10% .....	10% .....	10% .....	10% .....	10%
6th .....	8% .....	9% .....	8% .....	8% .....	8%
7th .....	8% .....	7% .....	7% .....	6.5%	
8th .....	6% .....	6% .....	6%		
9th .....	5% .....	5.5%			
10th .....	5%				

## 4-D Format

### Number of Entries

Places .....	1-12 .....	13-20 .....	21-40 .....	41-80 .....	81-120
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1st .....	100% .....	60% .....	50% .....	40% .....	30%
2nd .....	40% .....	30% .....	30% .....	25%	
3rd .....	20% .....	20% .....	20%		
4th .....	10% .....	15%			
5th .....	10%				

### Number of Entries

Places ...	121-160 .....	161-200 .....	201+ .....
1st .....	28% .....	26% .....	24% .....
2nd .....	22% .....	20% .....	18% .....
3rd .....	18% .....	15% .....	15% .....
4th .....	14% .....	12% .....	12% .....
5th .....	10% .....	10% .....	10% .....
6th .....	8% .....	9% .....	8% .....
7th .....	8% .....	7% .....	
8th .....	6%		

### 5-D Format

Places	1-20	21-40	41-80	81-150	150-200	201+
1st	60%	50%	40%	30%	28%	24%
2nd	40%	30%	30%	25%	22%	18%
3rd		20%	20%	20%	18%	15%
4th			10%	15%	14%	12%
5th				10%	10%	10%
6th					8%	8%
7th						7%
8th						6%

4. At any ABA show, if not enough riders qualify in a division as monies to be paid, the money which is unaccounted for shall be divided equally among those who have placed in that division. If no riders qualify in a division, the prize money for that division shall be equally divided among those riders in the other divisions of that class who have won prize money.

### Earned Points and Awards

1. Points start the day you pay your membership. No Exceptions. Please be sure to get a receipt for your records in case of questions. Please keep your ABA Card that will be mailed or given to you at the show or the Receipt.
2. Points will be based off the division you run in regardless of the fastest member. This is a change in the 2023 Rule Book.
3. Points will start at 10 and go to 3. Each person who is a member will at least get 3 points if they get a qualifying time.
4. Pee Wee is 4D 4 second splits. Awards will be given to top 5 in each D. All Contestants Qualifiers will receive ribbons & trophies for the year end along with top 5 awards. This is a NOVICE Class: If your rider's times can

consistently place in the youth, we will ask you to move up to the youth class. However, if you start out in Pee Wee and get better as year progress, you may stay in Pee Wee class and move up the next year.

5. Open Points will be 5D based. Saddles to Each D winner. That is 5 saddles to the open. Other awards will be based on class participation. At least top 3 in each D, possibility of top 5 in each D if money is available.
6. Youth Points will be based on Regular 4D format. That is half, whole, whole second splits. Saddles for the Youth Champion.
7. High stakes will be saddles and top 3 in each D will get awards. 3D with half second splits.
8. Points will be done by rider only. Only one run for each D will receive Points per rider.