

Northern Buckers Association

2025 Rules and Regulations

Board Members: Howard Ehlers, Jared Spilde, Nathan Hofer, Chaston Lee, JC Steffan, Beni Paulson, Allen Teller, Chad Berger, Sadia Zafar

“Member” is described in this document as someone who has paid their entry fees and is eligible to compete in an NBA produced or sanctioned events.

General Regulations

1. **Misconduct and Cheating:**

In the event a participant becomes verbally or physically aggressive or inappropriate to any official, judge, employee, sponsor, or other participant, the NBA reserves the right to disqualify the participant and his/her entries from that event and/or revoke his/her participation rights in future events. Any winnings or entry fees will be forfeited. Misconduct and/or cheating or attempting to cheat shall result in major disciplinary actions, including, but not limited to suspension and/or fine as decided by the board members majority. A second offense will result in being suspended from entering NBA events for a minimum of one calendar year and a \$10,000 fine. A third offense will result in a lifetime suspension from entering any NBA produced or sanctioned events.

Any discrepancies after an event cannot be brought up to the producer until 48 hours after the event.

“Participant” is described as all or anybody associated with the event.

2. **Bad Checks on Entry Fees:**

In the event a participant pays his or her entry fee with a check that is returned, the first offense will result in a \$100 fine, forfeiture of any winnings, and replacement with cash, cashier’s check or money order and will then be required for all future events. Thirty days will be given after the second offense to reconcile your account or membership will be suspended for one year from the date of the bad check. You may become eligible after the one-year penalty upon receipt of your balance plus any incurred penalties.

3. **Penalties:**

In the event a participant competes with an ineligible animal resulting in a disqualification, the first offense penalty is disqualification of that animal from the event and a \$2,500 fine. The second offense is punishable by disqualification of that animal from that and future events, forfeiture of all winnings and entry fees, as well as a \$10,000 fine and one year suspension of the member from participation.

4. **Appeal/Grievance/Compliant Procedures:**

An NBA member may file an appeal, grievance, or complaint with an NBA board member. The member must submit his or her case in writing within 30 days of the incident. The appeal/grievance/complaint will be reviewed by the NBA board member.

If the person filing the appeal/grievance/complaint is unhappy with the decision of said board member and wishes to have the decision reviewed by the entire NBA board, then a signed written letter and a \$250 grievance fee must be sent to the NBA board. The board will schedule a special meeting to review the appeal/grievance/complaint. Each case will be reviewed on its own merit and the ultimate decision of the NBA board is final. If the NBA board agrees with the appeal/grievance/complaint, then \$250 (minus any fees accrued by the board to do the review) will be returned to the person filing the complaint. If the NBA disagrees, the \$250 will not be refunded.

Only named members on the NBA membership form can file a appeal/grievance/complaint.

5. **Right of Refusal:**

While every effort to accommodate each entry paying member will be made, it is important to note that the NBA is a private company with obligations to its shareholders. If in the opinion of the board of directors, or the management of the company, it is determined that doing so would compromise the integrity, or in any way be detrimental to the best interest of the company, the NBA reserves the right to elect not to conduct business with whomever it chooses.

6. **Acknowledgement of Risk:**

When entering an animal and/or attending an NBA sanctioned event, members must assume the risk inherent in any bovine/rodeo type activity and hold the NBA harmless. The NBA, or its shareholders, directors, employees, volunteers, and participants shall not be responsible for any injury, death, or loss of an animal entered or present for any other reason for NBA produced or sanctioned event. Nor will the NBA be responsible for the injury or death of any person attending any NBA produced or sanctioned event.

7. **Acknowledgement of Authority:**

Members, shareholders, directors, employees, volunteers, and participants will agree to abide by the rules and regulations set forth in this document, and to be subject to the provisions of the same.

NBA Yearling, Futurity, Derby, and Classic Event Rules and Regulations

1. **Members:**

All participants entering animals in an NBA produced or sanctioned event will automatically become members with an entry. Members must remain in good standing.

2. **Animal Age Requirements and Verification:**

Yearling Class: Bulls or heifers must be born between January 1st and December 31st of that current year.

Futurity Class: Bulls must be born between January 1st and December 31st of that current year.

Derby Class: Bulls must be born between January 1st and December 31st of that current year.

The NBA reserves the right to age verify and/or disqualify any bull entered at any event the NBA produces or sanctions.

Any NBA member may request a bull be age verified. If the bull is age eligible, the NBA member requesting the verification will be required to cover all verification-related charges. If the bull is NOT eligible, the NBA member owning the bull will be required to cover all verification related charges.

3. **Animal Identification:**

Bulls must be branded with a permanent legible identification number. Bulls not branded as mentioned may herein be disqualified from any NBA produced or sanctioned event and may forfeit any/all paid fees and expenses. Ear tags are preferred but not required.

In the event the NBA questions the legitimacy of any animal's permanent identification markings, the NBA reserves the right to take a DNA sample on any entered animal to compare samples, without notice or consent from animal's owner.

4. **Levels of Competition and Entry Fees (not including NBA Finals):**

Yearling (Heifers and Bulls): \$300 entry fee, payout every 4 holes, round up and down

Yearling Team: Heifers or bulls \$300 entry fee, payout every 4 holes, round up and down

Futurity: \$400 entry fee, payout every 4 holes, round up and down

Futurity Team: \$400 entry fee, payout every 4 holes, round up and down

82 Slide: \$400 entry fee, payout every 4 holes, round up or down

Derby Dummy: \$500 entry fee, payout every 4 holes, round up or down, 3 year old bulls ONLY

Derby Rider: \$500 entry fee, payout every 4 holes, round up or down, 3 Year old bulls ONLY

Classic: \$600 entry fee, payout every 4 holes, round up or down, 4 and 5 year old bulls

Bull Team: \$800 entry fee, payout every 4 holes, round up or down

Youth: \$300 entry fee, payout every 4 holes, round up or down

Bulls and Belles: \$300 entry fee, payout every 4 holes, round up or down

5. **Entry Procedure**

Entry forms can be found on our website. All NBA specific information can be found on the website. Any questions or if you need assistance with the online entry process, contact the NBA Secretary Sadia Zafar at (507) 848-5569 or sadiasusan7@gmail.com.

Bulls may move up a class.

Payments are due upon receipt. If fees are not paid, the bull is not entered.

Required number of bulls pens must be indicated during the online entry process. If an extra pen is not requested, the member's bulls will be housed by class (dummy bulls together, rider bulls together). If an extra pen is requested after entries close, the NBA makes no guarantee of pen space. Extra pen fee charges may apply. Buddy bulls must be approved by the producer prior to the event. Cattle not entered in the event will NOT be allowed to unload at the event. If someone is hauling extra bulls, it/they will remain on the trailer. The NBA reserves the right to choose if extra pen space will be made available to a non-entered animal. Extra pen fees may apply.

6. Double Entries:

No double entries will be accepted in the futurity classes.

Double entries are allowed in all rider classes, derby, classic, maturity, and team. (Example: A derby bull and a classic bull can be entered on a bull team.)

Double entered bulls buck in whichever class bucks first.

7. Bull Team Rules:

Bull teams consist of two bulls, which are selected by the contractor. Bull team rules state entry fees are \$800 unless approved by the board. The producer shall have up to 20% drag max and 5% to the NBA.

Rider fees are \$100 per bull. If a team rider does not show up or turns out, a contractor's ONLY option is to get a rider on the reserve list if there is one available. If a rider is not available, you may also post this bull as a first available re-ride option. You CANNOT use a rider on another team. If your bull does not get an out your fees will be forfeited and paid out in the event. If a contractor attempts to use another team's rider he/she will forfeit his/her entry fee and his/her bulls will get a no score.

Contractors – Make sure your rider is NOT entered on another team.

No show rider fines are \$100.

There is a \$250 fine for attempting to steal another contractor's rider.

A rider could get on 2 bulls from the same team if a producer is willing to split up the team bulls and buck them in two different sections.

8. Health Requirements:

All bulls competing at NBA events will be required to have state required tests. Specific requirements for individual states may differ and will be required for admission to the NBA

event. The NBA will make every effort to request papers, however, it is the owner's responsibility to provide papers. Bulls that do not meet these requirements will not be allowed to unload or compete and will forfeit entry fees. An event producer may request additional requirements that must be approved by the NBA.

9. Payout:

The NBA produced and sanctioned events payout will be paid (1) place for every (4) entries in all classes and will be rounded up or down.

Payout for NBA events will be calculated after the following drag: producer 20% and NBA 5% on all classes.

Co-sanctioned events may adjust the drag as the producer of the event sees fit.

Payout and holes paid during the NBA Finals can be discussed at the end of the regular season or will be paid out the same as the regular season.

Payout checks will be paid immediately after the event. All members winning a check will have to fill out a W-9.

10. Contestants at Regular Events:

Derby and Classic bull members must provide his/her own rider for the event. Rider's name must be entered when member enters his/her derby bulls or member can risk being disqualified. If a rider does not show up or turns out a contractor's ONLY option is to get a rider on the reserve list if there is one available. If a rider is not available, you may also post this bull as a first available re-ride option. You CANNOT use a rider on another bull. If your bull does not get an out your fees will be forfeited and paid out in the event. If a contractor attempts to use another rider he/she will forfeit his/her entry fee and his/her bulls will get a no score and be disqualified.

Contractors – Make sure your rider is not entered on another bull.

Any rider under the age of 18 must have written parent/guardian permission.

11. Re-Bucks:

At NBA produced or sanctioned events, re-bucks will only be allowed if in the opinion of any judge that the animal had no chance to perform due to situations out of control of the animal itself or the flank person. The flank person is fully responsible for flanking his/her own bull and no re-bucks will be allowed due to flanking error. Derby/classic bull riders will have 3 honest attempts to get out before the bull is disqualified and entry fees are forfeited at the judges' discretion. If the rider doesn't get out/gets disqualified the contractor may decide if he wants a different rider from the reserve list or the bull can be the first available re-ride option.

12. Electrical Device and Foreign Objects:

All electrical devices used to stimulate the animal will not be allowed for use inside the bucking chute. NO hotshots. (Exception; for use to get the animal to stand) Foreign objects in the flank will not be allowed. Judges reserve the right to inspect all flanks. Owners not adhering to this rule are subject to disqualification from this bull entry and/or totally disqualified from the entire event and will forfeit all entry fees. In addition failure to adhere to this rule shall result in suspension, fine, and/or termination in misconduct and cheating.

13. Animal Horns:

All bulls MUST be tipped. Futurity, derby, and classic bulls must be tipped in accordance with the Professional Bull Riders (PBR) guideline which is the diameter of a US 50 cent coin. Yearling bulls must be tipped to the diameter of a US 25 cent coin. At the discretion of a judge, if an un-tipped or inadequately tipped animal arrives at an NBA produced or sanctioned event, the bull will be disqualified. Should any member repeat the offense he/she will be fined \$250. Failure to comply may result in forfeiting or loss of all fees.

14. Draw/Chute Position:

Bucking order will be determined by random draw by the NBA secretary. The order of the draw will be bucked first to last in the draw order in one round format. Positions may be altered as needed by the event producer and/or chute boss to allow proper left-hand and right-hand deliveries per event section.

15. Tie Breakers:

There will be no tie breakers at NBA sanctioned or produced events. If animals are tied after scores are audited, a straight split will be paid out. For example: A second place tie will be 2nd place + 3rd place = \$X/2.

16. Withdrawal:

Prior to entries closing, a member may withdraw a bull without penalty or forfeiting of entry fees. After entry closing, a member may withdraw an animal from competition for any reason but will forfeit all entry fees, unless a vet release is obtained. In the event a vet release is obtained, entry fees will be refunded but the bull will be ineligible for 30 days from any event. In some cases, a video of the bull may be used in lieu of a vet release (per the discretion of the NBA board). A replacement bull may be entered if a vet release or a video has been provided. Exceptions may be made in the event of family emergency, inclement weather, natural disasters, and Acts of God. In case of poor arena conditions due to weather, a majority vote to cancel by the NBA board will result in refund of entry fees.

17. Alternates:

Alternates will be defined as bulls entered but not taken due to unavailable positions and will be created by either a draw or preference. Should a withdrawal occur prior to the rider draw, the alternates will be moved into the event replacing the withdrawn bull, in descending order. If no alternates are available, members may substitute one of his/her other owned animals as an

alternate if all requirements are met. The original animal must be withdrawn with notification prior to the draw for the first round of competition.

18. Personnel:

All NBA produced and sanctioned event's gate men, arena help, and production labor will be provided and chosen by the producer. Only these designated individuals will be permitted to conduct their specific tasks. The workers prove incapable of performing in a safe or professional manner, they may be removed and replaced.

19. Points:

Dummy Events: Year end payout will be based on the average of the top 5 highest bull scores at the NBA produced event or paid co-sanctioned event plus the score at the finals.

Rider Events: Year end payout will be based on the average of the top 5 highest bull scores at the NBA produced event or paid co-sanctioned event plus the score at the finals.

In the event the NBA has less than five dummy and/or two rider events in a year, the year end will be based on the number of NBA hosted events available.

An NBA member has the option to pay \$100 at any NBA participating event to co-sanction with the ABBI. ABBI will be responsible for issuing the points. All bulls participating in the ABBI co-sanctioned event must be ABBI registered and EID. All ABBI rules will apply.

NBA has the right to cancel buckler points at any co-sanction at their discretion.

20. NBA Finals:

The top forty-point yearlings and 2-year-old claves will qualify for the NBA Finals. In addition, the top forty derby and classic bulls will qualify for the NBA finals. Any remaining positions may be filled by additional point earning bulls, in descending order until all positions are filled, or entries are closed.

A bull must have competed at a minimum of one regular season NBA event to qualify for the Finals. Co-sanctioned events count toward one regular season NBA event for members. If non-members have not requested points in written format, they will not receive them. Money is points. Standings will be based off money won.

Entry fees for NBA Finals: TBD

Yearling:

Yearling Team:

Futurity:

Futurity Team:

82 Slide:

Derby (3):

Derby Dummy (3):

Classic (4 and 5 Year Olds):

Bull Team:

Youth:

Belles:

Payout and holes paid for NBA Finals will be decided at the end of the regular season and will be based on added money and entries. The year-end champion will receive a buckle. A high point breeder award will be given at the finals. This payout will be given to the breeding program directly responsible for the bull with the highest points attained during the current regular season and Finals.

21. Event Facility Rules:

Specific rules and/or existing rules for the facility/arena may exist for a NBA produced and/or sanctioned event. Failure to adhere to the posted ground rules may result in disqualification and/or fine. (Example: No Smoking)

22. Latchman:

The latch man is optional in the dummy classes and is the sole discretion of the stock participant. The latch man will remain consistent throughout the event (i.e. will not change based on the bull).

23. Judging Guidelines:

All NBA produced and sanctioned events will utilize four ABBI and NBA approved judges unless otherwise decided. There will be one back judge during rider events. The NBA has the right to refuse any judge hired for an NBA or sanctioned event. Bulls will be scored between 1 and 25 points (in .10ths) with consideration in their ability in five categories; 1) Buck 2) Kick 3) Spin 4) Degree of Difficulty 5) Degree of Intensity. They will judge from ground level. If a judge is physically unable to score a bull, the score from that judge will be a zero (0) and the other scores will be totaled. Each circumstance will be handled accordingly.

If one judge is 1 point higher or lower than the highest or lowest judge that score will be thrown out and averaged (Example: Judge 1: 21 Judge 2: 21.5 Judge 3: 22 Judge 4: 19.5 – Judge 4's score will get thrown out and will become 21.5)

Riders will be required to stay on for eight seconds to obtain a score.

The clock will start once any part of the bull breaks the plane of the chute.

Participants and fans are not allowed to communicate and/or stand next to judges during an event. If a participant communicates with a judge during an event, they may be subject to fines and/or disqualification of all entry fees at the judge's discretion.

24. Dummies:

The producer will provide approved manufactured dummies for all events.

All yearling and futurity bulls competing in an NBA produced or sanctioned event will be bucked with a dummy for four seconds.

Dummies will be put on the yearling or futurity bull by designated event labor.

Should a dummy bull fall completely down (flat on his side or belly) and stop his bucking action before the 4-second whistle, that bull will be disqualified.

25. Arrival/Check-In:

Check-in times will be event specific. Members must contact the producer to make arrangements for early or late arrival outside of designated check-in times.

Late arrivals may be subject to a \$100 per bull late arrival penalty. Habitual late arrivals may be subject to higher penalties and/or disqualification. Late is defined as not being in line at the designated close time for check-in of animals. Check-in officials will determine the end of the line and whether a fine will be assessed.

26. Check-Out Time:

No one is allowed to load out during an event.

27. Dress Code:

All members at NBA produced and sanctioned events, who are behind or operating the bucking chutes, will be required to adhere to a western dress code with jeans, long sleeve button/snap shirt and a western cowboy hat. During the yearling and futurity competitions, a short-sleeved shirt will be accepted. Those individuals not adhering to these rules may be asked to leave from behind the bucking chutes and are subject to fines and disqualification. This includes partners and family of NBA members.

28. Drug Testing:

The NBA reserves the right to collect samples including, but not limited to tissue and/or fluids from bulls for any reason deemed necessary, specific, or otherwise.

Members at an NBA produced or sanctioned event will NOT be allowed to administer any medication or injection for any reason to bucking stock while on site at a competition event.

If an animal becomes ill, lame, or injured on site at an event and must receive veterinary care of be administered medication on site prior to competing, the animal will be disqualified, and entry fees will be forfeited.

Any members or persons found to have tampered with, attempted to tamper with, administer and/or introduce any drug or agent to enhance or sedate any animal at an event will be disqualified and/or subject to a fine and disciplinary action.

The NBA will maintain a zero tolerance for the use of anabolic steroids, beta antagonists, growth factors, and antipsychotics that may chemically enhance the performance of a competition animal.

29. Right to Cancel:

The NBA reserves the right to cancel/postpone any event due to lack of entries. All members will be notified at the earliest possible time and fees will be returned.

30. Belles and Bulls Class:

Out of fairness to women's athletics, this class is only open to biological females over the age of 18 years old. Women must flank the bull with no outside assistance. Only NBA members and volunteers are allowed on the chute. The payout for belles will be ONE for every FOUR holes, rolling to the next hole.

31. Youth Class:

Youth participants must be less than eighteen years old and in good standing with the NBA. Participants must not be older than eighteen as of January 1st of the competition year.

The youth participant must flank the bull with limited assistance from the dummy hanger. Parents/guardians may be present behind the chute but may not assist in any way. All participants under the age of 18 are required to have a waiver signed by his/her parent/guardian.

The youth event may be canceled if there are less than 5 entries in that class.

Youth are only allowed behind the chutes during the classes they are entered unless otherwise approved by the NBA.

32. Drugs and Alcohol Use:

There will be zero tolerance for intoxication or any erratic behavior that in any way may be considered unsafe or threatening. Alcohol use is prohibited in the bucking chutes/arena/back pens. In either of these instances there will be a \$500 fine and the person will be removed from the arena.

33. Insurance:

Insurance for the event is required and must be provided by the producer to the NBA and the ABBI.

The rules in this document are subject to change but may only be modified if deemed necessary to better conduct Northern Buckers Association (NBA) events and productions.