American Brahman Breeders Association

Show Committee Meeting Minutes

September 16, 2025, 3:00 PM CST
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Val Walters called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm CST.

Present
Val Walters
Pasquale Swaner
Lanna Hensgens
Natalie Herzog
William Deaton
Jim Williams

Staff
Paul Maulsby
Iridiana Ibarra
Kylie Koster

Guests
Will Detering
Tim Everitt
Michael Martin
Kelvin Moreno
Jennifer Parker
Reggie Rodriguez
Dakota Smith

Val Walters asked Iridiana Ibarra to read the minutes from the May 15, 2025 meeting.

A motion was made by Pasquale Sauner to approve the minutes from the May 15, 2025 meeting. The motion was seconded by Natalie Herzog, and the minutes were approved.

There was discussion amongst the committee regarding whether the annual judges ranking ballots would be sent out. The committee reviewed the current protocol, including who receives a ballot and the purpose of the ranking, which is used solely for the appointment of judges for the Houston International and National Show. It was confirmed that the Top 15 judges ranking system will be maintained. Staff informed the committee and the guests present that a full breakdown of the process including ballot eligibility, vote counting, and overall protocol has been available on the ABBA website. After extensive discussion among the committee and members present, it was decided that the annual judges ranking ballots will be mailed out by the office once the judges list has been updated by the Show Committee.

The committee discussed the 2026 International Show to be held in Houston. Houston will be implementing an entry cap of 1,300 Brahman animals, a significant reduction from the 1,835 entries in 2025, of which only 1,167 actually arrived. Additional measures included reducing booth space from a maximum of 24 feet to 20 feet with stricter enforcement.

Concerns were raised regarding whether the show should continue to be considered a point show, as the entry limitation could prevent some members from being able to exhibit. Guests at the meeting expressed

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that if they were unable to enter, the event should not carry point show status. It was clarified that if the committee had decided not to maintain Houston as a point show, this would not have affected Register of Renown points or Show Animal of the Year standings. Instead, the show would have simply been excluded from the calculation for those programs.

An alternative suggestion for association-managed policing of entries was rejected due to the administrative burden it would impose. Small breeder advocacy emphasized the need for equitable access, but no formal motion was presented. The committee ultimately agreed to maintain the 2026 International Brahman Show as a point show.

The committee discussed the cancellation of the ArkLaMiss Fair due to receiving zero entries three weeks before the deadline, highlighting the impact of scheduling conflicts. The newly established Mississippi Brahman Association show was cited as the primary factor contributing to reduced participation. Financial concerns regarding judge travel costs and guarantee payments also influenced the decision to cancel.

The Committee discussed the request from the Four States Fair in Texarkana to become an ABBA point show.

A motion was made by Jim Williams to approve the request, seconded by Natalie Herzog. The motion carried.

The committee rejected a proposal to implement formal show scheduling coordination to prevent competitive conflicts. The future status of the ArkLaMiss Fair will be reviewed following the performance of the Mississippi show and additional planning decisions for 2026.

There was discussion among the guests regarding the Exhibitor Code of Conduct, including a question as to whether it had been approved by the Board. It was clarified that the Exhibitor Code of Conduct was approved by the Executive Committee, and Paul Maulsby will provide the minutes from that meeting as confirmation. Additional discussion included the potential for conflict between the show rules and the Constitution, as well as questions regarding the protocol currently being followed for violations of the Exhibitor Code of Conduct or show rules. A member expressed concern about the recent suspension of a bull purchased for his daughter, noting that he felt the one-year suspension was too severe.

The committee discussed administrative process improvements focused on office communication, show management support, and rule compliance monitoring. The office will begin implementing pre-show reminder letters addressing critical requirements such as age minimums, health certificates, and pregnancy verification. In addition, a 10-day post-show follow-up protocol has been established to ensure accurate point recording and compliance verification. The use of digital verification systems was recommended to reduce manual calculation errors and improve entry accuracy. It was also noted that rule placement needs improvement, with rules communicated more clearly beyond class lists to ensure exhibitor awareness throughout the entry process.

After no new business, William Deaton made a motion adjourn the meeting, seconded by Jim Williams, meeting adjourned.

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