



**International Miniature Bull Riding  
Association (IMBA)**

**OFFICIAL RULEBOOK**

(Updated 04/07/2023)



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 Bullriders 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 on everyone in that community. This includes possible future sponsors, spectators, and the youngsters who may look up to us.

First impressions are crucial. 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,

*Your IMBA Board Members*

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IMBA - MAILING ADDRESS  
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For questions and concerns please contact us via our  
website below.

[www.imbabullriding.com](http://www.imbabullriding.com)

## MEMBERSHIP

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Contestants must member through SaddleBook. (You can find a link to the SaddleBook application on the IMBA official website under the 'Become a Member' tab.)

Member fees are \$100.00 and must be paid before September 20th, 2023.

A seasonal Waiver/Release is required for membership\*

**BIRTH CERTIFICATES MUST BE UPLOADED TO SADDLEDOCS FOR IMBA RECORDS**

## GENERAL RULES

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Everyone associated with the **IMBA** is expected to conduct themselves fairly, politely, respectfully, and legally 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, and no alcohol is allowed on 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, resulting 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 action is deemed to be detrimental to the **IMBA**. These examples are: Using abusive or profane language, obscene gestures, or fighting by any contestant or parent/helper will be subject to a fine or possible disqualification from the event.

## AGE DIVISIONS

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The age divisions are as follows:

- ★ 6-8 yr - **PEEWEE**
- ★ 9-11 yr - **JR MINI BULL**
- ★ 12-14 yr - **SR MINI BULL**
- ★ 15-17 yr - **NOVICE BULL**

The 6 to 8 age division will be required to ride six (6) seconds, and the 9 to 11, 12 to 14, and 15 to 17 divisions will be required to ride eight (8) seconds to be scored.

Contestant age for the determined age group shall be defined by age as of *November 15th* 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 surrendering all entry fees paid and permanent disqualification from the **IMBA**.

Riders are **NOT** permitted to ride up age groups **UNLESS** parent and contractor ask for a review and approval from **IMBA BOARD** (**THIS DOES NOT APPLY TO LOCAL OR HOME ASSOCIATIONS**)

The weight limits are as follows :

- ★ Pee Wee age division 95lbs 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 are over the weight limit for your age division, you must move up to the next age division.

Contestants greater than the weight limit for their age group will have up to half an hour before the event to make weight.

## DRESS CODE WESTERN ATTIRE

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★ Boots, a long-sleeved collared shirt, and a cowboy hat are required for anyone behind the bucking chutes or arena floor.

★ No Caps or short sleeve shirts allowed in the arena.

## RIDING RULES

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RIDING IS DONE WITH ONE HAND.

No more than two bells on a rope are allowed; At least one bell is required.

Time begins when any part of the animal breaks the plane of the chute.

The ride will be timed for six (6) or eight (8) seconds according to age group.

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, provided the competitor was qualified at the time.

A maximum of two (2) helpers per rider on the back of the chute. (*This does not include flank man.*)

If the rider finishes the ride with any part of the rope in his hand without being disqualified by touching the bull or the ground, they will be marked and given a score.

The rider must make three (3) honest attempts (*not sitting on/badgering*) to get out on an animal before a re-ride option is given.

The use of a livestock prod as the stock leaves the chute is prohibited.

## RIDER DISQUALIFICATIONS

Being bucked off before the required time in each age division. No score will be awarded, and no re-ride option will be given.

Touching animals or self with the free hand.

Using sharp spurs or rowels.

If the contestant/parent/helper is caught tucking their spurs or leggings in their rope (*a parent/ helper cannot deliberately place their hands below the contestant's knee*)

- a) First-offense contestants will be disqualified from the round.
- b) Second-offense contestant will be disqualified from the event, and fees will be forfeited

Not being ready when advised to be so.

Any rider or assistant soaking a bull by excessive pulling of the rope into a bull prior to the ride or having an assistant or parent sitting on the bull to the point of affecting 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, membership will be revoked.

Poor sportsmanship (*For 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 any part of the arena to help yourself stay on your animal will result in a no score and be subject to disqualification.

## OTHER RULES

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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 a 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 the arena, and the next animal is bucked. The only exemption to this rule is if you are injured and must be cleared by the medical staff before returning for your re-ride.

Only the rider may ask judges for a 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 crying or creating a scene*) in the chute will be advised they have 30 seconds to call for the bull. After 30 seconds, the rider will receive no score without a refund of fees.

The challenge button may be used at these events (**NOT MANDATORY**). **IF** used, a separate judge must be used. Video must be taken for the judge to replay. **JUDGES'** decision will be final! The fee for using the challenge button is \$100 and must be paid within 5 minutes of the challenge before the replay judge will review the video. If you do not pay the fee, your challenge is forfeited, and Arena Judge's decision stands. If Replay Judge Overturns Arena Judge's decision, you will receive a \$100 refund. The Replay judge's decision is final.

No producer, contractor, secretary, or board member can overturn a **JUDGE'S DECISION!**



## ENTRIES

The deadline for entries shall be set forth by the board of directors or producer of the event.

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 hosting franchise secretary must be notified of any releases before the rodeo stock draws to have stock or event fees refunded.

If a doctor's release is provided, the amount refunds shall be as follows:

- a. Entry fees are non-refundable 30 days prior to the event date unless of a medical issue.
- b. There will be **NO REFUNDS** 15 days prior to the event start date, **MEDICAL OR NON-MEDICAL ISSUE**.

## DRAW

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.

In the two (2) Long Go performances, a contestant may not have the same head of stock more than once.

Stock draws will be posted before the performance.

Contestants are responsible for knowing their draw and should check the draw before competing.

## STOCK FOR WORLD FINALS & ONE-TIME QUALIFYING EVENTS

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Stock must be approved **IMBA stock** (*videos and info may be requested at any time*)

All stock must be appropriate for the 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** move age groups up or down after it bucks at an event.

a. Height requirements for **SR MINI BULL** and down cannot exceed 48 inches. This measurement is taken where the bull rope is placed. Novice Bulls will be appropriate stock for that age group.

b. All stock must be treated and handled properly in the chute, arena, and back pens. **IMBA** has the right to disqualify or remove any person, contestant, and/or worker for mistreatment of stock.

c. All cattle horns must be tipped to the size of a quarter and must be clean with no splinters or unsafe points.

## SAFETY STANDARDS

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All possible safety measures are undertaken to protect contestants, spectators, and animals.

A helmet and vest are **MANDATORY**. (*Mouthpieces are recommended but not required.*)

The **IMBA** or the host facility will be required to provide certified EMTs capable of administering First Aid, with a cell phone or radio access to an ambulance or suitable conveyance, during all competitions and at all sanctioned events.

If, in the arena judge's opinion, the contestant's or the livestock's safety 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 allowed to leave the designated 5-foot area after the contestant is off of the livestock they are riding, and the livestock has been removed from the arena. If any of these actions occur, the contestant will be disqualified. This allows the Bullfighters to do their job without interference.

For any area not covered by this set of rules, Judges will refer to the **PRCA** rule book. **PRCA** rule book does not overturn rules specified in the **IMBA** rule book. **IMBA BOARD** has the right to change rules and requirements at any time.\*\*

## MEDIA RELEASE

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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 anyone in conjunction with a sanctioned event or the association will be subject to a fine and possible suspension.