

BARREL RACER

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Tips & Hints #1

This is the first in a series of **Tips & Hints** for users of the **BARREL RACER**. This one will deal in some of the basics that are essential to all users, and of special interest to new users.

Help Files -- The **BARREL RACER** has an extensive built-in **Help** system which can be accessed at any time by pressing the “F1” key. Many of the data input screens have a “**Help**” **button** which you can press for access to the **Help** system. If/when the active screen has a **Help** system tie-in, the **Help** system will pop up with context-specific information. (Such as, the **Help** button on the “Names” screen will pop up with **Help** topics that relate to the input of Names and Horses.)

BARREL RACER Setup Screen -- When you first install the **BARREL RACER**, the first screen you see is the Setup Screen; the system will not let you leave the setup screen until the required information is entered. The information entered via the Setup Screen becomes the default settings for your copy of the **BARREL RACER**. Some of this information is used to customize your copy, some is used to simplify and speed up your data entry. If you need to change/edit the Setup Screen, on your Main Menu go to Utilities | Set Up Defaults | Barrel Racer Defaults.

Setup Screen Required Information -- When you first see the Setup Screen, the “Organization” name is “Click Edit Button to Edit This.” Every data entry screen in the **BARREL RACER** requires you to press/click an “Edit” or “Add” button before you can edit/add data – if you don’t the system does not respond to data entry/edit attempts.

Organization: Enter the name of your Club/Organization. If the **BARREL RACER** will be primarily used for NBHA shows, the preferred (not required) format is, “NBHA - Colorado Dist CO48” (obviously substitute your state and district number).

Name & Address: Fill in with your name and/or the name of the person who will be the primary user of the software. The city, state and zip code are required fields.

Sanctioning Page Requirements: Default Rules: Must have a selection for the system default. (You can override the system default as you input the specific race details.) If primarily for NBHA use, set NBHA as default and enter the NBHA District.

Sanctioning: Must have at least one Sanctioning checkbox checked. Check all sanctioning organizations that apply. (The **BARREL RACER** will not use the sanctioning rules for an unchecked sanctioning organization.)

Entry Fees: Not required, but will speed up Race setup.

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Entering Rider's Names – Note that there is only one Name field on the “Riders and Horses” data entry screen. (i.e., Not separate Last Name and First Name Fields.) Enter the Rider's name using a “Lastname, Firstname” format. (That is – “Lastname comma space Firstname.”)

When needed or requested, the system puts the name into a Firstname Lastname format. It looks for the comma and space, then places everything ahead of the comma behind the Lastname.

If a name shows up as “Irstname Lastname” it is because you forgot the space; the system threw the “F” away. A name like “Will Rogers, Jr.” needs to be entered as “Rogers Jr., Will” - no comma preceding “Jr.”

Critical Data Files – The **BARREL RACER** has five critical data files on which the entire system depends. They are located in the “C:\Program Files\BRWin\Data” folder. The files are: NAME.DBF, HORSE.DBF, SHOWS.DBF, RACE.DBF and RUN.DBF. (The file names written in upper case here to set them off- they may show up in a different mixture of upper and lower case.) The “.DBF” (or “.dbf”) file extension indicates that they are a dBASE data file. (Other similar looking files with an “.mdx” extension are index files.)

When you do a backup of the Barrel Racer, the five “.dbf” files are what is backed up. These files are known to some of the long-time Barrel Racer users as the “Famous Five.” If for some reason you lose any of these files – and don't have a backup copy – you have lost your data.

Back up your files! From the Main Menu go to Utilities | Back Up Data Files.

Play or Test Races – Here's how to create test/play races - then throw the data away without losing real data:

1. Back up your data files onto a floppy disk or USB flash drive. Be absolutely sure that the “famous five” files noted in the “Critical Data Files” paragraph are on you backup disk/drive.
2. Delete the data files SHOWS.DBF, RACE.DBF and RUN.DBF in the “C:\Program Files\BRWin\Data” folder. Then ReIndex the **BARREL RACER** - which creates empty data files in place of the deleted files.
3. Set up and run your test/play races. DO NOT add any Riders or Horses to the system when you are in play/test mode.
4. When you are ready to dump the test/play race data, copy the SHOWS.DBF, RACE.DBF and RUN.DBF files from the backup media to the “C:\Program Files\BRWin\Data” folder and ReIndex. DON'T FORGET to ReIndex - Utilities | ReIndex Files.