Updated 2021

OFFICIAL RULE BOOK

Michigan Barrel Racing Association

* Founded July 29, 1959 –

ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION

MICHIGAN BARREL RACING ASSOCIATION

ARTICLE I

This Association shall be known as the Michigan Barrel Racing Association. (Here after referred to in this document as MBRA). It shall be a non-profit organization in accordance with the laws of the State of Michigan.

ARTICLE II

The purpose of the Michigan Barrel Racing Association shall be as follows:

1. To establish a closer relationship between barrel racers, producers and the public as a whole, to popularize and maintain the cloverleaf barrel race as a main rodeo event in the State of Michigan, to encourage more contestants to participate and to revive the color and glamour of barrel racing, inherent in the sport of rodeo.
2. To set up and maintain a standard set of rules and regulations governing the rodeo and horse show event of cloverleaf barrel racing. Such rules to be so fashioned that each contestant shall have a fair and equal chance. The event shall be a timed event and run strictly on a contest basis.
3. The approval of this event in rodeos and horse shows that use this set of rules. To cooperate with the management of rodeos and horse shows in an effort to make this event one of the top events of the show.
4. To record the winners in the cloverleaf barrel racing contests in such a manner that champions may be declared at the end of each season, for each division.
5. To notify the members of the time and date of approved contests.
6. To encourage the breeding, development and training of finer barrel racing horses.

ARTICLE III

The principle office of business of this association shall be the home of the Secretary in the State of Michigan.

ARTICLE IV

There shall be no capital stock.

# BY LAWS

**ARTICLE I**

## MEETINGS

**SECTION I:**  ANNUAL MEETING

An Annual Banquet and Meeting of the membership shall be held after the conclusion of the Show Season at a given date and place designated by the Board of Directors. Written notice of the Annual Meeting shall be emailed to active members or posted on the Association webite and/or social media at least five (5) days before the meeting.The purpose of the banquet and meeting will be to:

1. Elect, by a majority vote, a President, Vice President and the Board of Directors.
2. Transact such other business as may properly be brought before the meeting.
3. Annual awards may be presented at the Annual Meeting at the discretion of the President/Board of Directors

**SECTION II:** SPECIAL MEETING OF MEMBERSHIP

Special meetings of the membership, for any purpose, or purposes, may be called by the President or Vice President. A meeting may also be called by the Secretary at the request, in writing, of a majority of the Board of Directors.

**SECTION III**: SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD

1. Special meetings of the Board may be called by the President at any time or place, provided that all members of the Board are notified of the meeting beforehand.
2. Special meetings shall be called by the Secretary in like manner at the request of any two (2) directors.
3. A special meeting may be called by the President or Secretary prior to the Annual General Membership Meeting for the purpose of creating an agenda for the Annual General Membership Meeting.

# ARTICLE II

**SECTION I:** Quorum of Directors

1. At all meetings of the Board, a 2/3 majority of the directors must be present to constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.
2. The President shall vote only in the case of a tie.

**SECTION II:** QUORUM OF MEMBERSHIP

At all meetings of the membership, a majority of the membership present shall constitute a quorum.

# ARTICLE III

# MEMBERSHIP

**SECTION I**: GENERAL MEMBERSHIP

1. Membership shall be open to any person who agrees to abide by the By-Laws, Rules and any other order or policies of the MBRA.
2. Members under the age of 18 must have MBRA’s Waiver of Liability form signed by a parent, or legal guardian before they can participate in any MBRA sanctioned show.

**SECTION II:** NON-RESIDENT MEMBERS

1. Non-resident members shall be any persons who reside outside the State of Michigan.
2. Non-resident members shall have the same privileges and obligations as resident members and shall be regarded as such.
3. Non-resident members may be in the Top Ten (or Five) and win MBRA championships.
4. Non-resident members may hold directorship only and are not eligible to serve as an officer of the Association.

**SECTION III:**  MEMBERSHIP RESIGNATION

1. Any member who wishes to resign must do so in writing. Email and text messaging constitutes written notification.
2. Resignation becomes effective when verbal or written resignation is tendered to an officer or Board of Directors member.
3. Membership of any person who has resigned from the MBRA or any affiliated association may be reviewed by the Board of Directors before being accepted.

**ARTICLE IV**

## **MEMBERSHIP FEES AND DUES**

**SECTION I:** ANNUAL DUES

Annual dues for members shall be established by the membership at a meeting of the General Membership. Annual dues amount shall be published by email notice or on the Association website or social media page.

**Section II:** TYPES OF MEMBERSHIPS

1. Individual
2. Youth
3. Family membership – defined as living in the same household and immediate family members (parents, children, legal guardian)

# ARTICLE V

# VOTING AND ELECTIONS

**SECTION I:** ELECTIONS

A complete list of membership, on the roster at the conclusion of the show season, entitled to vote at the ensuring elections, arranged in alphabetical order, with the residence of each, shall be prepared by the Secretary and checked during election and shall be open to the examination of any member.

**SECTION II:** VOTING

1. Each member shall be entitled to one vote. There will be no proxy votes in this association.
2. A majority vote of membership present shall be required for elections.
3. Should less than a quorum of members be present, the President may choose to waive the requirement for a quorum or any member in good standing may make motion to waive the quorum and a majority vote will substantiate acceptance of the waiver.

**ARTICLE VI**

### OFFICERS

**SECTION I:** ELECTION OF OFFICERS

1. The officers of this association shall consist of a President, Vice President and Secretary-Treasurer from the State of Michigan.
2. The President (one year term) and Vice President (one year term) shall be elected by ballot at the Annual Membership Meeting.
3. The Secretary-Treasurer shall be appointed by the President for a term of one year, subject to the approval of the Board of Directors.
4. An officer shall be a member in good standing and reside in Michigan.

**SECTION II:** REMOVAL AND VACANCIES OF OFFICERS

1. The officers of the association shall hold office until their successors are chosen.
2. Any officers elected by the membership may be removed at any time for just cause by the affirmative vote of a majority of the Board of Directors.

**SECTION III:** PRESIDENT’S DUTIES

1. The President shall preside at all meetings of the MBRA and the Board of Directors. She/He shall perform such other duties, as are necessary and incident to proper administration of the Association’s affairs.
2. She/He shall appoint two trustees from the membership to audit the books for the preceding year if discrepancy arises.

**SECTION IV:** VICE PRESIDENT’S DUTIES

The Vice President shall, in the absence or disability of the President, perform the duties and exercise the powers of the President, and perform such other duties as assigned to her/him.

**SECTION V:** SECRETARY/TREASURER’S DUTIES

1. The Secretary and/or Treasurer shall keep and safeguard all records of the business transactions of the association, prepare minutes of meetings, send notice of all meetings and show dates, publish official MBRA Bulletin, maintain a complete roster of membership, have custody of MBRA funds, accounting to the association upon demand.
2. The Secretary and/or Treasurer shall make all payments from the Association by check, unless payee requires a money order, certified check, etc.
3. The President or the Secretary and/or Treasurer of the Association shall sign all written contracts of the Association.
4. Any time there is a change of the Secretary and/or Treasurer of the Association, it shall be the duty of the outgoing Secretary/Treasurer to obtain from the incoming Secretary/Treasurer a signed receipt for all office equipment and supplies, as well as funds on hand at the time of change. Failure to comply will hold the outgoing Secretary and/or Treasurer responsible for any shortages later discovered.

**ARTICLE VII**

### DIRECTORS

**SECTION I:** ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

1. The business of the Association shall be managed by its’ Board of Directors.
2. Directors shall number not more than eleven (11) and not less than six (6) and shall include executive officers.
3. Directors shall be elected by ballot at the annual Meeting. Term for Board of Directors shall be as follows;

* Three (3) Directors will be elected for one (1) year term.
* Four (4) Directors will be elected for a two (2) year term.
* If there is an out-going President, she/he would fill one of the one (1) year Directors positions.
* One (1) Youth Director 1 year term aged 14-18

1. A Director shall be a member in good standing.

**SECTION II:** REMOVAL AND VACANCIES OF DIRECTORS

If the office of any Director or Directors becomes vacant for any reason, the remaining directors, though less than a quorum, shall choose a successor or successors, who shall hold office until the next annual membership meeting and until a successor or successors have been duly elected.

**SECTION III:** DUTIES OF DIRECTORS

1. The Directors shall make efforts to be aware of the conduct and behavior of MBRA members at MBRA sanctioned events in the interest of maintaining the rules and regulations of the Association.
2. Directors, present at a show, must see that the barrels are permanently marked for the entire event.
3. Directors may not miss more than two (2) meetings or they are subject to replacement at the discretion of the Board of Directors.
4. In the event a Director is replaced by the remaining members of the Board, it will be the responsibility of the President to notify said Director in writing. Email, text messaging and other commonly used internet messaging constitutes written notification.

**ARTICLE VIII**

**COMMITTEES**

**SECTION I:** APPOINTMENT

1. The President may name standing committees as may be necessary, for her/his term of office.
2. She/He shall appoint a chairperson for each standing committee.
3. Committees shall consist of such number of members as the Committee Chairperson may determine and shall appoint to serve on her/his committee.

**SECTION II:** DUTIES

Committees shall have such duties and functions as maybe be assigned to them by the President.

# ARTICLE IX

**CHECKS**

**SECTION I:** SIGNATURES

All checks, drafts and notes of the Association shall be signed by such officer or officers or such other person or persons as the Board of Directors may from time to time designate.

**ARTICLE X**

### SHOW SEASON

**SECTION I:** DATE

Show season shall run from September 1st of a given year to August 31st of the following year, and /or the MBRA finals whichever comes first.

# ARTICLE XI

### FISCAL YEAR

**SECTION I**: DATE

The Fiscal year shall run from September 1st of a given year to August 31st of the following year.

### ARTICLE XII

**NOTICES AND BULLETINS**

**SECTION I:** REQUIREMENTS

1. Whenever notice of forthcoming shows, etc, is required to be given, such notice may be provided in writing in the form of an emailed bulletin,or published on the Association website or in an Association social media post.
2. The bulletin will be mailed or emailed to all members listed on the membership roster at such addresses as are listed in the Association’s books, such notice shall be deemed to be given at the time the bulletin is postmarked or electronic time/date stamp if emailed.

# ARTICLE XIII

**SHOW APPROVAL**

**SECTION I:** REQUIREMENTS

1. In order to have an approved barrel race, the producer or show committees of a rodeo, horse show or jackpot must coordinate with the President of the Association, at least (2) weeks prior to the event. The President has the authority to schedule races with less than 2 weeks’ notice under extenuating circumstances provided membership is provided adequate notice of the schedule.
2. The President of the Association may ask the Board of Directors for approval if special issues should arise.
3. The MBRA will award points at all approved jackpots. Jackpots must be coordinated with the President at least two (2) weeks in advance for approval unless special dispensation is authorized by the President. Notices may be distributed by email, via the Association Website or Association Social Media Account or regular mail. Notices must be postmarked ten (10) days prior to the event if mailed
4. Rain Dates: If a jackpot is cancelled due to an act of God (rain, flood, tornado, etc.), the jackpot can be rescheduled at the discretion of the Board of Directors.

# ARTICLE XIV

### RULE INFRACTIONS

**SECTION I:** CENSURE

1. Any infraction of the existing rules of the MBRA by any member will be referred to the Board of Directors for suitable disciplinary action.
2. The maximum penalty is expulsion from the MBRA.

**SECTION II:** FINES

Members of the association may be fined, suspended or expelled in accordance with such procedures as may be established by the Board of Directors for violation of: By-Laws, General Rules, Event rules, other rules and regulations as may be established from time to time. Any conduct which will tend to cause discredit to fall upon the barrel racing event as a whole. A suspended member does not become delinquent in dues and may be reinstated by satisfying debts and fines owed to the MBRA and current dues. Non-members and/or spectators may be expelled from an MBRA event if the host or at least two (2) Board Members or Officers determine that the conduct is detrimental to the association or the venue.

# ARTICLE XV

### PROTESTS

**SECTION I:** PROTEST PROCEDURES

1. The Board of Directors shall take cognizance of, and shall adjudicate such protest concerning differences as may be referred to the Secretary in writing with in seventy-two (72) hours of occurrence.
2. The decision of the Board is final.

# ARTICLE XVI

### AMENDMENTS

**SECTION I:** AMENDMENTS OF BY-LAYS, GENERAL RULES AND EVENT RULES

1. By-law, General Rules and Event Rules may be amended, altered, changed, added to or repealed by the affirmative vote of a majority of the members entitled to vote at any special or Annual Meeting of the Membership.
2. Notice of the proposed amendment, alteration, change, addition or repeal shall be plainly state in the notice of the meeting at which they are to be considered.
3. Directors have the authority to amend General Rules and Event Rules.

# GENERAL RULES

### ARTICLE I

**SECTION I:** GROUND RULES

1. MBRA barrel races, shall be open to anyone, however a non-member fee will be applied at jackpots.
2. Any breed, sec, or size horse or pony is eligible to run in MBRA events.
3. When more than one go-round is run, each go-round shall be completed before the next go-round starts.
4. Producer may alter at their discretion if in the best interest of the show.
5. A contestant may ride only once in a go-round per horse.
6. A horse may have several riders in a go-round.
7. Any type of western equipment may be used. Bats, tie-downs or spurs are the optional choice of the contestants.
8. Members must wear western attire while competing in MBRA events with added money unless waived.
9. Western Attire includes long sleeved shirts, hats, boots or heels down shoes and any western pants or jeans. An honest effort must be made to keep your western hat on during your run.
10. Jackpots: The dress code is waived but contestants must wear boots and long pants or jeans.
11. In the event of a dispute, the race will proceed without delay under the existing rules and dispute will be settled by Officers and Directors present.
12. Members may not maneuver around barrels or exercise any part of the pattern while warming up, once the barrels are set or staked for the contest.
13. MBRA will agree to have exhibition runs at jackpots. Exhibition runs are to start two (2) hours before the starting time of the jackpot. Barrels are to be set off the open barrel markers and arena must be reconditioned after the exhibition runs.
14. All children must be supervised and accompanied by an adult at events, when near entry gate. 1st offense is a verbal warning, 2nd offense is suspension of points and/or fines.
15. A lottery draw may be used for arena help at each jackpot. Failure to comply will result in a $20.00 fine. (To be used for awards).
16. The draw for all events will be done ½ hour prior to scheduled start time.
17. MBRA Zero Tolerance for Animal Abuse

The Michigan Barrel Racing Association (MBRA) is responsible to its members and the general public to ensure that all sponsored activities be conducted with the utmost respect of the barrel horse as an animal and that any perception of inhumane treatment is avoided. The MBRA has adopted a Zero Tolerance Policy in the enforcement of abuse of a horse in any way.

Abuse includes, but is not limited to, excessive jerking, spurring, whipping, slapping, or any other act intended to cause trauma or injury to a horse. These acts could also endanger other persons or animals. Abusive acts such as slapping or hitting a horse on the head with hands, reins or any other object; using a bit, curb device, or nose device in such a way that causes a horse to bleed from its mouth or face; or any act which the general public would perceive to be a violation of animal abuse.

Any act of abuse, or intent to abuse a horse, in the show arena or on the show grounds will be dealt with in accordance with this policy. Any witness of acts of abuse anywhere on the show grounds, warm-up area, practice pen or any other location associated with the sponsored event should be reported to an MBRA board member.

Any act of abuse of a horse in any way may result in the suspension of a member. A verbal warning will be issued on the first offense, followed by a written warning for a subsequent offense, and third offense may result in suspension from the MBRA at the discretion of the MBRA Board.

**SECTION I:** ENTRIES

1. Members should refer to the MBRA bulletin/website for closing date of pre-entry events.
2. $1.50 for each go will be taken out of each entry fee at MBRA jackpots and horse shows for the MBRA treasury.
3. Entry fees for jackpots will be set by the Board of Directors, shall be no less than $5.00 per run of the Open 4D Barrels not to include the office charges. The Maverick entry fee is to be no less than the fee for an exhibition run.
4. Members will be allowed to enter by go-round.
5. In the event there are less than ten (10) contestants, management can cancel event, NO CONTEST. Entry fee will be refunded if no contest.
6. Entry fee must be paid:
   1. before being placed in the draw
   2. before competing
7. Entries will be accepted up to the 1st run of each go-round in each event.
8. Contestants shall run in the order of the draw or be disqualified.
9. Non-appearance of contestant doesn’t relieve the contestant of entry fee obligation.
10. The association will furnish its own Secretary to take entries when the producer requests this assistance.
11. The MBRA will not approve any jackpots from 3rd weekend in Decemberto February 28/29th and there is no limit to the number of jackpots.

# ARTICLE II

### EVENT RULES

**SECTION I:** BARREL RACE PATTERN

1. Maximum of 60 feet from timer line to 1st barrel
2. Maximum of 90 feet, between barrel 1 and 2
3. Maximum of 105 feet, between barrel 1 and 3/ 2 and 3
4. Score line shall be at least 20 feet from chutes or end of arena.
5. Barrels at least 15 feet from fence but may be more
6. If the course is too large for the available space, then pattern should be reduced 5 feet at a time, until the pattern fits arena.

**2D POLES:**

1. 2D Poles will always be the first event held at a jackpot.
2. 2D Poles will be a 1 go event, with a 2 second split.
3. The 6 pole pattern will be set up as follows:

--21 feet from the timer to center of 1st pole

--2nd pole will be set (in a straight line) 21 feet

from the center of the 1st pole

--3rd pole will be 21 feet from the center of the 2nd

pole and so on until all six poles have been set.

1. If the course is too large for the available space, the

pattern may be reduced by moving the poles closer

to the timing light. The 21 foot centers between

poles must be maintained. The President or his/her designee may, at his/her discretion, lock-out the timers in a given arena during the pole run due to the potential for inadvertent activation of the timer during the run.

1. Any pole knocked down will count as a no time.
2. A broken pattern will count as a no time.
3. If no qualified runs are made, all pay off money will go towards year-end awards.

**BARREL EVENTS:**

1. Open 4D Barrels will be a 2 go event with 4 divisions as described in Article VII, Section I
2. Youth Barrels will be a 2 go event with divisions and splits based on participation level with a minimum of two divisions.
3. Youth Competitors must be 16 years of age or younger by September 1st of the current season and may not compete in Open Barrels Class. Youth competitors are eligible to compete in Open 2D Poles. Youth may move up to Open barrels in the same season but not back down to Youth.

All Open and Youth barrel events will have the pattern set up according to Article II, Section I of the General Rules.

**SECTION II:** MARKERS

1. The starting and finishing lines and position of

barrels must be marked permanently for the entire

show.

B. Should the marker become dislodged during competition, a tape measure will be used to re-establish the barrel placement locationNo rerun will be

allowed. This rule pertains to any barrel markers,

which have been set with a measuring tape.

C. When marking barrels, if ground stakes are used,

MBRA recommends fence be marked when

possible.

D. Placement of barrels or poles at the locations prescribed in Article II, Section 1 shall be subject to approval of Contestants.

E. Contestants who dispute the placement of barrels or poles are responsible for notifying Directors of their objection prior to their run.

**SECTION III:** RUNNING OF THE RACE

A. Positions shall be drawn for order in which the contestants are to run.

B. Contestants must be on hand to answer the call.

C. MBRA approved barrels shall be run in the cloverleaf pattern.

D. The horse may go either right or left barrel first, but must make two complete left turns and one complete right turn or two complete right turns and one complete left turn.

E.. The contestant is allowed a running or flying start.

F. The time of the race shall begin when the horse breaks the starting line in a forward motion and end when the prescribed number of turns are completed in the correct pattern without loss of forward momentum and the horse/rider cross the plane of the timer.

**SECTION IV**: QUALIFIED AND DISQUALIFIED RIDES

1. Contestants will not be disqualified or penalized for touching a barrel.
2. If all barrels are standing when a contestant crossed the score line after completing a qualified run, it is considered a qualified run even if the barrel falls after he/she is flagged.
3. Contestant is DISQUALIFIED and a NO TIME is given if the pattern is run incorrectly.

**SECTION V:** PENALITIES

Any barrel or pole knocked over by a contestant shall constitute a no-time.

**SECTION VI:** RE-RUNS

1. If the timer malfunctions or the contestant is fouled he/she will have the choice of running immediately after the incident or waiting until the end of the go or the end of the round to re-run the pattern.
2. Any penalties incurred during original run will be carried to the re-run. If the entire performance is re-run because of barrels not being in the original places, all contestants will run over and penalties will be disregarded.
3. Penalties on re-run will not be applied if 1st run is clean.
4. No re-runs for broken equipment will be allowed.
5. No re-runs in case of ties.

**ARTICLE III**

**POINTS**

**SECTION I:** HOW FIGURED AND AWARDED

--Points will be awarded for all MBRA approved barrel races.

--If a contestant places more than once in any division, points

will only be awarded on the highest placing.

--Points will be awarded such that non-members will be skipped over and points awarded to the next MBRA member in the placings

--MBRA will award points to the top 6 members in each division. Members placing more than once in the same division in the same go will only be awarded the highest points with subsequent points being assigned to the next fastest member in that division.

--Points for finals will be figured only when a finals is run and on the basis of the number of racers entered in the finals.

\*\*\* A finals held after the show season ends (Aug 31) – The points will count toward the year end points for the show season for which the finals is being held.

--Points toward Annual Championships shall be awarded as specified in Article V as follows:

**ARTICLE V**

**CHAMPIONSHIP AWARDS**

**SECTION I:** POINTS DISTRIBUTION



SECTION II: AWARD QUALIFICATIONS

1. Champions of the Open 4D barrels, Poles & Youth barrels will receive an award donated by the MBRA based on available funds, as approved by the Directors.
2. An MBRA member must participate in a minimum of six (6) MBRA functions during the show year and enter the finals to be eligible for cumulative association year-end awards.
3. All members in good standing who have participated in at least 3 shows prior to the finals in the current season are eligible to enter the finals.
4. Year End Awards will be awarded based on participation as follows:

**Open 4D**

45 members & under Top 5

46-60 members Top 7

61 members & up Top 10

**Poles 2D**

Top 5 in each division

**Mavericks** Award/prize for all entries at the finals (based on available funds)

**Youth 2D** Awards will be based on available funds and participation. Minimum of a Champion & Reserve will be awarded in each division.

**SPECIAL AWARDS**

**SECTION I:** SPECIAL AWARD TROPHY

1. A special award trophy may be given each year. At the discretion of the Board.
2. The Directors will carefully observe the qualifications of each member during the show season in order to select a recipient for the Special Award Trophy.

**ARTICLE VII**

**EVENTS**

**SECTION I:** EVENTS

1. Open 2D Pole Bending – 2 second split. One run. Open 2D poles will run after exhibition barrels and before the Maverick Barrels.
2. Open 4D Barrels – 1D fastest time

2D fastest time + ½ second

3D fastest time + 1 second

4D fastest time + 2 seconds

1. MBRA exhibition runs are to start two (2) hours before the starting time of the jackpot. Expo barrels will be run first followed by Expo Poles. Barrels are to be off-set from the Open 4D Barrel markers and the arena must be reconditioned after the Exhibition runs, if necessary.
2. Entry fee for Expo Barrels and Expo Poles will be divided between the MBRA treasury and the arena.

**SECTION I:** SCHEDULING A JACKPOT

1. To schedule a jackpot, one must contact the President or his/her designee of the Association two (2) weeks (14 days) prior to the event for approval.
2. The office will give approval of said date if there is no conflict with other previously scheduled functions. (ie: jackpots, directors meeting, etc.)
3. Date, time, location and directions to the arena where jackpot will be held shall be provided to MBRA prior to scheduling. All information will be posted in emailed bulletin, Association website and/orAssociation social media account.
4. Dress code: at jackpots, the dress will include long pants or jeans, western boot or heels down shoes unless waived by the Board of Directors. Any rider not complying with this rule will be given a no time on their run.

**SECTION III:** ARENA FEES

MBRA will pay $2.00 for each competition run to the owner of the arena where jackpot is held.

**SECTION IV**: EQUIPMENT, SUPPLIES & MANPOWER

The President/Vice President are responsible for procurement and management of equipment and supplies required in support of barrel race production. Responsibility for the management, caretaking and transportation of equipment and supplies may be delegated to Board members at the discretion of the Association executives.

Costs associated with replacement equipment, significant repairs or newly identified equipment needs are to be approved by the Board of Directors.

A. Equipment: B. Supplies

Timers & Timer display Entry sheets

PA system Pay-off tally sheets

Poles Pay-off forms

100 ft tape measure Computer/Printer

3 barrel stakes & markers Pocket calculator

Hammer Money box