

2026 Cowgirl Gathering Barrel Race

Rules & Conditions

Event Details

BBR Select Open 5D (Thurs)

- Current BBR Membership Required
- \$70 Entry Fee - \$20 Discount for Gold Card Members!
- \$5,000 Added

Cowgirl Gathering Open 5D (Fri)

- Current BBR Membership Required
- \$175 Entry Fee
- \$20,000 Added

American Rodeo Qualifier (Fri)

- Current BBR Membership Required
- \$500 Entry Fee
- Qualifier for American Rodeo
- All American Rodeo Qualifier entries are required to also enter and roll time to the Cowgirl Gathering Open 5D
- Entries for American Rodeo Qualifier race must be made online at BetterBarrelRaces.com – Books close Nov 9 at 5pm Central.

PBRIP Sidepot

- Open to APHA horses only
- \$100 Entry Fee (70% payback)
- \$3,500 Added

Texas Paint-Bred Incentive

- Open to eligible APHA horses only
- No Entry Fee
- \$3,500 Added

BBR X-Tra Sidepot

- \$40 Entry Fee
- \$1,000 Added
- BBR Southwest X-Tra Tour Standings plus additional BBR points and BBRWF qualification!

BIG SPENDER Sidepot

- \$250 Entry Fee (80% payback)
- \$1,000 Added
- 4D Format (½ second splits)

Futurity Fast Time Sidepot

- \$150 Entry Fee
- \$2,500 Added
- Open to horses 5 yrs or younger who have not been entered in barrel competition prior to Nov 15, 2025
- Rider must have current BBR Futurity Riders Guild membership.
- Fastest Time from Thurs or Fri Open 5D races
- 2D Progressive Format (1 sec split)

Rider Incentive Sidepots

- \$50 Entry Fee
- Youth/17U - Adult - Senior/50+ Age Group Sidepots
- Based on rider age as of Jan 1st
- \$500 Added to each age group sidepot

Open Aggregate Sidepot

- \$50 Entry Fee
- \$1,500 Added
- Aggregate time from Thurs and Fri Open 5D runs

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Junior Patriot Qualifier

- Times roll from Cowgirl Gathering Open 5D (Friday)
- Enter sidepot online through PatriotEvent.com. *Note: Sidepot entry does not in entry to Cowgirl Gathering Open 5D.*

Entry Deadlines, Draw Outs and Refunds

- Pre-entries must be received or completed online by November 9, 2026. Entries after that date are subject to late fees as listed for applicable section above. Books for late entries close as listed above or with the first runner of each class/section.
- You may draw out for any reason with a full refund (less processing fee and credit card convenience fee, if applicable) until November 9, 2026, at 5pm Central. You must contact the BBR Office at (405) 230-7167x501 or by email at ross@betterbarrelraces.com prior to November 9, 2026, at 5pm Central, to draw out with the above refund options. After that time there are no refunds for any reason.
- Any refunds will be processed approximately 10 days after the event.
- A \$50 charge will be assessed for every check returned to BBR by the bank marked insufficient, closed account or stop payment. Anyone who fails to pay the return check charge will remain ineligible for nomination to subsequent BBR produced events, until such time as all return check charges have been paid. Any questions or disputes regarding credit card charges shall first be addressed with BBR Management. Dispute of charges without prior contact with of event management or after confirming the validity of said charges with event management will result in a \$50 charge and the associated contestant and/or horse owner being ineligible for subsequent BBR produced events until all fees have been paid.

Stalls, Shavings & RV Hookups

- Stalls and RVs will be available on site.
- Contact The Ranch at NRS at 817-569-7135.

Substitutions

- Horse substitutions may be made prior to your run at no charge. Additional restrictions may apply to substitutions for the American Contender Tournament Qualifier.
- No rider substitutions and selling entries are allowed.

General

- Check-In – All horses must be checked-in and provide a negative EIA (coggins) test chart for each horse brought on the grounds. Out-of-State horses must also have current health papers.
- Running Order – Draw for the pre-entries will be posted at betterbarrelraces.com. Late entries will be in a separate draw that will be added after the pre-entry draw. Horses must be run in the order they are drawn. Switching draw positions or running a horse out of order will result in disqualification.
- Dress Code - All contestants must wear a long-sleeved shirt (no t-shirts), boots or "heals down" style shoes, and western hat or riding helmet. Failure to comply with the dress code will result in a disqualification.
- Gate Calls - The arena coordinator will call the contestants in the next drag to the back of the alley. If you fail to check in with the arena coordinator AND be in the designated holding area prior to your run, you will be considered a scratch.
- Customary Tack - A bridle (with a bit and/or a noseband), saddle, saddle pad or saddle blanket, protective foot and leg boots, tie-down, bonnet, martingale or German martingale, split reins, draw reins, are all considered to be standard and customary articles of tack used in barrel racing. Contestants are prohibited from competing bareback, and/or bridle-less. Any articles of tack or performance enhancing gear which impede BBR's ability to number or identify horses are prohibited in BBR competition. Use of such prohibited tack or performance enhancing gear shall result in a disqualification with no refund of entry fees.

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- **Format/Payout** – Unless noted above, all classes and sidepots are 75% payback and will be paid on the 5D format with ½ second split using the applicable percentage published online at betterbarrelraces.com.
- **Tie for Purse & Prizes** – If any contestants' times are tied, the prize money will be split equally between the tied contestants. Any ties for prizes will be determined by a roll of the dice, high roll wins prizes.
- **Knocked Down Barrels** – In divisional competition will result in a no time. Barrels knocked down in Futurity competition will receive a 5 second time penalty added to run.
- **Entering the Competition Arena** – Rider must be mounted and must maintain forward motion. The competition arena is defined as any point past the arena gate. *Intentionally* circling, stopping or backing horses after entering through the arena gate is strictly prohibited and will result in a no-time. Contestant may be led by an un-mounted assistant through the gate into the alley, horse must not be intentionally stopped, turned or circled after crossing the threshold of the gate.
- **Timing** – An electric timer will be used for all runs. In the event of a timer failure, a re-ride will be granted. Any penalties incurred during original run, prior to being instructed by arena officials/announcer to "pull up", will apply. Barrels tipped after being instructed to "pull up" will not incur a penalty. Contestant shall contact the arena judge immediately. All re-runs will be scheduled to run at the end of the second set of 50 following the contestant's original draw position. If a barrel is knocked down during the re-run, that penalty will apply.
- **Payout** – All checks for prize money will be issued in the name of the rider. A completed IRS W-9 (or W-8BEN for non-residents) form for the proper individual must be provided before prize money can be distributed. It is the contestant's responsibility to provide required tax forms and claim their any prize money in a timely manner. Contestants not providing the required documents and claiming prize money (i.e. cashing prize money checks) within 120 days of the completion of the event will forfeit any claim to said prize money.
- **Prizes** – All prizes must be picked up in person by the prize winner at the event or by a representative designated by the winner in the show office. Prizes not picked up may be mailed at the winner's expense.
- **Animal Abuse** – The welfare of the horse and all other animals is paramount to BBR. Anyone who excessively whips or spurs, and/or strikes a horse's ears, eyes or face with anything other than the hand, either in the arena or on the facility grounds will be fined \$100. Any rider caught using an electronic device on a horse during competition will be automatically disqualified and shall forfeit all entry fees and/or winnings. Horses shall not be left unattended while bitted-up or tied-around on facility grounds at any BBR produced event. Inhumane treatment, or neglect, of any horse or other animal during a BBR event will not be tolerated. An individual who has been warned by a BBR Representative for such behavior and persists or refutes the warning shall be fined an additional \$100. Individuals who fail to pay incurred fines will remain ineligible for competition at BBR, LLC events, until such time as all fines have been paid. First offenses will be punished by a fine being imposed. A second offense will be dealt with by BBR Management and may result in a fine of up to \$5,000 and a suspension of membership.
- **Safety** – Safety is a prime objective at this barrel race. If you have a horse that could be dangerous to yourself, other contestants, or other horses, DO NOT bring it to this barrel race. Any horse or contestant deemed to be dangerous by the management of BBR will be disqualified and entry fees will not be refunded. Better Barrel Races, LLC does not assume any responsibility for personal injury, loss, theft or damage. Contestants and all other parties recognize barrel racing as a hazardous sport and participate at their own risk.
- **Disqualifications** – Any act deemed prejudicial to the best interests of BBR may result in the disqualification of the contestant, with no refund of entry fees. The contestant may also be placed upon the BBR "ineligible" list. These acts may include but are not limited to the following:
 - Using abusive or intemperate language or attempting to threaten, bribe, influence, or harass any contestant, spectator, staff member, or Arena Personnel. Also, any remarks made with the intent to cast aspersions on the character or integrity of a BBR staff member or management member.
 - Moving or attempting to move markers at any time.
 - Use of electronic and/or remotely controlled devices to alter the outcome of a run.
 - Abuse or neglect of a horse or other animals as defined within these rules.
 - Competing while under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
 - Misidentifying a horse or rider in any BBR Barrel Race class.
 - Other conduct that is not in the best interest of the BBR, or its contestants.
 - Failure to make good on a returned check or to dispute valid credit card charges to the APHA or BBR.

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- The BBR Management at their sole discretion shall have the authority to disqualify or deny entry to any horse they deem dangerous to the rider, or to other individuals, animals or property.
- Photo & Video – APHA and Better Barrel Races retain all rights to every photo and/or video taken on the event grounds during the event. Contestant grants APHA and Better Barrel Races the right to use any photographs or video of him/her taken at the event, including but not limited to those of any contestant during competition or while otherwise attending the event, for publicity purposes. The contestant agrees that no photographic or video images taken of the competition or exhibition areas will be altered or copied without the express written consent of APHA, Better Barrel Races and the photographer/videographer. Contestants are expressly prohibited from taking pictures/videos of photographer/videographer proofs or recorded runs at the viewing booths unless approved by the event videographer or photographer. Use of cameras or video equipment by any contestant and/or spectator other than smart phone/tablet camera is expressly prohibited without press credentials. Press credentials are also required for all commercial photographers or videographers at the event. Credentials can be obtained in the show office. Individuals without prior approval and proper press credentials will be asked to leave the premises.