

MEMBERSHIP TIPS

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director of member services



Breeder's Reference Guide (Part 2)

As mentioned in last month's article, our Breeder's Reference Guide (BRG) is broken up into four distinct sections for ease of use by our members and their customers. This month we will focus on the rules of the Association.

Association rules

The rules of our Association were created for one simple reason — to promote the best interests of the Angus breed. They are in place to give members guidelines and boundaries for American Angus Association business.

These Association rules apply equally to all members and affiliates of the American Angus Association.

In addition, it is required that all members and affiliates continue to know the rules and abide by them. If you remember from last month's article, this is a condition of your membership (see below).

“As a condition of membership in the Association, each member shall conform to and abide by these Bylaws and the Breeder's Reference Guide (which includes the Association's Charter, Bylaws and other rules and regulations), as each may be amended from time to time.”

The rules are categorized in groups relative to their commonality. Each grouping of rules is listed below, with a basic description to better clarify the purpose of each rule.

Registration

Rule 100: Registration Rules — all Life, Regular, Junior and Nonresident members are eligible to register cattle with the American Angus Association, however Affiliate

members are not entitled to the privileges of registration. The sire and the dam of any domestically bred animal, for which application for registration is made, must be registered with the American Angus Association. When all required information is provided, each registration is assigned a registration number and the animal is entered into the official 'Herd Book'.

This section includes several pages of rules regarding registration, too numerous for this article. Becoming familiar with the rules of registration would be advised.

Rule 200: Registration of Animals Originally Recorded in Herd Books Recognized by the Association and Imported into the U.S.

This section describes the registration requirements of those animals originating in a foreign herd book where the owners are wanting the animal to also be registered with the American Angus Association.

Genetic conditions

Rule 300 Series: Genetic Conditions: Policy and related rules — the rules and policies that relate to those abnormalities that are pathological conditions of genetic origin are addressed here.

These types of abnormalities are referred to as 'genetic conditions.' Genetic conditions can include an

impairment of health or a condition of abnormal function due to an abnormal or mutated gene.

Any member who becomes aware of an unusual physical abnormality, either in an animal registered with the Association or in an offspring of an animal registered with the Association, is required to notify the Director of Member Services.

Disclosure is always the best policy. This is particularly the case in which an abnormality appears on multiple occasions and the member, or a consulting veterinarian, is unable to identify a non-genetic cause for the observed abnormality.

It is important for everyone to remember that genetic conditions are found in all breeds of cattle, and are certainly not limited to only those breeds with a population large enough to discover them. Part 3 of our BRG discussion in next month's *Angus Journal* will address the Genetic Condition and Genetic Factor policies in detail.

Transfers

Rule 400: Transfer Rules — every time there is a change of ownership of record of an animal used for registered breeding purposes, this change must be recorded with the Association by official transfer.

Basically, four things are

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required — who the animal is being transferred to (complete information and member code if applicable), the sale date, breeding information (if the animal is over 12 months of age) and the signature of the person transferring ownership. Transferring ownership is an easy process but needs to be done in a timely manner.

Artificial insemination

Rule 500: Artificial Insemination — although bovine artificial insemination (AI) predates World War II, it wasn't until the 1970s before open AI rules came to fruition.

Carefully crafted by the American Angus Association Board members during this volatile time for all beef breed associations, the current rules guiding our Angus membership in the AI field are in place to protect ownership and breed purity.

Duty to comply

Rule 600: Duty to Comply — the 600 series covers the responsibility of every member, affiliate, their employees, agents and others acting on their behalf to comply with all policies or guidelines related to any program of the Association. This includes keeping and submitting accurate records and providing the Association accurate information.

DNA and blood-type testing

Rule 700: DNA-Marker and Blood-type Testing — any animal having a registration number may be subjected to a DNA-marker-type test to verify accuracy of parentage (see new definition of DNA-Marker Typing in most current version of the BRG).

In addition, the owner of the animal in question and the owner or owners of record of the purported sire and dam shall allow representatives of the Association the opportunity to secure DNA from the animals involved in any such

investigation, including granting such representatives the right to enter their property.

This means that, if deemed necessary, an authorized representative from the Association has the authority to collect DNA from any registered animal for parentage purposes.

Show rules

Rule 800: Show Rules — these rules have been drafted to ensure that all animals presented for exhibition at Association-approved livestock shows shall be in their natural conformation and structure, free of any alteration or modification by injection or internal or external administration of any prohibited substance or by any involvement in unethical fitting.

Ownership and correct pedigree representation are also discussed.

In addition to the 800 series of rules, other rules are in place for the exhibition of Angus cattle that need to be adhered to. For a complete list of show rules, contact the Events and Education Department at (816) 383-5100.

Membership transfers

Rule 900: Membership Transfers — here the rules of transferring memberships are discussed, such as to an heir or another partner.

Sale guarantees

Rule 1,000: Sale Guarantees — the American Angus Association is not liable for any warranties made by the seller of cattle.

Association fees

Rule 1,100: Association Fees — this rule discusses the payment policy (paid in advance) for services provided by your Association, and subsequent action of nonpayment.

Compliance

Rule 1,200: Compliance with These Rules — as previously stated, it is the responsibility of every member, affiliate, their employees, agents and others acting on their behalf to comply with all Association rules.

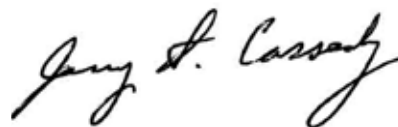
Whenever information is submitted to the Association, such submission shall be truthful, accurate and verifiable.

Rule 1,300: Failure to Comply with These Rules — in the case a member fails to comply with the rules of the Association, disciplinary action may follow including suspension or expulsion from the membership (see Article VIII in last month's column).

Rule 1,400: Litigation Forum and Expenses: Agreement of all Members — these rules discuss the litigation process that could come against the Association by a member.

Remember, it is vital that members and those participating in Association programs understand and comply with all of the rules and all applicable policies and guidelines.

For a current copy of the BRG, go to www.angus.org and select the Member Services tab. Scroll down to Member Center and select Breeders Reference Guide.



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If you have any questions regarding the issues discussed, please contact the member services department at (816) 383-5100.