

Approvals:

Better Barrel Race
IBRA
WPRA
Hooley Jr Patriot

You do not have to be affiliated with any of these organizations to participate in our event. The event is open to all horses and all riders.

Format:

The event will consist of 3 Open races. 3 optional side-pot rider groups will be offered within each Open race. The Open will pay off in a 5D format with half-second splits. The Rider side-pots will all be paid off in a 3D format with full second splits.

Rider Side-pot Groups:

Youth side-pot age group will consist of those 18 years and under, the adult group will consist of those 19-49 years, and the Masters group will consist of those 50 and over as of January 1, 2025. To be entered in a rider side-pot, contestants must first enter the Open. Each horse and rider combination makes one run in the Open race. Those who enter the rider side-pots have their time from the Open carried over to the appropriate side-pot group for a separate payout based on each age group's number of entries.

Peewee & Novice Youth 3D Class A Peewee & Novice Youth 3D classes will be offered Saturday & Sunday. Peewee 8 & under * Novice Youth 3D 12 & under. Ages are as January 1, 2025. The Peewee & Youth 3D Class will be run together, and times will be kept separate. Peewee contestants cannot enter the Youth 3D. **Peewee and Youth 3D Contestants cannot enter the Open Class, Hooley Jr Qualifier or the American Contender.**

Payout:

Payout will be in check form and made payable to the rider. Contestants must have their complete address and social security number on file in order to claim payout checks. 1099's will be issued in the rider's name to anyone earning more than \$600 per year.

All checks not claimed at the event by contestants with complete tax information will be mailed to the contestant addresses on file no later than the Wednesday following the event at no cost to the contestant. Failure to have a complete address and social security number on file will delay this process. Please verify your information is correct at the event if you have recently moved.

It is strongly encouraged for contestants to pick up their checks each day before leaving the event. In the event of lost checks, by contestants or the US Postal Service, contestants will be responsible for a re-issue charge of \$40. **ALL CHECKS WILL BE VOIDED AFTER 60 DAYS - NO EXCEPTIONS**

Open 5D Class: 75% of entry fees and 100% of all added money will be paid out in a 5D format. Added money and money from entry fees shall be distributed between the divisions in the following manner: 1D 30%, 2D 25%, 3D 20%, 4D 15% and 5D 10%.

The number of positions paid out in each division will be determined by the number of entries as follows: 51-100 pays 3 places, 101-143 pays 4 places, 144-200 pays 5 places, 201-250 pays 6 places, 251-333 pays 8 places, in each division. Ties will be split evenly.

Rider side-pots: 80% of entry fees and 100% of any added money will be paid out in a 3D format (full second split). Percentages per division will be 1D 50% 2D 30% and 3D 20%. The number of positions paid out per division will be determined by the number of entries as follows: 1-12 pays 1 place, 13-20 pays 2 places, 21-40 pays 3 places, 41-74 pays 4 places, 75-100 5 places, Ties will be split evenly.

IBRA Fee There will be a \$2 fee per entry in the following classes each day – Open 5D and the Aged Side-pots – Youth, Adult & Masters. Example – Open entry fee is \$67.00 - \$2 will go to the IBRA – \$65 will be the Open 5D entry fee.

JT Morton High Stakes 3D Side-Pot: 90% of entry fees and 100% of any added money will be paid out in a 3D Format (Half second split) Percentages per division will be 1D 50%, 2D 30% and 3D 20%. Number of places paid per division will be determined by the number of entries as follows: 10 or less entries pays 1 place, 11-15 pays 2 places, 16-30 pays 3 places, 31-60 pays 4 places, 61-90 pays 5 places. Ties will be split evenly.

NOVICE Youth 3D (12 & under) – 80% of entry fee will be paid out in a 3D Format. (Full second splits) Money from entry fee will be distributed between the divisions in the following manner: 1D 50%, 2D 30% 3D 20%

Peewee Class 80% of entry fee will be paid in Sweepstakes format.

Entries & Draw:

Pre-entries will be accepted if post-marked by the deadline listed (August 15, 2025) Please do not mail entries after this time to ensure they are received. All online entries incur a credit card fee and \$3 online entry fee per transaction plus credit card processing fees. Online entries will open on August 10, 2025 at 8 pm and close on August 24th at 8 pm

Pre-entries Positions will be drawn randomly. Changing horse positions in the draw after the draw is posted is not allowed.

No entries, or stall/electric hook ups will be accepted from the time the online entries close until the office opens at the event.

The pre-entry draw will be published on August 27, 2025. Please be aware that anyone entering after pre-entries close will either be after the pre-entry draw or can and will fill available positions within the pre-entries.

It is the sole responsibility of the contestant to know their draw position. Failure to be present for a competition run will result in a scratch. In the event of a missed run, the contestant will have the option to be added back into the race at the very end by paying a second entry fee. (See the miss run rule)

Entries will be accepted at the event with no late fees until the FIRST horse runs each day. Positions will be randomly drawn for those entering at the event. **ABSOLUTELY NO LATE OPEN ENTRIES WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER THE FIRST HORSE RUNS DAILY.**

Onsite entries will be accepted with **CASH ONLY! NO CHECKS – NO CREDIT CARDS!**

There will be a \$50 charge on all pre-entry returned checks and the contestant will be on a cash only basis for a one-year period.

Exhibitions: Will be \$6 per run. All Exhibitions will be sold online, if there are any exhibitions left, they will be offered on a first-come first-serve basis onsite. Each person may enter themselves and one other person for exhibitions. Exhibitions will end 30 minutes prior to the start time of each race. No refunds. Any exhibition over 60 seconds will incur a \$10 fine payable before the race starts.

Training Sessions: When offered will be available for purchase online for \$20 per horse. Any remaining sessions will be available for purchase onsite at the event.

Draw-Outs: In order to receive a refund, contestants must submit an official draw out form by the designated deadlines. 80% refunds of entries, stalls, electric hookups, and shavings will be granted for any reason prior to the online entries closing. After online entries close, 70% refunds will be granted with a vet release or doctor's release ONLY up until day before the competition starts for each event, usually Thursday PM. Absolutely no refunds will be given after this time. Draw out forms received after this time will not constitute a refund and contestants' entry fees will remain in the payout. It is the sole responsibility of the contestant to ensure that the release is physically received by show management before the deadline in order to receive a refund. If a draw out form is emailed, it is the contestant's responsibility to make sure management has received and seen the email. No refunds will be issued at the event. All refunds will be mailed by the Wednesday following the event in the form of a check made payable to the name and address provided on the draw out form unless a paypal address is provided on the form. **ONLINE FEES AND CREDIT CARD FEES WILL NOT BE REFUNDED WITH DRAWOUTS.**

Horse or Rider changes will be accepted free of charge for any reason prior to the online entries closing. After this time, any changes will require a \$10 fee per change. All changes must be submitted on an official Horse or Rider Change form prior to the FIRST HORSE running each competition day. Each entry may change either the horse or the rider, but not both. Horse changes will not be accepted that are switching a rider's existing horses' positions in the draw. Forms are available on the website or at the entry office. Failure to complete change forms prior to competing will result in disqualification.

Competition Rules:

Dress Code: Western Attire (western long sleeve button down shirt, boots or "heels downs" style shoe and cowboy hat or helmet) or this year's Official Cindy's Labor Day T-Shirt are to be worn during all competition days at Cindy's Labor Day Blast unless otherwise listed. Failure to be in dress code when entering the arena will result in disqualification. **ALL AMERICAN CONTENDERS MUST BE IN FULL WESTERN ATTIRE DURING THEIR AMERICAN CONTENDER RUN. ABSOLUTELY NO BASEBALL CAPS.**

Timer Malfunction: Two sets of electric eyes will be in use. In the event the primary timer fails to work, the back-up timer will be used. In the event that both timers fail a re-run will be awarded at the contestant's discretion: 1.) immediately with a fresh drag, 2.) at the end of any group of 50 with a fresh drag, or 3.) at the end of the event with a fresh drag. The rider must declare if they will accept a re-run and when they wish to take it before the next horse runs.

The announcer will not indicate any malfunctions during a run. Any re-runs will carry over all penalties accumulated during the first run, thus no re-runs will be awarded for broken patterns or hit barrels. Re-runs will not accumulate any additional penalties. If the contestant chooses not to re-run, they will receive a no time.

Photographer: When one is present a photo will be taken of every horse (flash used). Contestants may not ask photographer to hold flash for any individual. Photos are property of photographer and cannot be used without written permission.

Alley-way/Holding Pen: Each contestant is required to check in with the gate personnel before their group of 5 begins or risk being scratched. Those with problem horses may send a representative to check them in. Once a contestant has been announced as a scratch and the next contestant has been called for, the scratched contestant will not be allowed to run without re-entering per the missed run rule.

After a contestant has been called for and is not making progress towards entering the arena, they will be subject to a 60 second time limit to enter the arena. This time limit will be activated by the arena judge and the announcer will indicate if and when a contestant has been placed on the clock. Once the 60 seconds are up, the contestant will be disqualified. The judge's decisions will be final.

Any horse crossing the plain of the alleyway into the arena without a rider will result in a disqualification.

Specific ground rules pertaining to the alleyway will be prominently posted at the event and on social media. Any contestant violating such ground rules will be disqualified and not allowed to compete without exception. The judge's decisions will be final.

There will be no circling beyond the mouth of the alleyway or a no-time will be assessed. Judge's decisions will be final.

Competition: An Honest Effort must be made for all competition runs. Riders must make a good faith effort to run the pattern as fast as their ability will allow. Anyone purposefully going slower than a gallop through the pattern or pulling up before the timers in an effort to fall in a lower division will be disqualified and forfeit any money for said run. The judge's decisions will be final.

No circling of barrels or training during competition runs. If the pattern is broken, rider may complete the pattern from the point of the break in a timely fashion or exit the arena immediately. Failure to do so will result in a \$50 fine payable before the contestant's next competition run.

No re-runs will be given if a horse falls, is pulled up by the rider or in the event of a rider's equipment malfunction.

No money will be paid out on runs incurring a penalty for hit barrels.

Contestants may ride any horse, regardless of ownership, and may ride as many horses as they choose. However, a horse may not be entered by more than one contestant in the same race unless the following conditions are met:

1. Both contestants are members of the same immediate family who reside in the same household (husband, wife, siblings, children and grandchildren).
2. Neither contestant is entered on any other horse.
3. In no case will the same horse be run more than twice in the Open race.

Contestants entering more than one horse will be disqualified for running horses in the incorrect order. Each horse must be run in the correct position.

There will be a \$100 fine for any contestant who runs out of turn. Failure to pay a fine will result in disqualification and forfeiture of any winnings from event. If a contestant runs out of turn, a regular drag will occur before continuing.

Inhumane treatment of any horse during any It Is What It Is Production event will not be tolerated. Anyone who excessively whips or strikes a horse's ears or face with anything other than the hand, either in the arena or on the facility grounds will be fined \$100. Any individual who has been warned for such behavior and persists or refutes the warning shall be fined an additional \$100. Any rider caught using an electronic device on a horse during competition will be automatically disqualified and shall forfeit all winnings.

Miss Run Rule – Any scratched contestant will be allowed to re-enter race, for an additional entry fee

Drags: During competition runs, there will be a regular drag after every 5 runs and a big drag after every 50. There will be a big drag between any change in classes such as Peewee/Youth 3D, Open, American Qualifier, etc. If a contestant runs out of turn, a regular drag will occur before continuing.

Fines & Disqualifications: All fines are to be paid in cash in the show office. Contestants with outstanding fines will not be allowed to compete until such time as the fines have been paid. Any fines that need to be paid while the race is still in progress, but after the entry office closes each night should be paid to the announcer's stand during a drag only!

Any act deemed prejudicial to the best interests of It Is What It Is Productions may result in the disqualification of the contestant, with no refund of entry fees. The contestant may also be prohibited

from attending any other It Is What It Is Production events for any given length of time. These acts may include but are not limited to the following:

1. Using abusive or intemperate language or attempting to threaten, bribe, influence, or harass any contestant, spectator, staff member, or arena personnel.
 - b. Moving or attempting to move markers at any time.
 - c. Use of electronic and/or remotely controlled devices to alter the outcome of a run.
 - d. Abuse or neglect of a horse or dog as defined within these rules.
 - e. Competing while under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
 - f. Misidentifying a horse in any race/class.
 - g. Misidentifying a rider in any race/class.
 - h. Failure to make good on a returned check and related returned check fees.

Any questions or disputes which may arise during the course of any It Is What It Is Production event not covered by the above rules will be decided and settled by It Is What It Is Production management, and all decisions will be final.