

A Review of Angus Show Rules

Dean Hurlbut believes a unified, ethics education effort has to be backed by rule enforcement and zero tolerance for cheating. It's one of the most important responsibilities he has as director of activities for the American Angus Association.

"Rules are important and necessary, but let's keep in mind not to make rules just for the sake of making rules," he says.

In Hurlbut's book, rules should be:

1. Easy to understand
2. Fair and fairly administered
3. Enforceable

The American Angus Association and National Junior Angus Association recommends its member-exhibitors read, become familiar with and abide by their established rules and code of conduct at all Angus shows. The following examples are from the Fitting & Showing Guidelines.

Owner responsibility — Each entry must be shown by its owner. Heifer entries must be recorded in the sole name of the junior exhibitor. The date of transfer or ownership must conform to the individual show's requirements.

Only one person at a time shall lead animals into the show ring.

If an owner cannot show his/her own animal, written permission must be obtained from the junior activities department for another junior member to show the animal.

Exhibitors are to maintain full possession of their entries (family possession permissible) from the ownership deadline through the final day of the show.

Animal ID verification — Exhibitors must have the original registration



Dean Hurlbut discusses rules with youth exhibitors and regional managers at a National Junior Angus Show.

certificate on each animal available for inspection at the show. Any animal not having a legible and correct tattoo is ineligible to compete and will be barred from showing. Once disqualified due to an incorrect or illegible tattoo, animals cannot be re-tattooed and rechecked at the show.

Blood typing for parentage verification — Under the Association rules each animal for which entry application (registration paper) is received, may be subjected to a blood type test to verify both accuracy of parentage and blood type, as covered under Association Rules Part 3, Section II, Rule 2 (F).

American Angus Association staff must supervise the collection of blood samples. Animals are often sampled at shows, fairs or events where the Association contributes premiums or where Association personnel participate.

If a recorded parent is excluded (as a parent) as a result of blood type, the owner may request, at his/her own expense, the Association to determine the actual parent. Failure to determine the sire and dam disqualifies the animal's eligibility in the Angus herdbook, and the registration

certificate becomes null and void.

Right to exam animals

— For an exhibitor to be eligible at shows for premium monies contributed by the American Angus Association, each exhibitor is subject to Part 3, Section IV of the Association's rules entitled, "Eligibility,

Conformation and Structure of Animals Presented for Exhibition."

Animal conformation — Each exhibitor is responsible for having his/her animal(s) presented in its natural conformation and structure without alteration or modification, except for grooming of hair and hooves. All entries are subject to visual inspection and/or laboratory testing.

Any product administered internally or used externally to alter the conformation and/or appearance of an animal for exhibition is prohibited.

Prohibited practices

False hair or tail heads

Painting of white skin

Surgical alteration of animal's conformation or appearance

External use of graphite, powders,

hemp or other similar substances

Steroids

Growth stimulants

Internal use of artificial filling

The Association rules state: "any animal found to be in violation will be barred from showing. FDA-approved implants may be used in steers, however, no drugs of any sort may be administered to carcass contest entries without strictly following recommended withdrawal procedures."

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