

2026 MPBA RULES

Midwest Pole Bending Association LLC

- RELEASE OF LIABILITY, INDEMNIFICATION AND RELEASE PERSONAL INJURY; This event is conducted by Midwest Pole Bending Association, a Minnesota LLC (“Company”). By making entry as a participant, I hereby understand that no matter how careful the sponsors, officers, directors, or participants may be, my injury or death, as well as that of my horse, or my child is a possibility. Furthermore, I, as a participant (or parent/guardian of a participant) agree to hold harmless the Company, its agents, management, contractors and employees from any expense, cause of action, damage, or claim of damage (including any legal fees) of any kind whatsoever, which I might assert as a result of my (or my child’s) injury, death or claim.
- Midwest Pole Bending Association can refuse any entry for any reason.
- Shavings: Verndale, MN – no outside shavings allowed. Shavings will be available through the show office. Rapid City – outside shavings allowed. Horses kept overnight must have a stall. Changes may be made if stalls are sold out.
- Verndale only: All horses must have a stall or pay a daily jump out fee. Daily jump outs will be provided a daily stall.
- ALL RUNS COUNT weekend sidepot will be available at Race for the Roses, Madrinas Challenge, MN Challenge and the Prospector Challenge Series. Pay one fee per horse. The OPEN run from Friday-Saturday-Sunday will be used to calculate a single payout. Added money published on flyers and entry forms for each show.
- Carryovers selected during pre entry and original entry can be cancelled prior to the run from which the carryover is carried from. The runner will be added to the end of the draw.
- Carryovers can be ADDED prior to the run from which the time is carried from as long as the rider does not have a draw number assigned at pre entry. Runs CANNOT change to a carryover once a draw number is assigned unless the rider becomes a worker, vendor or sponsor, or at producer discretion. Riders can choose to carryover Saturday runs/sidepots to Sunday.
- For shows with a second Open 4D class, the second open may be drawn the day of the show at producer discretion.
- Pre Entry postmark deadline is two weeks prior to the start of the event unless otherwise noted on the flyer and entry form. Once entered, a rider may add classes/horses without any additional office or late fees. Online entry pre-entry deadline is one week prior to an event.
- EARLY RUN is for workers, sponsors and vendors.
- The early run must be designated at time of entry. Workers must volunteer a minimum of two hours = ONE early run. Workers may sign up for more hours to qualify for more early runs.
- Sponsors are eligible to add early runs at anytime – minimum sponsor fee is \$100/rider or \$250/banner or minimum \$250 added money/class. NOTE: Rider sponsorships will have early run eligibility all three days. Banner sponsors (\$250) may designate more than one rider.
- Heeled boots required at all races. Full dress code required for Futurity/Maturity, slot races and championship events – Black Hills Classic and Midwest Pole Bending Championships.
- Refunds for vet-outs must be received by noon Tuesday prior to the show. Vet outs receive 100% refund less office fee.

- Horse/rider substitutions will be allowed for \$10 fee for horse/rider changes received after noon Tuesday before the show. No changes after 8 PM Saturday for Sunday runs. If a horse or rider change is needed, a new entry/end of draw is required.
- Barrels will be in the arena but not on the competition stakes during the Open Riding sessions.
- Exhibition time limited to one minute starting at the alley (not at the timeline!). Exceeding the one minute will forfeit any additional exhibitions. Riders should minimize excessive “circling” of any barrel to help hold the ground for other contestants. Riders will more than one exhibition back to back must not fully exit the alleyway between runs.
- Late entries will be run at the end of each class. Late entries accepted until last rider.
- Riders will receive 3 calls at the gate. After 3 calls, the ride will be considered a scratch.
- Controlled access will be maintained for warm up areas. The number will be announced at the show. No cell phones or head phones allowed in the warm up pens.
- No schooling is allowed in the arena during the jackpot classes. Riders will be fined \$25 for circling a barrel an extra time. We want to ensure the ground is as fair as possible for every rider.
- You may circle once in the arena prior to the start of your run. You will be fined \$10 for additional circling.
- Rider must maintain forward motion after they cross the timeline.
- 4D/5D Open Classes will be on the half second split (winner, ½, ½, ½, 1/2). This includes all NBHA runs.
- Buy back option allowed. Riders can “buy back” an entry to be added at the end of the youth, open or pole bending classes. The office must be notified of the buy back request prior to the end of the original class. Additional sidepots can be added to the buy back option. If an early run vendor/worker/sponsor requests a buy-back, the rider has the option to run at end of the early class or end of the open. Open classes. Buy backs are available for youth, open poles and barrels only.
- Poles/Youth/Senior/Adult classes and/or sidepots will be 3D full second split unless otherwise noted on flyers and entry forms.
- Futurity sidepots will be paid on a 2D full second split.
- Derby sidepots will be paid on a 2D half second split.
- Tipped barrels result in a no-time for barrel classes. Tipped poles are a 5 second penalty per pole.
- 100% of advertised added money and 75% of class fees (less sanctioning fee/run if applicable) will be paid out for all classes including NBHA.
- Contestants submit a copy of their current negative coggins test. State Vet Board rules apply for horses traveling from out of state.
- All reruns will be the decision of the Arena Director. Rerun will be on fresh drag. Arena Director’s decisions are FINAL. In the case of a timer malfunction rider will be offered a re-run. No re-rides will be given for individual equipment or tack malfunction.
- Riders must compete in the order of the draw. It is the rider’s responsibility to know when they are up.
- Riders running out of turn will be disqualified. NOTE: This includes Pee Wee riders.

- Competitors or their representatives must be present at awards ceremony or awards are subject to forfeit.
- We will drag every 5 riders, with big drags every 50 riders. There will be a drag between all classes. Poles will be dragged every 7 riders. Changes to this plan may be made at producers discretion at the show.
- A W-9 must be on file to pick up any check. All weekend fees must be paid before picking up checks. ALL PAYOUT CHECKS WILL BE VOID AND FORFEITED AFTER 60 DAYS FROM RACE DATE.
- Unsportsmanlike conduct to horses, other competitors, workers, vendors, sponsors or to production staff may result in an immediate dismissal and forfeit of entry fees and any money earned. Any behavior damaging arena property will be cause for dismissal and possible repair fees.
- Returned check fee \$40. MPBA may formally “blacklist” riders with repetitive bounced checks or require cash only payment for future shows. Replacement check fee \$10 for each check.
- Vendors welcome. Vendors must submit a vendor application and pay appropriate fees prior to setting up product or service areas. Unauthorized vendors will be asked to leave the show. Any entry fees and money earned will be forfeited and rider considered scratched.
- Black Hills Classic Pole Bending will have a \$100 entry fee per day. 20% of the payout will be held back for the average of Friday and Saturday runs.
- Midwest Pole Bending Championship have a \$100 entry fee per day. 20% of the payout will be held back for the average of Friday and Saturday runs.

Prospector Challenge/R & J Classic Futurity and Maturity:

- The Prospector Challenge Futurity and Maturity will take place May 29-30 in conjunction with Prospector Challenge Finals. The R & J Futurity and Maturity Stop #1 will take place May 1-2 in conjunction with Race for the Roses. The R & J Futurity and Maturity Stop #2 will take place June 26-27 in conjunction with Madrinas Challenge. Stop #3 will be held at PEWC Finals October 9-10. Awards will be handed out at Prospector Challenge and PEWC Finals events.
- The 3D Futurity is open to horses that not have reached the age of 6 in the calendar year of futurity. Include a copy of Registration Papers or Veterinarian’s affidavit of year of birth and complete description of unregistered horse with your entry form.
- Futurity horse(s) must never have competed in any barrel race prior to the start of their declared futurity year (November 15, 2025). To do means to forfeit all fees paid and elimination from the futurity. Exhibition or “time only” runs prior to futurity year are allowed.
- The 3D Maturity is open to horses 8 years and younger; any horse “matured” in from competing in prior years; OR any horse from sired from a 2026 nominated Homegrown Stallion Incentive. Include a copy of Registration Papers or Veterinarian’s affidavit of year of birth and complete description of unregistered horse with your entry form.
- All riders must be designated when entries are due. Rider changes after that date will be \$20 charge and you must complete and submit Rider Change Form.
- Horses must be checked in prior to running.
- There will be two go-rounds and an average. Total times of the 2 rounds will determine the winners. The 3D Futurity will be paid on a full second split. The 3D Maturity will be paid on a half

second split. Award money will be 75% of entry fees along with 100% of added money. 2 go's and an average with each go paying 30% and 40% to the average. Awards are based on the Average. Upon the result of a tie, money will be added together and split evenly for payback. Awards will be given out according to fastest individual time.

- Substitutions will be accepted only due to death, illness or unsoundness of the original nominated horse and or rider. A vet release must accompany the substitution. The substitute horse/rider must meet all requirements. Horse and rider substitutions must be made in the show office at least one hour prior to competition. There will be a \$20.00 fee for substitutions of horse or rider.
- No refunds for Futurity or Maturity classes.
- Current coggins is required and dropped off at check in.
- Dress code: long sleeve shirts, cowboy hat or helmet, cowboy boots. .

Prospector Challenge/R & J Classic Futurity and Maturity Race Rules

- A tipped barrel will result in a no time.
- A maximum of three gate calls will be made, after which the horse and rider will be disqualified for that go-round.
- Should the timer fail, you will be given the choice to rerun with a clean drag or at the end of the class.
- First go draw order designates rake breaks and is reversed for the second go. Bottom of ground will receive top of the ground and so forth. Rake breaks will not change for the second go.
- Running out of turn will result in disqualification. Running order will be posted and if you are called out of order you have the option to question this before running.

Prospector Challenge/R & J Classic Futurity and Maturity Fees & Dates

- Futurity entry fee is a one time fee of \$250.00. Postmark due date is the same as regular entry. Online one week prior to the start of each show.
- Maturity entry fee is a one time fee of \$150.00. Postmark due date is the same as regular entry. Online one week prior to the start of each show.
- Late entries will be accepted until check in time with a \$15 late fee – one late fee per rider.
- No refunds for any reason.
- Stalls and camping are to be reserved with the regular event.
- Times will be carried over to the Open 4D/5D or rider may choose to do a clean slate for the Open.