

**ARTICLES OF THE ASSOCIATION**  
**(Revision June 3, 2025)**

**ARTICLE I. Name**

This association shall be known as the **Nebraska 4-D**.

**ARTICLE II. Non-profit Association**

This association shall at all times be operated and conducted as a non-profit association in accordance with the laws of the State of Nebraska providing such rights as granted to associations of this kind.

**ARTICLE III. Objectives**

The Nebraska 4-D organization has been formed for the following purposes:

- A. To promote the sport of clover-leaf barrel racing.
- B. To provide a fair and equitable organization open to all peoples.
- C. To provide an organization for the sole benefit of its members and participants, and not to benefit its directors in regards to money, etc.
- D. To publish information concerning dates and results of jackpots and other information for the benefit of its members and participants.

**ARTICLE IV. Boundaries of the Association**

The boundaries of the Nebraska 4-D association shall consist of the entire State of Nebraska.

**BYLAWS**

**Chapter 1**  
**Membership**

**1.1 Members**

- 1.1.1 Membership in the Nebraska 4-D is a privilege, not a right. Membership shall be made by application and is subject to the discretion of the Board of Directors. Membership or application may be terminated or rejected by the Board of Directors for cause detrimental to the interest of the association, its programs, policies, objectives, and harmonious relationship of its members as determined by the Board of Directors.
- 1.1.2 Any person becoming a member of the Nebraska 4-D shall become familiar with its Rules, Articles and Bylaws and shall comply and be bound by same.

**1.2 Membership**

- 1.2.1 Annual dues for membership are set at \$35.00 for Open Division and \$25.00 for Youth Division and \$20.00 for Pee Wee Division. Members do not have to be residents of the State of Nebraska.
- 1.2.2 Membership year runs from October 1 through September 30. Membership dues are good only for the remainder of the competition year from date of payment and must be paid prior to October 1<sup>st</sup>.
- 1.2.3 Members must also compete at one (1) event during the competition year AS A MEMBER in order to qualify for the State Finals event. There are **NO POINTS** kept on members or their horses throughout the year. The annual State Finals event will be a "clean slate" barrel race open to all members provided said member did compete at one Nebraska 4-D approved event during the competition year. Non-members will **not** be allowed to enter or compete at the State Finals in either go around.

**1.3 Conduct of Members**

- 1.3.1 Nebraska 4-D members shall at all times conduct themselves in a manner so as not to cast reflection on the association or themselves
- 1.3.2 Any misconduct or act of violence at an association jackpot will not be tolerated.

- 1.3.3 Inhumane treatment of a horse at an association jackpot will not be tolerated. The standard by which treatment will be measured is that which a reasonable person, informed and experienced in generally accepted equine training and competition procedures would determine to be cruel, abusive, or inhumane. This will include, but is not limited to, excessive use of a bat, crop, whip, or rope in front of the cinch, use of an electric prod, or use of unacceptable drugs.
- 1.3.4 Any attempt to fix or throw a barrel race will not be tolerated (i.e. "pulling-up").
- 1.3.5 Any misconduct, including but not limited to those items listed above, shall be brought to the attention of the Board of Directors for consideration and appropriate action. Appropriate action may include official reprimand, fines, or loss of membership and competition rights.

## **Chapter 2 Board of Directors**

### **2.1 Duties of the Board of Directors**

- 2.1.1 The Board of Directors is responsible for reviewing membership applications, scheduling jackpots, and handling all business pertinent to the association. These duties shall be divided amongst those on the Board so as not to put undue pressure or work on one particular individual.
- 2.1.2 Members of the Board of Directors shall serve as judges at association jackpots.
- 2.1.3 Any member of the Board of Directors may call a meeting, provided each member of the Board is given advanced notice of the meeting.

### **2.2 Term and Filing Vacancies on the Board of Directors**

- 2.2.1 Members of the Board of Directors serve an indefinite term.
- 2.2.2 Members of the Board of Directors must nominate a replacement member upon their resignation. This nomination must be accepted by a 2/3 majority of the remainder of the Board members.

## **Chapter 3 Association Articles and Bylaws**

### **3.1 Situations Not Covered in Articles and Bylaws**

- 3.1.1 All activities not covered by these articles and bylaws are subject to approval by the Board of Directors.
- 3.1.2 All challenges and disputes under the association's articles and bylaws or with decisions made by jackpot judges shall be submitted to the Board of Directors in writing within 30 days. A decision by the board of Directors will determine all discrepancies and will be final.

### **3.2 Amending the Association Articles and Bylaws**

- 3.2.1 The association's rules may only be changed by the Board of Directors. The Board is responsible for posting a current copy of the Bylaws on the Nebraska 4-D website at [www.ne4d.com](http://www.ne4d.com).

## **Chapter 4 Jackpots**

### **4.1 Jackpots**

- 4.1.1 Jackpots can be held outside of the state of Nebraska, but the area must be within a 25 mile distance from the state line. Members must attend at least one (1) jackpot per year in order to qualify for the State Finals event. **NO POINTS** are kept by member or by horse at any time throughout the year and there are no money/points earned requirements at any time.

- 4.1.2 Nebraska 4-D jackpots are open to all members and non-members. No additional non-member fees will be charged. Non-members may compete at yearly jackpots for money only but are not eligible to enter or compete at the State Finals event.
- 4.1.3 A current negative EIA (coggins) test may be required at the producer's discretion for each animal on the event grounds. If the Producer requires a negative EIA (coggins) certificate it must be clearly stated in any promotional or advertising materials. If a Nebraska 4-D approved event is held at a venue/arena that requires any specific vaccinations, certificates, or health papers, this information must be clearly listed on all promotional/advertising materials for the event and the producer must make a good faith effort to notify potential contestants of such requirements.

#### **4.2 PeeWee Class**

- 4.2.1 The entry fee for the PeeWee Class will be \$5.00, no office or awards fee will be charged. 100% payback of the \$5.00 entry fee will be paid at the discretion of the producer.
- 4.2.2 The PeeWee is open to all persons seven (7) years of age and younger as of January 1 of current year.
- 4.2.3 Children of PeeWee age may enter only one of the age restricted classes, either the PeeWee Class or the Youth Class but NOT both.
- 4.2.4 Membership fee will be required for any PeeWee competing in the PeeWee class at the State Finals event.
- 4.2.5 PeeWees must purchase a Youth Membership and qualification for the State Finals PeeWee class will require running at one (1) regular season jackpot in the PeeWee Division as a paid member.

#### **4.3 Youth Class**

- 4.3.1 The Youth class is open to all persons thirteen (13) years of age and younger as of January 1<sup>st</sup>.
- 4.3.2 The Youth class will be run in a 4D format with one-half (0.5) second splits between each divisions. The 1D will be set by the fastest time of the Youth barrel race and the 2D, 3D, and 4D divisions being 0.5, 1.0 and 1.5 seconds off the fastest time, respectively.
- 4.3.3 Runs with penalties (i.e. hit barrels) cannot place.
- 4.3.4 Membership fee will be required for any youth competing in the Youth class who wishes to compete in the Youth Division at the State Finals event.
- 4.3.5 Qualification for the State Finals Youth class will require running at one (1) regular season jackpot in the Youth Division as a paid member.
- 4.3.6 Youth wishing to compete in the Open Division at the State Finals must secure an Open Division membership and follow all rules for Open Division members. (Article 1.2.3)

#### **4.4 Open 4D Class**

- 4.4.1 The Open 4D class will consist of four (4) divisions. The 1D will be set by the fastest time of the barrel race with the 2D, 3D and 4D divisions being 0.5, 1.0 and 1.5 seconds off the fastest time, respectively. Example:

	1D	2D	3D	4D
1 <sup>st</sup>	15.000	15.500	16.000	16.500
2 <sup>nd</sup>	15.153	15.675	16.235	16.655
3 <sup>rd</sup>	15.395	15.802	16.399	16.998
4 <sup>th</sup>	15.479	15.992	16.430	17.002

- 4.4.2 Contestants must attempt to make the fastest run possible. Any obvious attempt to "pull up" or pace their run will result in disqualification.
- 4.4.3 Runs with penalties (i.e. hit barrels) cannot place in the 4D

#### **4.5 General Barrel Racing Rules**

- 4.5.1 Where these bylaws are not specific, generally accepted barrel racing practices will govern.
- 4.5.2 The standard pattern for setting the barrel is:  
Ninety (90) feet between barrels 1 and 2; One hundred five (105) feet between barrels 2 and 3 and barrels 1 and 3; Sixty (60) feet from barrels 1 and 2 to scoreline, and, if the arena allows, forty-five (45) feet from scoreline to the gate. Barrels 1 and 2 must be a

- minimum of fifteen (15) feet from the fence and barrel 3 must be at least twenty-five (25) feet from the back of fence.
- 4.5.3 In smaller arenas, it is recommended that the pattern be reduced proportionately to the standard barrel pattern with the minimum distances for the arena fence listed in 4.5.2 being maintained.
  - 4.5.4 Stakes should be used to mark the positions of the barrels and the barrels should be set on the inside of the stakes in a clover-leaf pattern.
  - 4.5.5 A "no-time" will be given to the contestant if they break the clover-leaf pattern.
    - a. This includes a maximum of three (3) turns.
    - b. Backing up does not necessarily constitute a "no-time".
  - 4.5.6 A knocked over barrel will result in a no time.
  - 4.5.7 Electronic timers must be used. **NO EXCEPTIONS.**
  - 4.5.8 In the event of a timer failure, the contestant will be granted a rerun immediately following the last runner of the class. The contestant carries all penalties with them (i.e. hit barrels) to the rerun. Or, if no penalties have occurred and the contestant does not wish to run again, they may draw-out and receive a full refund of their entry money. The decision must be made before the next contestant makes their run following the timer failure.
  - 4.5.9 Members of the Board of Directors will serve as judges of the barrel races.

## **Chapter 5**

### **Payoffs & Fees**

#### **5.1 Places to be Paid**

- 5.1.1 It is recommended that the number of places paid is determined to ensure that the last place in each division will pay back at least the entry fee in the Open and Youth Classes.
- 5.1.2 In the event that the number of monies to be paid in a division is greater than the number of contestants that fell into that division, the number of monies paid to that division will be adjusted to equal the number of contestants.
- 5.1.3 In the event that no contestant falls into a particular division, the monies from that division will be split equally between the other divisions.

#### **5.2 Division of Monies**

- 5.2.1 Monies will be split between the divisions of the 4D classes with 40% going to the 1D, 30% going to the 2D, 20% going to the 3D and 10% going to the 4D.
- 5.2.2 The payoff for each place shall be figured by multiplying the number of entries times the entry fee then multiplying by the percentage of payout (i.e. 0.75 or 75%), adding any added money and multiplying this total by the percentage for the division times the percentage for the place.
- 5.2.3 Percentages for places shall be as follows:
 

1 place	100%
2 places	60-40%
3 places	50-30-20%
4 places	40-30-20-10%
5 places	33-27-20-13-7%
6 places	29-24-19-14-9-5%
7 places	25-21-18-14-11-7-4%
8 places	22-19-16-14-11-9-6-3%
9 places	20-18-15-13-11-9-7-5-2%
10 places	19-17-15-13-11-9-7-5-3-1%

#### **5.3 Fees**

- 5.3.1 Entry fees and payouts for Open and Youth Classes may vary for different events based on multiple factors such as arena rent, tractor fee, cost of barrel setters, etc. The NE-4D recommends (but does not mandate) a payout of at least 75% of the entry fee. More can be paid out at the producer's discretion. If funds in excess of 25% of the entry fee is needed to cover costs, the producer may charge an Office Charge or an Arena Fee and clearly identify it as an Office Charge or Arena Fee on the entry form.

- 5.3.2 PeeWee 4D: Fees collected on each entry will be \$5.00 entry fee, no office charge or eye charge.

#### **5.4 Dishonored Checks**

- 5.4.1 Any dishonored checks written by members for the purpose of entry fees, stall fees, exhibition fees, or any other services returned for NSF or any other reason, shall have ten (10) days in which to make good on the dishonored check or the member shall forfeit all membership rights for the remainder of the competition year. Member will also be required to pay all fees in cash, money order, or cashier's check for the remainder of the competition year following one (1) incident of a dishonored check. This includes checks written directly to the Nebraska 4-D, members of the Board of Directors, general members and any representatives, sponsors, or officials at any, and all, Nebraska 4-D sanctioned events.

### **Chapter 6 State Finals Event**

#### **6.1 Format**

- 6.1.1 The State Finals event will be a "clean slate" jackpot. **NO POINTS** will be kept or used to determine standings or qualification to the event. It will be open to all members, provided they have met the qualification guidelines as listed in 6.2.
- 6.1.2 The same 4D format, payout and rules will apply to the State Finals event as to all other jackpots throughout the year.
- 6.1.3 Non-members will not be allowed to enter or compete.
- 6.1.4 A member can only draw out before the draw for the state competition is completed. They can draw out before this time for any reason, including personal, medical, or vet. All fees will be refunded as long as they have drawn out before the completion of the draw. It is the member's responsibility to contact the directors to inform them of their need to draw out.
- 6.1.5 Selling of the member's draw position at the state finals will be allowed. The member will be responsible for selling their draw position, collection of the fees for the draw position, and informing a director in the office no less than 60 minutes prior to the first runner.
- 6.1.6 Youth contestants who have entered both the Open Class and the Youth Class may carry their times from the Open Class to the Youth Class. They will be required to notify the office prior to their first run if they wish to carry their time from the Open to the Youth Class. PeeWee age contestants can enter only one of the age restricted classes, either the PeeWee Class or the Youth Class but NOT both. If the PeeWee aged contestant enters the Youth Class and wants to run in the Open Class they may carry their time from the Open Class to the Youth Class and will be required to pay entry fees for both the Youth and the Open Classes. Their parent or legal guardian will be required to notify the office prior to their first run if they wish to carry their time from the Open to the Youth Class.
- 6.1.7 Members will **NOT** be allowed to share a horse when entered in the same class (i.e. both contestants entered in the Open Class or both members entered in the Youth or PeeWee Class including times carried over from the Youth Class to the Open Class). However, if a member is entered in the Open Class another member may compete with the same horse in the Youth Class and/or the PeeWee Class.

#### **6.2 Qualification**

- 6.2.1 To qualify for the State Finals event, a person must be a current member in good standing and must have attended (and competed in) a minimum of one NE-4D approved jackpot (as a paid member) during the competition year.
- 6.2.2 Membership, jackpot competition, and fees must be secured prior to October 1<sup>st</sup>.

#### **6.3 Location & Date**

- 6.3.1 The location for the State Finals event will be the Custer County Fairgrounds in Broken Bow, NE. The date will vary, depending on the calendar year, but will always be in the Fall and as close to mid-October as possible.