



INTERNATIONAL MINIATURE BULL RIDING ASSOCIATION (IMBA)

OFFICIAL RULEBOOK

UPDATED 01/08/2026

This rulebook reflects official rules and policies as adopted by the IMBA Board as of the update date listed above. The IMBA reserves the right to amend rules as necessary.

To Our Members,

Thank you for your membership. We are incredibly excited to have you on board.

Our goal for the World's Premier Youth Bull Riding Association is to raise your generation of bull riders to be professional and represent our sport in a way that draws people to us as fans. When we go into a town for an event, we are their guests, so we must be respectful and represent ourselves and the Western image to them in a good way. Our behavior, and the way we represent ourselves, reflects to everyone in that community. This includes possible future sponsors, spectators, and the youngsters who may look up to us.

First impressions are especially important. We should all be friendly and let them know why we are in their town. Our goal is always to be professional, which will make them welcome us back to their town the next time we visit.

Now is your time to shine toward your future in the greatest sport on the planet.



Sincerely,

The IMBA

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CONTACT INFORMATION

IMBA MAILING ADDRESS
PO BOX 399
CASCADE, IDAHO 83611

MEMBERSHIP

- Contestants must member through SaddleBook. A link to the SaddleBook application can be found on the IMBA official website under the “*Become a Member*” tab.
- Member fees are \$200.00 until April 30th, \$300.00 until July 31st and \$400.00 until finals commence. Finals entries close one (1) full week before finals check-in begins.
- A seasonal Waiver/Release is required for membership.
- Birth certificates must be uploaded to SaddleDocs for IMBA records.

GENERAL RULES

- Everyone associated with the IMBA is expected to conduct themselves in a fair, polite, respectful, and legal manner at any and all events.
- Fines or suspensions may be issued by a judge or board member for infractions of rules to be determined and agreed upon by a board vote. Fines or suspensions by a judge will be defined and are final.
- The use of drugs or alcohol by any contestant or bull riding personnel is prohibited. No alcohol is allowed in the building during IMBA events, including the arena floor or in the back pens.
- The IMBA reserves the right to have removed from any IMBA event any parent, legal guardian, or member causing a disturbance.
- Mistreatment or endangerment of rodeo livestock will not be tolerated and will result in disqualification, suspension, and/or fine.
- The IMBA reserves the right to revoke or deny membership, fine, or suspend any individual whose actions or parental actions are deemed detrimental to the IMBA. These examples are: The use of abusive or profane language, improper gestures, or fighting by any contestant or parent/helper will be subject to a fine or possible disqualification from the event.

AGE DIVISIONS

The Age Divisions are as follows:

- 6–8 years – Peewee
- 9–11 years – Jr Mini Bull
- 12–14 years – Sr Mini Bull
- 15–17 years – Novice Bull

RIDE TIME REQUIREMENTS

- Ages 6–8 are required to ride six (6) seconds.
- Ages 9–11, 12–14, and 15–17 are required to ride eight (8) seconds to be scored.

AGE DETERMINATION

- Contestant age for the determined age group shall be determined by age as of the day after the conclusion of the previous year's World Finals.
- It is the contestant's responsibility to enter the proper age group.
- Falsification of age will result in surrender of all entry fees paid, and permanent disqualification from the IMBA.
- Riders are not permitted to ride up age groups unless the parent and contractor ask for review and approval from the IMBA Board. This does not apply to local or home associations.

WEIGHT LIMITS

- Peewee age division: 95 lbs with vest and helmet
- Jr Mini age division: 105 lbs with vest and helmet
- Sr Mini age division: 135 lbs with vest and helmet
- Contestants may be required to weigh in before the event.
- If you have been found to be over the weight limit for your age division you will be required to move up into the next age division.
- Contestants greater than the weight limit for their age group will have up to thirty (30) minutes prior to the event to make weight.

DRESS CODE – WESTERN ATTIRE

- Boots, long-sleeved collared shirt, and cowboy hat are required for anyone behind the bucking chutes or on the arena floor.
- No caps or short-sleeved shirts are allowed in the arena.

RIDING RULES

- Riding is done with one hand only.
- No more than two bells are allowed on a rope; at least one bell is required.
- Time begins when any part of the animal breaks the plane of the chute.
- Ride time is six (6) or eight (8) seconds depending on age division.
- If an animal fails to perform, a re-ride at the judge's discretion is optional.
- If the flank comes off, a re-ride option will be offered providing the competitor was qualified at the time.
- No more than two helpers per rider on the back of the chute (excluding flank man).
- If rider finishes ride with any part of the rope in his or her hand without being disqualified by touching the bull or the ground, they will be marked and given a score.
- Rider must make three honest attempts (not sitting on/badgering) to get out on an animal before a re-ride option is given.
- Use of livestock prod as stock leaves the chute is prohibited.

RIDER DISQUALIFICATIONS

- Being bucked off before required time in each age division. No score will be awarded and no re-ride option will be given.
- Touching animal or self with free hand.
- Using sharp spurs or rowels.
- If a contestant/parent/helper is caught tucking spurs or leggings into rope (a parent/helper cannot deliberately place their hands below the contestant's knee):
 - **First offense:** Contestant will be disqualified from the round.
 - **Second offense:** Contestant will be disqualified from the event and fees will be forfeited.
- Not being ready when advised.
- Any rider or assistant soaking a bull by excessive pulling of the rope into a bull prior to the ride or having assistant or parent sitting on the bull to the point of effecting the ability of the bull to breathe and therefore buck to his ability will result in immediate disqualification from the round. If there is a second offense the membership revoked.
- Poor sportsmanship (*example: throwing helmet, rope or other items in anger or frustration within sight of the arena, back of the chutes or the back pen area.*)
- Grabbing or pushing arena structure to help yourself stay on your animal, will result in a no score and subject to disqualification.

OTHER RULES

- At least three **(3)** judges shall be used at the Finals and Events. The Board of Directors must approve each judge. Judges for the finals and major events **MUST** hold a card in creditable bull riding association.
- The back judge has the final call on the official time. In the case of stopwatch failure, the judge on the latch side will have the call.
- If offered the re-ride option, the rider must decide before leaving arena and the next animal is bucked.
- Only the rider may ask judges for re-ride option, not the parent or legal guardian. Parents/Legal Guardians are not allowed to approach judges.
- No rider or parent/legal guardian will attempt to influence the draw.
- At the Judge's discretion, any rider stating that they do not want to ride or is hesitant (to the point of cry or creating a scene) in the chute will be advised they have thirty (30) seconds to call for the bull. After thirty (30) seconds the rider will receive no score without refund of fees.
- The challenge button may be used at these events **(NOT MANDATORY)** only the rider or rider's representative may push the challenge button. Challenge button must be pushed before the rider leaves the arena and the next bull bucks. Video must be taken to replay. REVIEW decision will be final. The fee for using the challenge button is \$100.00 and must be paid within five (5) minutes of challenge before the replay is reviewed. If you do not pay fee your challenge is forfeited and Arena Judge's decision stands. If replay review overturns Arena Judge's decision, you will receive a \$100.00 refund. The replay decision is final.
- Judge decisions are final. No producer, contractor, secretary or board member can overturn Judge's decision.

ENTRIES + DRAW

Entries for World Finals

- Deadline for entries shall be one **(1)** full week before Finals check-in.
- No contestant shall be denied entry because of race, creed, color, or geographical restrictions.
- If a contestant turns out without a doctor's release, they will automatically lose their entry fees. The Finals secretary must be notified of any releases prior to the rodeo stock draws to have stock or event fees refunded. If doctor's release is provided the amount refunded shall be as follows:
 - *Entry fees are non-refundable thirty **(30)** days prior to event date unless of a medical issue.*
 - *There will be **NO REFUNDS** fifteen **(15)** days prior to the event start date Medical or Non Medical issues.*

Draw for World Finals

- All stock must be drawn. Stock will not be chute drawn.
- Stock will be drawn by a computer generated program or hand drawn by a judge.
- A contestant may not have the same head of stock more than once during the finals.
- Stock draws will be posted prior to performance.
- Contestants are responsible to know their draw and should check draw before competing.

STOCK FOR WORLD FINALS

- Stock must be approved IMBA stock (*videos and info may be requested at any time*)
- All stock must be appropriate for age group. The Board of Directors must approve all stock. IMBA has the right to reject or pull stock from the draw.
- Bulls can not be moved age groups up or down after it bucks at an event.
- Height requirements for **SR MINI BULL** and down cannot be over **48** inches. This measurement is taken where the bull rope is placed. Novice Bulls will be appropriate stock for that age group.
- All cattle must be tipped to the size of a quarter and must be clean with no splinters or unsafe points.
- All stock must be treated and handled properly in chute, arena, and back pens. IMBA has the right to disqualify or remove any person, contestant, and/or worker for mistreatment of stock.

SAFETY STANDARDS

- All possible safety measures are undertaken for the protection of contestants, spectators, and animals.
- Helmet and vest are mandatory. Mouthpiece is recommended.
- The IMBA or the host facility will be required to provide certified EMTs capable of administering First Aid, with cell phone or radio access to an ambulance or suitable conveyance, during all competition and at all sanctioned events.
- If in the opinion of the arena judge, the safety of the contestant or the livestock is at serious risk, the arena judge may stop the action and rectify the situation.
- A parent/helper is not permitted to leave a 5-foot distance from the chute while the contestant is riding. A parent/helper will be permitted to leave the designated 5-foot area after the contestant is off of the livestock they are riding, and livestock has been removed from the arena. If any of these actions occur contestant will be disqualified. This allows the bull fighters to do their job without interference.
- Any area not covered by this set of rules Judges will refer to PRCA rule book. PRCA rule book does not overturn rules specific to IMBA rule book.
- IMBA Board has the right to change rules and requirements at any time.
- Parents/Guardians and IMBA are not expected to diagnose a concussion. However, everyone involved in athletics regardless of the sport must be aware of the signs, symptoms and behaviors associated with a concussion. If it is suspected that a rider may have a concussion then the rider must be removed immediately from the competition until an evaluation has taken place.

Signs observed:

- Dazed or stunned appearance.
- Confusion about assignment or position.
- Forgetfulness.
- Uncertainty of game, score, or opponent.
- Clumsy movements.
- Slow response to questions.
- Mood, behavior or personality changes.
- Can't recall events prior to or after hit or fall.

Symptoms Reported by Rider

- Headache or "pressure" in head.
- Nausea.
- Balance problems or dizziness.
- Double or blurry vision.
- Sensitivity to light or noise.
- Feeling sluggish, hazy, foggy or groggy.
- Concentration or memory problems.
- Confusion.
- Emotions of "not feeling right" or "feeling down"

If it is suspected that a rider has a concussion the following concussion protocol will be used:

1. Rider will be removed from competition immediately.
2. Riders parents/guardians will be informed about possible concussion.
3. Rider will be evaluated by an appropriate health-care professional on site.
4. If not cleared by on site health care professional rider will remain removed from competition until an appropriate health-care professional has given written clearance that the rider is symptom-free and may return to activity.

MEDIA RELEASE

Each contestant (minor child/parent or legal guardian) who pays membership will automatically grant permission to the IMBA to use my image (photographs and/or video) for use in Media publications including Videos, Email Blasts, Recruiting Brochures, Newsletters, Magazines, General Publications, Website and/or Affiliates and other Social Media Outlets. I hereby waive any right to inspect or approve the finished photographs or electronic matter that may be used in conjunction with them now or in the future, whether that use is known to me or unknown, and I waive any right to royalties or other compensation arising from or related to the use of the image.

Social Media Clause

The use of social media to degrade any person in connection with a sanctioned event or the association will be subject to a fine and possible suspension.



INTERNATIONAL MINIATURE BULLRIDERS ASSOCIATION

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