



Official 2026

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# Competition Rule Book





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## WELCOME TO OUR CLUB

Thank you for being a part of our community.

Top End Drum Runners (TEDR) are 100% focused on increasing the number of participants and improving the skills and techniques of our members, whilst enhancing the overall image of barrel racing within a safe and secure environment for all involved.

For our club goals to be possible, individual competitors and guardians must abide by all rules stipulated and supported within this rule book.

Our rule book will be revised as required by our committee to include/exclude or any necessary change of rules.

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### **DISCLAIMER:**

*Top End Drum Runners (TEDR) are an affiliated club with the Australian Bushmans Campdraft & Rodeo Association- ABCRA.*

*Top End Drum Runners (TEDR) adheres by the Australian Bushmans Campdraft & Rodeo Association- ABCRA.*

*Any discrepancies not covered within the Australian Bushmans Campdraft & Rodeo Association- ABCRA. will default to the Top End Drum Runners (TEDR) rule book and/or at the discretion of the committee.*

*This rule book cannot cover all possible scenarios that may arise, nor can it regulate all administrative questions.*

*Where a rule does not precisely regulate cases, the rules assume that the Top End Drum Runners (TEDR) Committee have the necessary sound judgement, competence and objectivity to make a ruling.*

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## ANIMAL WELFARE

It is a requirement of Top End Drum Runners (TEDR) members that you comply with the relevant state regulations regarding animal welfare.

A current code of conduct for the welfare of animals in the Northern Territory, is available on the below NT Government website:

<https://nt.gov.au/environment/animals/animal-welfare>

If any person/s present have concerns about the welfare of an animal on the grounds at a Top End Drum Runners (TEDR) event - MUST be reported immediately to any Committee Member of Top End Drum Runners (TEDR).

If any Committee Member have concerns about the welfare of an animal on the grounds at a Top End Drum Runners (TEDR) event, they hold the right of a majority vote to scratch or disqualify the animal and or rider from competing.

Top End Drum Runners (TEDR) recommend all competitors adhere to Racing Australia's guidelines, for illicit substances for horse and/or rider.



## HARASSMENT & BULLYING

Any Top End Drum Runners (TEDR) committee member/s, member/s, affiliates including spectators found to engaging in or attempting to engage in any action; threatening nature, berating, harassing, intimidating – including in person, telephone, email or any form of social media platform including assaulting or striking.

All complaints of Harassment and Bullying **MUST** be raised immediately with a committee member so the matter can be addressed promptly and appropriately.

Any form of harassment and Bullying will not be tolerated and will result in the suspension or cancellation of your Top End Drum Runners (TEDR) membership at the discretion of the Committee.

For further information, please refer to the Australian Bushmans Campdraft & Rodeo Association -ABCRA.

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## SOCIAL MEDIA

The Top End Drum Runners (TEDR) committee does not condone the posting and boasting of any derogatory or slanderous remarks made on any social media platform by any person, member or non-member.

Any person who breaches this code of conduct will face disciplinary action or suspension by the Top End Drum Runners (TEDR) Committee.

For further information, please refer to the Australian Bushmans Campdraft & Rodeo Association (ABCRA)



## PROTESTS

Any persons who believe a rule violation or infraction has occurred at a Top End Drum Runners (TEDR) event may file a written protest.

The written protest must be accompanied by a \$50 protest fee and lodged with the Committee within 48 hours of the incident that is being protested.

If the protest proves to be valid, the \$50 protest fee will be returned to the person filing the protest.

If the protest proves to be invalid, the protest fee will be retained in the clubs running cost funds.

All protests will be dealt with in line with the Top End Drum Runners (TEDR) Constitution.

*(NOTE: This rule does not prevent Directors and Officials from retrospectively correcting problems or errors).*

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## COMPLAINTS

Any other complaints not covered in the above mentioned are to be put in writing within 48 hours of the incident.

You can hand deliver to a committee member or email to [drumrunnersnt@hotmail.com](mailto:drumrunnersnt@hotmail.com).

These complaints will be formally addressed by the committee.



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## GENERAL RULES & CODE OF CONDUCT

1. Volunteering is compulsory - each member (or member delegate) MUST volunteer at every event for a minimum of 30 minutes.
  - A) Nomination for volunteer roles are done on the day of the event at the office when signing in. First in best dressed for your choice of volunteer events.
  - B) Failure to do so will result in loss of points gained at the corresponding event. Additional people are encouraged to assist.
  
2. ALL horses must be saddled and bridled at all times whilst being ridden anywhere on the grounds, at a Top End Drum Runners (TEDR) event. Bareback or doubling is NOT PERMITTED on the grounds, at any time.
  
3. Riding members/day members are the only people permitted to ride horses on the grounds at a Top End Drum Runners (TEDR) event.
  
4. ALL stallions are to be double tied whilst on the grounds at a Top End Drum Runners (TEDR) event and must be handled by a competent person over the age of 18 years.
  
5. Consumption of illegal drugs by any person/s present at a Top End Drum Runners (TEDR) meet/s will not be tolerated. Refer to ABCRA Drug and Alcohol Policy.
  
6. Competitors are also responsible for any family or spectators they bring to an event. You may be penalised if your spectators behavior is inappropriate.



7. ALL person/s attending a Top End Drum Runners (TEDR) meet or function must conduct themselves appropriately. Any individual/s displaying unacceptable and/or anti-social behavior will be held accountable/asked to leave upon the committee's discretion.
8. Never argue with an Official, Marshall or Volunteer. Disciplinary action will be taken upon the committee's discretion.
9. TEDR Annual Membership commences from 1<sup>st</sup> January through to 31<sup>st</sup> December for a 12-month period.
10. Refunds will only be applicable should the event be cancelled minus ABCRA admin fees.

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## SHARING OF HORSES

The sharing of a horse/s is permitted with the following conditions:

1. IF, it is felt by the Top End Drum Runners (TEDR) management committee that a horse is being worked too hard or that competing multiple times is having a negative impact and effect on the horse - have the right to refuse two (2) riders competing on the same horse.
2. ABCRA events 1 horse1 rider per event



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## AGE GROUPS

Please refer to the Australian Bushmans Campdraft & Rodeo- ABCRA rule book for further information.

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## DIVISIONAL BARREL RACING RULES

1. TEDR Divisional Barrel Races are not to be restricted in any manner and must be open to any rider and any horse.
2. All TEDR divisional categories splits and amount of divisions will be determined at the start of the season based on previous season times and entries. This is done so divisions are filled and provides fair competition. Committee has discretion to change splits and or amount of divisions up to the middle of the season to ensure competition is fair.
3. The Rookie Rider category (Junior and Senior) is based on beginner rider capability, knowledge, and experience, not the horse. Rookie Rider Category it is expected you will walk, trot or canter, if appropriate, for part of the pattern, resulting in a time of over 27 seconds. Riders will be required to transition out of the Rookie Rider category after their first two meets if their recorded times are under 27 seconds. Following this transition, riders will be moved into the applicable Junior or Open divisional category for the next season.
4. All Divisional barrel races are 2 run format, with 1 run format option.
5. Divisional barrel races with 2 runs, the competitors average time will be recorded towards placings. All rounds added together and divided by number of rounds



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## ACCRUAL OF TOP END DRUM RUNNERS (TEDR) CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS

1. Top End Drum Runners (TEDR) Championship Points will be awarded in all events on a **5, 4, 3, 2, 1** basis from 1<sup>st</sup> place to 5<sup>th</sup> place.
2. If two or more riders tie for a position, the points for the tied position will be added together and divided equally amongst the tied riders.
3. All points are awarded to horse and rider combination
4. If the rider commences competing on a different horse, points are not transferred to the new horse but will remain with previous one
5. In the case of a tie for the title, a count back of the competition season to see who had the most wins at a points earning event will determine the winner.
6. If the tie persists-number of elevated placings will be considered
7. In the case of a tie for a championship placing the same process will take place.
8. The competitor that has not won the tie from he count back review will automatically receive the next available place award.
9. Riders must compete at no less than 4 (four) meets for season points earnings.
10. End of year Perpetual Trophy will be calculated by the highest point earner for the year in Barrel Racing and Pole Pending.

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## DRESS CODE

It is **mandatory** for all competitors, led line handlers, support people and/or any other person entering the arena to be in appropriate Western attire throughout events including warm-up.

### **This includes:**

- Long Sleeved collared shirt with sleeves rolled down and shirt buttoned.

Half button shirts are allowed; Western attire is required, please refer to the ABCRA rule book for further guidelines.

- Helmets - all **JUNIORS** must always wear an Approved Australian Standards helmet whilst mounted and/or in the arena.

Approved and accepted helmets will have one of the following standards: ASNZ 3838, ASTM F1163, EN 1384 clearly identified on the helmet and must be within 5 years of manufacture date.

Helmets for Senior's are optional however are strongly encouraged to be worn.

A choice of cowboy hat or helmet **MUST** be worn by riders over the age of 18. Support people, Volunteers and Officials over the age of 18 years in the arena must wear appropriate Western attire.

Competitors riding a horse must wear riding boots.

Led Line handlers are permitted to wear appropriate enclosed shoes - no "Crocs" are to be worn in the arena.



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## BARREL RACING RULES

1. The Australian Bushmans Campdraft & Rodeo Association (ABCRA) Rule Book applies however please note; the default rule book for Top End Drum Runners (TEDR) also applies at our local meets/events and where the club committee see fit, fair and reasonable.
2. It is permissible for riders to have a support person in the arena during a run however a 5 second penalty will be applicable should the support person assist the rider in any way once they have entered the times competition zone (EG if the support person touches the horse or equipment)
3. The ground conditions within the arena will be monitored by the clubs committee and managed in accordance with considerations of the competitor / horse safety.
4. Should competitors feel the arena surface is unsuitable for the safety of themselves or their horse, they must raise the concern to a committee member so reasonable solutions can be found/ dealt with.
5. Protests, following runs- regarding surface management will not be processed due to the training ethos of the club and limited resources for surface management.



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## POLE PENDING

Pole bending is a timed event, run in age divisions - as follows:

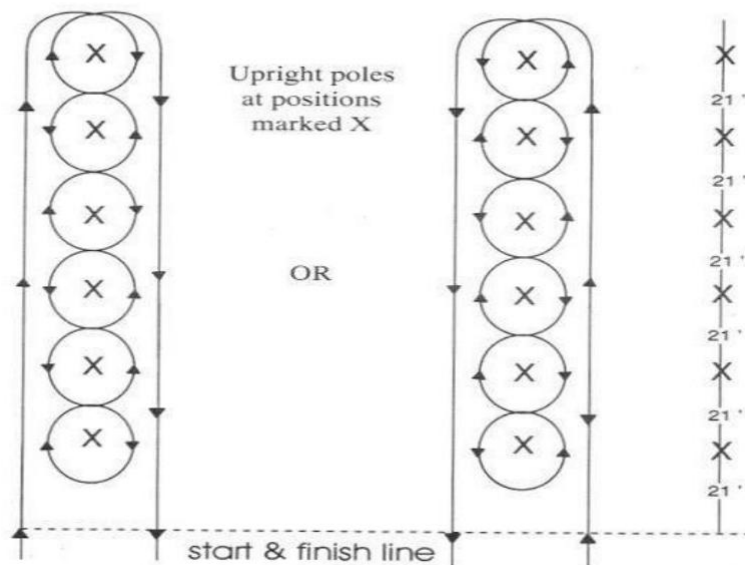
- Led Line
  - 12 Yrs and under Age
  - 13 to 17 years of age
  - Over 18yrs of Age
1. Each contestant will begin from a running start and time shall begin and end as the horses nose crosses the timing line. A clearly visible starting line must be provided (EG timers)
  2. An electric timer or at minimum two watches shall be used, with the time indicated by the electric timer or the average time of the watches used to be the official time.
  3. The pole bending pattern is to be run around six poles. Each pole is to be 21 feet (6.4 meters) apart and the first pole is to be 21 feet (6.4 meters) from the starting line. Poles shall be set on top of the ground, six feet (1.8 meters) in height, with no base more than 14 inches (35cm) in diameter.
  4. A horse may start either to the right or to the left of the first pole and then run the remainder of the pattern accordingly
  5. Knocking over a pole shall carry a five- second penalty. Failure to follow the course shall cause disqualification. A contestant may touch a pole with his or her hand in pole bending.
  6. Whipping – Disqualification will occur if more than 2 contacts with equipment or hand from start of run to first barrel. Disqualification will occur if more than 2 contacts with equipment or hand from barrel 1 to barrel 2 . Disqualification will occur if more than 2 contacts with equipment or hand from barrel 2 to barrel 3. Disqualification will occur if more than 4 contacts with equipment or hand from barrel 3 to end of run. Definition of equipment (object, device) riding crop- over and under whip- quirt, reins. Ruled by the Judge
  7. In the event of a tie, the horse declared the winner in the runoff must re-run the pattern within two seconds of its original time or the runoff

must be held again. Penalty time will not apply to the two second rule but will apply to the final runoff time.

8. The judge, at his/her discretion, may disqualify a contestant for excessive use of a bat, crop, whip or rope in front of the cinch.

Poles shall be set on top of the ground, 6 feet in height, and mounted in bases with a 14 inch diameter. Poles shall be PVC pipe, and bases shall be rubber or plastic. For added safety, PVC caps are recommended. Preferred colour for poles is natural white, but red, white and blue rings shall be allowed. Solid rubber bases are preferred, but hollow plastic bases shall be allowed only if filled completely to emulate a solid base.

### Pole Bending Diagram





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## LED LINE COMPETITORS

1. Led Line competitors can be any age, however must be able to sit on horse/pony without being held.
2. Must be led by someone of 14yrs or older
3. Max 2 leader/handler permitted per rider
4. The leader must not be in front of the horse's shoulder when crossing the timer lines
5. Western Attire including helmet or hat must worn by competitor and handlers.