

Association Show Rules

Know the rules when attending shows.

Story & photo by **Kasey Brown**, associate editor

The summer is a special time to spend with family, and for many in the Angus business, that includes time around the showbox. Since area fairs, jackpot shows and state fairs all have different rules, we wanted to reiterate the rules for shows sanctioned by the American Angus Association. Fitting rules are of special interest, especially with major shows coming up in the fall. This article aims to put these rules in layman's terms.

The Association regularly appropriates funds toward the payment of premiums at certain fairs, shows and exhibitions for the purpose of rewarding members for producing cattle that will advance the breed genetically through means of conformation. Rules ensure that cattle are presented in their natural conformation and structure, without any alteration or modification by injection, prohibited substance (either internal or external) or unethical fitting.

Ownership of animals presented for exhibition

Each registered animal entered for competition at any Association-approved livestock show must be shown by the owner on its registration certificate. Some animals have multiple owners (most often in the case of bulls), in which case the animal must be shown by one member on its registration certificate.

An animal that is sold with the understanding that the previous owner reserves the right to show the animal after the point-of-sale but before the registration is transferred will not violate the ownership rule.

The animal must also meet the ownership requirements of each show in addition to the Association's ownership requirements.

Age classification of animals presented for exhibition

Each member exhibitor or member owner is responsible for having each animal entered in the proper class according to the animal's birthdate.

Identification of animals presented for exhibition

Each owner/exhibitor must present permanent identification at the show's check-in that matches the original registration certificate or another approved current proof of ownership issued by the American Angus Association (as amended on Sept. 11, 2010).

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An animal will be banned from the show if no legible permanent identification marks — or if ID marks do not match the registration — are found by an authorized representative of the Association at check-in.

If a purchased animal does not have permanent ID marks, DNA-marker-typing can be recognized before the transferred registration is validated and new ID marks are recognized.

If the original owner has a registered animal without permanent ID marks, a written statement that documents the proper identity of the animal must be filed with the Association office. This statement must also confirm that re-application of permanent ID has been accomplished.

If an animal has two or more sets of permanent ID, its identity must be validated with a DNA test. Additionally, if the animal has permanent ID that doesn't match the registration certificate, the original owner must document the accuracy to the Association, though a DNA test may also be required.

Conformation and structure of animals presented for exhibition

Each owner/exhibitor is responsible for having each animal fitted in its natural conformation and structure without improper alteration.

Alteration of conformation and structure through prohibited substance or unethical fitting

Each owner/exhibitor must not alter the structure of the animal by injection or use of any prohibited substance either internally or externally. Any owner/exhibitor is responsible for the actions of their fitter if these rules, or those of the individual show, are broken.

No coloring agents — paint, for example — shall be used at Association-sanctioned shows. A "white towel" or "white glove" test can be used to verify this rule has been upheld. No aerosol cans or pressurized containers are allowed in the make-up areas. Technically, tail adhesive (which is white in color) could be used on the legs, but no paint could be used to cover the glue. In essence, boning legs is against the rules unless you go in the ring with white legs.

Submission of cattle for inspection

In the event of tests or examinations, owners/exhibitors shall submit requested cattle to the Association or show representatives. Those representatives, Association officers, directors, employees and agents are released from any claims for damages resulting from tests or subsequent decisions. If a dispute is requested by the owner/exhibitor in regards to test results, it must be done in accordance to procedures designated in the rules of the Association.

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Enforcement of Association rules at Association-approved livestock shows

Authorized Association representatives have the authority to enforce the rules, which can include barring an animal from the show if there are reasonable grounds to do so.

Exhibitor conduct

Owners/exhibitors, and their representatives and employees, shall be professional and sportsmanlike in the

showring. Judges and show officials shall be treated with courtesy and respect. No abusive, threatening or obscene conduct toward judges, show officials or other exhibitors will be tolerated.

Relationship between these rules and show-specific rules

In the event of conflicting rules between the Association and an individual show, Association rules will trump the show rules.

Certain junior shows

The Association Board of Directors may, from time to time, also adopt and disseminate rules and guidelines to be used at selected Association junior shows. These rules and guidelines may be enforced by Association representatives.

Complete rules can be found in the *Breeder's Reference Guide* online at www.angus.org/Pub/brg_part2.pdf.



Specific rules for junior shows

The American Angus Association's rules apply to National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) shows, but there are some cases in which rules for junior shows differ or are even more specific. Those differences are illustrated here.

Eligibility of exhibitors and entries

To compete in shows this year, an exhibitor's birthdate must fall between Jan. 1, 1992, to Dec. 31, 2003, and the exhibitor must be a junior, regular or life member of the American Angus Association.

Exhibitors may show up to four entries in the owned heifer category and up to four entries in the steer category [see National Junior Angus Show (NJAS) section for carcass steer information]. They may also show as many bred-and-owned (B&O) bulls, B&O heifers, and cow-calf pairs as they wish. Exhibitors in the B&O categories must be the breeder and the first and continuous owner of the animal entered.

"Breeder" is defined as the recorded owner of the dam at the time of service. "First Owner" is the recorded owner of the dam at the time the calf is born. "Continuous Owner" is defined as the recorded owner of the animal without history of transfer.

Joint ownerships are only allowed on B&O entries, provided the name and member code of the exhibitor is listed as "breeder" and "first and continuous owner" on the registration certificate.

Applications for registration and transfer of ownership must be recorded in the sole name of the exhibitor and postmarked by the ownership deadline indicated for each show. Farm or ranch names are not allowed, even if the junior is the sole proprietor of the farm or ranch.

Entries must be postmarked on or before the entry deadline indicated for each show. Late entries will not be accepted. No substitutes will be accepted after the entry deadline.

Note: "Postmarked" means postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service. Privately metered entries and applications will not be accepted. When sending entries by mail, it is highly encouraged to use overnight, registered or certified mail services.

Entry fees *must* accompany each entry form. No refunds will be given after entry deadline. Do not send your original registration certificate or a copy with entry forms.

Fitting and showing guidelines

If an owner cannot show his or her own animal due to medical reasons, written permission must be obtained from the director of junior activities for another NJAA member to show the animal. In administration of this rule, a note of explanation is required from a licensed medical professional to obtain written permission from the director of junior activities.

If a junior member can't show his or her own animal due to multiple entries in his/her respective class or division, another junior Angus association member is allowed to show the additional entry.

The use of chinstraps to alter the confirmation or appearance of an animal is not allowed in the showing.

Bulls 12 months of age or older must be shown with a nose lead. Any animal that gets loose in the ring more than twice will be asked to leave the showing. Once the entries in the exhibitor's respective class have begun walking into the profile view, a late exhibitor is ineligible to compete.

Junior Angus exhibitors are required to wear tucked-in, collared shirts while in the showing at all regional preview, regional and national junior Angus shows. At all other shows, exhibitors should dress appropriately. Dark pants, a white or light-colored shirt, and boots are suggested. Neckties and navy blue or black sweater vests are optional.

Miscellaneous

No aisle fan usage will be allowed. (Fans placed in the aisle directed toward the rear of the animal.)

No nursing cows are allowed on the fairgrounds except those properly entered in accordance with the rules governing the cow-calf classes. All carcass steers must be trained to lead by halter and will stall with the other cattle in the barn.

All entries will be released upon the completion of the show. Any entries that leave prior to the completion of the show will forfeit all premiums and awards.

All animals must meet the health requirements for exhibition purposes as required by the state department of animal health for the show being entered.

Exhibitors providing pamphlets, samples, instructions, etc., shall remain within their own booth. No roving vendor or solicitor, acting from a profit, nonprofit, religious or other organization, or on its behalf, shall be permitted on the fairgrounds.

No dogs are allowed on the show grounds.

All division champions and reserve champions may be DNA-tested for parent verification. Following analysis, any animal for which further investigation is required will have premiums withheld pending resolution of the inquiry.

All animals are the responsibility of the owner and exhibitor. The Association is not responsible for any loss or damage that may occur or be caused by any animal or personal property.

Applicable to NJAS only

No animal shown may be transferred or have a paper corrected after the show if the sale was before the show. Such a transfer or correction will cause the animal to be ineligible for competition for any (junior or open) Association-sponsored show for one year.

No exhibitor may transfer his or her ownership of an entry to the original member(s) or farm from which he or she purchased the animal until the beginning date of the 2013 National Junior Angus Show. This would also cause the animal to be ineligible for any (junior or open) Association-sponsored show for one year.

Complete rules for junior shows can be found online at www.angus.org/njaa/entrybook/2013/NJAAp4_5.pdf.