

New England Rodeo (NER) Barrel Racing Rules and Contestant Information

As of May 13, 2026

1. The Professional Barrel Racing, Youth, and Mini divisions are limited to female contestants, unless otherwise specified.
2. The Mini Assisted and Mini Barrel Racing divisions are limited to children ages 10 and younger as of January 1 of the current year. A birth certificate may be requested as proof of age. The Mini Assisted division is for riders on a lead-line. The Mini division is for riders off a lead-line.
3. The Youth Barrel Racing division is limited to children ages 16 and younger as of January 1 of the current year. A birth certificate may be requested as proof of age.
4. The Professional Barrel Racing division is open to all ages.
5. Entries for all contestants open on the Monday before the show at 6:00 PM via Saddlebook. The event will not appear until registration opens. The event title is "Bulls and Barrels" with the month and day of the show. Limited spots are available on a first-come, first-served basis. If divisions are full, please check back for openings due to scratches.
6. Contestants have until Thursday before the show at 7:00 PM to scratch at no charge. Scratches after 7:00 PM Thursday will be assessed a fee equal to the cost of the entry. This fee must be paid before entering future shows. Fees must be paid in cash.
7. After Saddlebook entries close on Thursday at 7:00 PM, message Sarah Lee to be added to the waitlist if no openings are available. Openings will be filled from the waitlist.
8. NER reserves the right to refuse entries based on inappropriate behavior including harassment, poor horsemanship, poor sportsmanship, inappropriate messaging, communications, or social media activity. Contestants, their guests, and family members are expected to represent NER appropriately.
9. Division limits:
 - * Mini Assisted: 5 contestants
 - * Mini: 5 contestants
 - * Youth: 20 contestants
 - * Professional: 24 contestants
10. Contestants must compete in 5 shows to be eligible a potential invitation to the NER Finals.
11. Sponsorship requirements:
 - * Youth and Professional: \$100 sponsorship due by June 1
 - * Mini and Mini Assisted: \$50 sponsorship due by June 28

Sponsorships must be cash, not goods or services, and contestants must be in good standing with NER.

12. Contestants may enter only one horse per show. Horses may be shared between Mini Assisted, Mini, Youth, and Professional divisions. A horse may not be ridden twice in the same division.

13. Contestants must park in designated areas. Contestants found sneaking in guests may be disqualified or asked to leave.

14. All contestants must check in when the office is open.

15. Office hours open at 4:30 PM. Contestants are considered checked in after signing a waiver and paying their entry fee. Contestants not checked in by 5:30 PM will be considered a call-out and fined an amount equal to their entry fee. Office hours may vary at travel rodeos.

16. Entry fees must be paid in cash to allow for cash payouts.

17. Entry fees:

* Professional: \$50

* Youth: \$40

* Mini: \$10

* Mini Assisted: \$10

18. Approximate start times:

* Youth Division: 6:00 PM

* Professional Division: 7:00 PM

19. Each contestant will receive a wristband allowing access to the back of the rodeo.

20. Each contestant receives one free guest admission. One additional wristband may be purchased for \$20. Contestants are responsible for their guests.

21. Contestants must wear western attire including boots and long jeans. Long-sleeve collared shirts, waist-length shirts, or M Sport 6 shirts are required. Contestants may wear a western hat or helmet. Contestants under 18 must wear a helmet. Western attire is required during open arena and competition.

22. All contestants or their guardians must sign a waiver before mounting a horse. Contestants without a signed waiver may be removed from open arena.

23. Open arena is held from 4:30 PM to 5:00 PM and may be delayed depending on chute loading. Hours may vary at travel rodeos. Barrels may not be touched or set up during open arena.

24. The Professional Division will be split into two groups: First Group and Second Group. Contestants may not switch groups without permission. Other events may occur between groups. Mini Assisted, Mini, and Youth divisions compete before the rodeo during NER's Youth Rodeo.

25. Contestants whose horses become dangerously unruly in the holding area may be disqualified at the discretion of the Judge/Announcer.

26. Contestants are called verbally for their run. If their name is called four times and they do not appear, they will receive a no time.
27. After being called four times, contestants have 60 seconds to enter the arena. Failure to do so results in a no time.
28. Contestants must compete in the posted order of go. Running out of order results in a no time.
29. Contestants must start from the mouth of the gate/alleyway and move forward. Circling in the arena is not permitted.
30. Barrels must be standard 55-gallon metal drums and set on the inside of each stake.
31. Ground will be worked after every 12 riders.
32. Contestants are not penalized for touching a barrel to keep it standing.
33. Riders who fall while on pattern receive a no time. If they fall after a time has been recorded, the time stands.
34. If tack breaks during a run and the contestant cannot continue, no re-ride will be granted.
35. Re-rides are granted only for timer malfunctions. Re-rides may occur immediately or at the end of the group. No fresh drag will be provided.
36. A 5-second penalty is assessed for each knocked barrel. Barrels that fall and flip back upright by 180 degrees are still considered knocked down. Barrels must remain in their original orientation.
37. Contestants may not converse with the Timekeeper or Judge/Announcer during the event except to scratch from the show.
38. Contestants going off pattern are disqualified. Professional contestants must immediately leave the arena. Mini Assisted, Mini, and Youth contestants may immediately retry the pattern once, but the retry will be recorded as a no time.
39. No one other than the contestant may be on horseback in the arena during a run.
40. Contestants and guests are not permitted in the announcer's booth during the show except to scratch from the event, unless authorized by the announcer or judge. Only NER employees are allowed in the booth.
41. Shows may be canceled at the owner's discretion due to weather or unsafe ground conditions.
42. Rules are subject to change. Contestants are responsible for ensuring compliance with the most current version of the rules.
43. Somewhere around the arena, there is a little kid that wants to be just like you someday. You owe it to them to be the best you can be.