

**MAINE BARREL RACING ASSOCIATION  
BYLAWS**

**Revised April 2019**

**ARTICLE I**

**Name:** The name of this organization will be Maine Barrel Racing Association aka (mebra).

**Founded:** October 17, 1977

**Objective / Purpose:** The objective/purpose of the mebra shall be to promote barrel racing as a sport, striving at all times to insure honesty and fairness to contestants and members; to create an amicable relationship among contestants, members, and spectators.

**ARTICLE II**

**Membership:** Regular membership will be open to any reliable person interested in barrel racing in rodeos, jackpots, or horse shows. Anyone joining this association will thereby become subject to the rules and Bylaws now in force, or later adopted and enforced, and shall be subject to expulsion for violation of the same. Rules and bylaws shall be enforced by the executive committee.

**ARTICLE III**

**Officers:** The officers of the association will consist of a President, Vice-president, Secretary, and Treasurer, who will be elected by popular vote hereinafter provided. Elected for a two (2) year term.

**Board of Directors:** The Board of Directors shall consist of at least five (5) and not more than seven (7) members. The board is open to any member in good standing and elected by popular vote who will abide by the rules and bylaws and have the good of mebra in mind. Directors will be elected for a two (2) year term.

**Executive Committee:** The executive committee will consist of all of the Officers and Board of Directors.

**Correspondent:** Appointed by the President for an undetermined time.

**Show Secretary:** Appointed by the President for an undetermined time.

**ARTICLE IV**

**Duties & Functions**

**President:** The president will preside as chairman at all regular and special meetings and perform other duties as usually attached to this office.

**Vice President:** The Vice President shall assume the duties of the President when the president is unable to attend.

**Secretary:** Duties are as follows:

- 1: The secretary will take minutes of all meetings. These minutes will be precise and are to be used as law if any confusion or arguments arise.
- 2: The secretary will handle all memberships of new and old members. All membership fees will be submitted to the secretary and then forwarded to the treasurer. Bylaws will be sent to all new members. All correspondence, including invoices and checks, will be submitted to the Secretary. Bills and invoices will then be forwarded to the treasurer for payment.
- 3: The secretary will send out a monthly newsletter to all members by the 1st of each month. These newsletters will include all recent news that has not been sent out. News may not be held over for the next newsletter.

Organizational news for articles include but are not limited to:

- A. Show schedules
- B. Features on club members (with their approval)
- C. Solicit news from club members
- D. Treasurer's report
- E. Financial report for show(s)

**Treasurer:** Duties are as follows:

1. The Treasurer will assume all financial responsibilities of the Association. The Treasurer will provide a monthly report to the Secretary for publication in the newsletter.
2. The treasurer will be responsible for giving the show secretary a check for \$300.00 prior to each show.
3. There will be an annual audit done on the books by a minimum of two (2) members of mebra and the results of the audit will be published in the newsletter.

**Show Secretary:** Duties are as follows:

1. The show secretary is in charge of organizing duties at our shows as follows:
  - A. Taking entries
  - B. Keeping times
  - C. Figuring jackpots
2. The show secretary is responsible for bringing show programs and entry forms to the shows.
3. The show secretary will balance show funds following each show and deliver the report and money to the treasurer prior to the next show. At that time, the show secretary will receive a check for \$300.00 from the Treasurer for use at the next show. A copy of this report will also be given to the Secretary for publication in the newsletter.
4. The show secretary is required to be present at the show at least one hour before the start of the show.

5. The show secretary is responsible for keeping a copy of the mebra Bylaws at all mebra shows and to see that this is announced at the shows.

**Show committee:**

The show committee will be in charge of making sure we have a ring master, show secretary, and announcer at each show. Any questions at the show by members will be directed at the show manager.

**Ring Master:** The ring master will act as judge at all mebra shows and perform the following duties:

1. Watch each contestant to make sure the correct pattern has been executed.
2. Help with the ring work as needed.
3. The discretion to determine what is "Appropriate clothing / attire".
4. The discretion to determine if a horse is deemed unhealthy/unfit and therefore unable to participate, or to determine if a rider is using excessive hitting, whipping or spurring.

The decision of the ring master will be final!

**Board of Directors:** The Board of Directors will make final decisions on any disagreement between officers on association policy. To be a director you must be a paid up member, be elected by popular vote, and hold the term for two (2) years.

**Executive Committee:** The executive committee is composed of the Officers and the Board of Directors. This committee will execute and enforce all rules and policies of the mebra. The Executive Committee has the authority and will replace any executive committee member during their two (2) year term if they should miss more than two (2) meetings without just cause, or for any other valid reason. It is each committee member's responsibility to let the President know, preferably by a phone call, what their reasoning is for not making a meeting. The Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer will have voting rights at all meetings, including Executive Committee and Board of Directors meetings. The President will retain the tie breaking vote. The show secretary and ring master will be invited to all executive committee and Board of Directors meetings, but as appointed positions, will be unable to vote. This does not mean that an executive officer or a member of the board cannot fill these functions and retain their vote.

**Election of Officers:** All officers will be elected by popular vote. The officers will hold office for two (2) years concurrently until their successors are elected and qualified. Any officer who misses two (2) scheduled meetings, without substantial reason, will automatically relinquish their position. Replacement will be appointed by the executive committee (it is each officer's responsibility to let the President know, preferably by a phone call, what their reasoning is for not making a meeting).

**Election Procedures:**

1. Eligibility - in order to be eligible to serve as an officer, a person must be paid up in dues and be a member in good standing for at least six (6) months.
2. The current officers, unless they withdraw, are placed on the voting ballot along with the top nominees.

3. Nomination and election will be held at the February meeting. Each adult member in good standing may cast one (1) vote for nominee of their choice.

## **ARTICLE V**

**Fiscal Year:** The fiscal year of the association will be from February to February.

## **ARTICLE VI**

**Resignation of any officer:** Any officer wishing to resign must submit a letter in writing to the President one (1) month in advance, except in cases of emergency or other reasonable excuse acceptable to the Executive committee, in order to remain in good standing in the association.

## **ARTICLE VII**

**Membership Meetings:** A meeting will be held in each of the following Months: February, April, and November. Meetings will be held up to five (5) a year. A notice must be given to the club at least two (2) weeks prior. The annual meeting will be held in February. No meetings shall be held during a horse show, except to let people know of upcoming things to think about. No voting to be done at horse shows. Special meetings can be held with a two (2) week notice. The time and place of all meetings will be designated by the executive committee. Rules will be made and enforced by the general membership. Changes to Bylaws will only be allowed to be made at the November meeting and/or the February meeting. A Bylaw change made at the November meeting will not be allowed to be revisited at the February meeting. It will stand until the following year.

**Executive Committee Meeting:** The executive committee's annual meeting will be held one (1) month prior to the annual meeting. Other meetings can be called as necessary.

## **ARTICLE VIII**

### **General Rules:**

1. All official meetings and functions of this association shall be governed by the Roberts Rules of Order.
2. All mebra members and non-members shall read and know the prevailing rules of each individual rodeo, jackpot, or horse show. Failure to know the rules will not be accepted as an excuse for breaking any of the rules.
3. Club rules will not be changed without a special meeting called by the Executive Committee.

### **Membership Requirements and/or Privileges:**

1. Membership fees shall be \$25.00 for individual and \$35.00 for immediate family plus \$5.00 for each additional family member. (immediate family is defined as three (3) relatives residing in the same household.  
Example: Husband and wife, mother and two (2) children (under 18), father and two (2) children (under 18), etc.). (exception: college students who are away

during the school year will also be considered as a family member living in the household).

2. Voting privileges are for any member that is 14 years or older.
3. Membership will be open to any reliable person interested in contesting in barrel racing in rodeos, jackpots, or horse shows, or to any person interested in advancement of barrel racing.
4. Participation in any rodeo, jackpot, or horse show, members and nonmembers are subject to the laws of any government or subdivision thereof, and the mebra assumes no responsibility for any member of the mebra from being barred from such participation by reason of such law or laws.
5. Members shall always enter under the name as it appears on their mebra membership application. Members are responsible for remembering their own numbers. If you do not use the names as shown on the membership application with their assigned number for the entire show season, the club will not be responsible for any misapplied points. Points will not be adjusted for errors of this type.

**Insurance:** Members and non-members, participating and non-participating in activities, are responsible for their own medical and life insurance.

**Loss of membership privileges:** Any mebra member or non-member may be suspended for ninety (90) days or expelled from the association for any of the following reasons:

1. Fighting in an arena or on show grounds.
2. Attempting to fix, bribe, or influence the ring master.
3. Entering the arena under the influence of alcohol or narcotics.
4. Derogatory remarks concerning the mebra.
5. Altercations or quarreling with the ring master or officials.
6. Rowdyism.
7. Mmistreatment of livestock.
8. Cheating or attempting to cheat in any way.

**Warning Notices:**

1. The executive committee is responsible for issuing warnings, the first being verbal, second in writing, and third suspension (depending on severity of case).
2. Within a month's time, an executive committee meeting will be held with the member or non-member present to evaluate the severity of the offense.
3. Any member or non-member and their guests will be held responsible for their conduct in the vicinity of any mebra event or function, to make financial restitution for any losses or expenses involved, and will be subject to disciplinary action, if necessary, by the executive committee.
4. A member or non-member under suspension shall not be allowed to participate or at any mebra event.
5. Any contestant damaging timer or property will not be allowed to participate until payment is made in full.
6. Any member or non-member deliberately abusing livestock at a mebra function will be removed from the premises and totally disqualified from any further events at that function.

7. Decisions of the ring master will be final and no undue protest by anyone will be permitted. Any further protesting or arguing with the above decision will mean a disqualification from further events at that function.
8. Anyone encouraging boycotting or major disruption of any mebra shows is subject to suspension.
9. Lameness/unhealthy in appearance – at the discretion of the executive committee (at least three (3)). Any horse in question of being unsound will be dismissed from the show(s) until the committee finds the horse to be sound, or pending a veterinarian check.
10. Properly fitted equipment must be used, with no visible discomfort to the horse. The executive committee (at least three (3)) will make all decisions on appropriate equipment. An equipment check may be done at any time.

**Conduct:** All members and non-members will, at all times, conduct themselves in an exemplary manner, upholding the mebra purpose, and shall present themselves in a neat, clean, orderly manner. Injury of members or contestants: the mebra assumes no responsibility for injury or damage to the person, property, or stock of any owner, contestant, or assistant. Each participant, by the act of paying their membership dues or entry fees, waives all claims against the mebra for injuries they or their property may sustain.

**Dress:**

1. Proper western attire is required for all events (with the exception of designated dress down days). Western shirts must be worn and kept buttoned. Shirt tails must be tucked in or the shirt must touch the top of the pants. No polo type or t-shirts will be allowed. Slinkies can be worn with a vest. No tank tops allowed in the arena at any time. When you go in the arena for warm up, exhibition or anytime you are riding you must have western attire on. Western boots, clean jeans or pants and a western hat or helmet must be worn. Helmets are permitted.
2. Only western saddles will be allowed

**Points:**

1. Pointed show(s) will be those that are recognized by mebra as pointed shows.
2. Points will be accumulated through the fiscal year for each class recognized as a pointed class by the mebra. In case of a tie, points for those placings will be added together and split evenly.
3. Points will be on horse and rider combination only. Members will be allowed to point as many horses as they wish.
4. The high point winner from the previous year in the Maine barrels class will carry the American flag in all grand entry performances or parades. The winners of the junior, open 1d, 2d, and 3d barrels will carry the remainder of the flags. If there is a person who won in more than one category, or does not wish to display a flag, the reserve winner in that category will be chosen.
5. All classes will be pointed according to NBHA rules (when possible) – top five (5) mebra members receive points. (example: 1st place – 5 points, 2nd place – 4 points, 3rd place – 3 points, 4th place – 2 points, 5th place – 1 point). When determining

points in a division class, the top time will stand as it was at the show, whether it be a member or a non-member. This will determine the time split in all other divisions. However, if the top time was run by a non-member, the member with the fastest time will receive the most points for the first division.

**Sponsorship:** The member that collects the most money in sponsorships throughout the year will receive a free single membership for the following year.

**Donations:** A limit of \$150.00 will be made available yearly for donations dependent on the availability of funds). Each individual donation is not to exceed \$50.00. Any other donations will be done through fund raisers.

**Method of show selections and responsibilities:**

1. Shows will be voted on at the fall meeting as follows:
  - a. Set final cap (Maximum # of shows in the calendar year).
  - b. Set fair dates.
  - c. Vote on shows by dates – majority wins. (example: Charleston – three (3) dates available: May 1 & 2, May 9 & 10, and May 21 & 22).
  - d. Vote on all possible shows as above.
  - e. A raise of hands on top shows (in the case that two (2) shows coincide).
2. Shows receiving the highest number of votes shall be selected and pointed. Each member is allowed only one vote.
3. Majority of members present at any scheduled meeting can decide and vote on a show date.
4. More than one show can be pointed if they are not within a fifty (50) mile radius of each other and they have a majority vote of the membership present.
5. A total of six (6) shows will represent the core of the show season, but more shows may be run if the membership so desires and a majority vote of the members is received for the show, and we have a one (1) month notice prior to the date of the show.
6. Show lists will be available by the date of the first show.
7. The President will appoint, for each show, a member who will be responsible for making sure mebra rules are followed, that the proper reports are submitted by the show secretary, and that financial matters for the club are properly taken care of.

The following guidelines would apply:

- a. Assure that the proper forms and rules are available (responsible party – show secretary).
- b. Assure that the barrels are set up correctly (responsible party – ring master).
- c. Assure that the times are recorded properly (responsible party – show secretary).
- d. Assure that the purses/payouts are figured correctly, keeping one dollar (\$1.00) of each entry fee for the club, with the rest of the money put into the jackpot for that class. the jackpot money would be split according to mebra payout sheets, with the exception of the 4-d barrels and 4-d poles, which will be paid as follows:

- a. Purses for 4-d barrels and 4-d poles will be paid 35% to the 1st division, 30% to the 2nd division, 20% to the 3rd division, and 15% to the 4th division.
- b. Payouts for 4-d barrels and 4-d poles will be as follows:
  - i. 11-15 entries – 2 places in each division (60%-40%).
  - ii. 16-30 entries – 3 places in each division (50%-30%-20%).
  - iii. 31-60 entries – 4 places in each division (40%-30%-20%-10%).
  - iv. 61-90 entries – 5 places in each division (30%-25%-20%-15%-10%).

Another exception will be that the 4-d barrels will have an entry fee of \$12.00 with \$6.00 going back into payouts and \$6.00 going to the club. (responsible party – show secretary).

- 8. Each member has the following duties:
  - a. See that the mebra rules and regulations are carried out.
  - b. Contact as many producers and show committees as possible to ask for an approved barrel race at their show.
  - c. Five (5) members must be present to point the show.
  - d. Read the rules and be familiar with them.
  - e. Promote membership.

**Year End Awards:**

- 1. To be eligible for year end awards a member must get at least a \$50.00 sponsor or make a \$50.00 donation to the association before the April meeting. For those becoming members during the show season, they would have thirty (30) days to either get a sponsor or pay the donation. In the case of a family membership, the requirement is to get one sponsor of \$50.00 or pay the \$50.00 donation for the 1<sup>st</sup> member and \$25 for each additional family member.
- 2. A member must participate in at least 50% of the shows for that season in that specific class. There will be three (3) places awarded at the end of the year in 4-d open barrels, 4-d open poles, and Open barrels in each division. Three (3) places will be awarded in youth poles, youth barrels, senior barrels, senior poles, and versatility in each division.
- 3. In case of a tie in the 1D open barrels, the winner will be decided by who won 1<sup>st</sup> place the greater number of times. In the event of a tie in all other divisions, the money for the places that are tied will be combined and split evenly towards a year end award. If the tie is for second place, a third place award will not be given, as it would be filled if the tie was broken.
- 4. Each officer (President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer) shall receive a free one year membership after completing a full (two (2) year) term.

**Barrel Racing:**

- 1. All barrels to be used in mebra barrel racing must be regulation fifty-five (55) gallon size. Pads may be used on barrels. No tires may be used on or around the barrels. Barrels must be at least two (2) colors; no solid colored barrels.
- 2. When measuring the course, if possible, the first and second barrels will be measured at forty (40) feet from the timer, with the distance between them measuring seventy



(70) feet. The third barrel will be measured at ninety (90) feet from the middle of the distance from the first to second barrel. The first and second barrels should be a minimum of fifteen (15) feet from the fence and the third barrel should be a minimum of thirty (30) feet from the arena fence. If the arena size does not permit the above measurements, the course will be adjusted as necessary.

3. A contestant will not be disqualified or penalized for touching a barrel. If a contestant knocks the barrel over, there will be a five (5) second penalty for each barrel knocked over. In a division class, a knocked barrel will count as a no time.
4. A contestant may start either to the right or the left and then run the remainder of the pattern accordingly.
5. If all barrels are standing when contestant crosses the score line after completing a qualified run, it is considered a qualified run, even if a barrel falls after they have crossed the score line.
6. The ring master will be required to be present during the barrel racing to see that a qualified cloverleaf pattern is run and proper timing is executed.
7. A contestant will be disqualified if crossing the score line before completion of a true cloverleaf pattern is run.

### **Pole Bending:**

1. The pole bending pattern is to be run around six (6) poles. Each pole is to be twenty-one (21) feet apart and the first pole is to be twenty-one (21) feet from the starting line. Poles shall be set on top of the ground, six (6) feet in height, with no base more than fourteen (14) inches in diameter.
2. A horse may start either to the right or the left of the first pole and then run the remainder of the pattern accordingly.
3. Knocking over a pole shall carry a five (5) second penalty. In a division class, a knocked pole will be a no time. Failure to follow the course shall cause disqualification. A contestant may touch a pole with his/her hand in pole bending.

**Pee Wee Division (when applicable):** Pee wee age will be 10 and under as of January 1st. A pee wee cannot be led. They must be able to ride on their own. A horse/pony can be ridden more than once in pee wee barrels and pee wee poles only. Pee wee years of riding do not count toward novice year limits.

### **Tie Breakers:**

1. In the event of a tie at a show, the money for the two positions will be combined and then split evenly.
2. In the event of a tie when it comes time to figure the points for a show, the points for the two (2) positions will be combined and then split evenly.
3. In case of a tie for year-end awards, the money for the places that are tied will be combined and split evenly towards two year end awards for that place that is tied.  
Example: if the tie is for second place, two people will receive second place. The third place money/points/award would not be given, as it would have been filled if the tie was broken in a run-off.

**Timer Failure:** If the timer fails at any time during a person's run, that person will be granted a rerun as long as they have stayed on course up to the point of being notified that the timer has failed. This rule pertains to a clean run or a run where an obstacle has been knocked over. They will have the option of going at the end of the next drag, at the end of the class, or immediately after their initial run.

**Lifetime Members:**

Buddy Labbe	Claire Labbe
Sylvia Morrill	Jamie Leeman
Sharon Kenney	Shirley Kennedy
Betty Dyer	Jodi Merry

**IRS Clause** (mandatory to our Bylaws in order to obtain tax exempt status)

Notwithstanding any other provisions of these Articles, the Association is organized exclusively for one or more the purposes as specified in sections 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code of 1954 and shall not carry on any activities not permitted to be carried on by an association exempt from Federal Income Tax under IRC Section 501(c) (3) or corresponding provisions of any subsequent federal tax laws.

No part of the net earnings of the association will inure to the benefit of any member, trustee, director or officer of the association or any private individual (except that reasonable compensation may be paid for services rendered to or for the association), and no member, trustee, director, or officer of the association or any private individual shall be entitled to share in the distribution of any of the assets of the association.

No substantial part of the activities of the association shall be carrying on propaganda or otherwise attempting to influence legislation (except as otherwise provided by IRC Section 501(h)) and does not participate in or intervene in (including the publication or distribution of statements any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office.

In the event of dissolution, all the remaining assets and property of the association shall, after necessary expenses thereof, be distributed to another organized exempt under IRC Section 501(c)(3) or corresponding provision of any subsequent federal tax laws or to the federal government or state or local government for a public purpose, subject to the approval of a Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States of America.