American Brahman Breeders Association

Show Committee Meeting Minutes

December 5, 2025, 2:00 PM CST

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Val Walters called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm CST.

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

Staff
Paul Maulsby
Iridiana Ibarra

Guests
Justin Garner
Sandy Brasseaux
Dakota Smith
Phillip Ray

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

A motion was made by Bill Deaton to approve the minutes from the previous meeting. The motion was seconded by Jim Williams, and the minutes were approved.

The committee received an update regarding ongoing issues with the show animal points algorithm and efforts to ensure scoring accuracy.

Paul Maulsby explained that portions of the current algorithm were identified as inaccurate, prompting a full review of the calculation system. It was noted that changes in Digital Beef's ownership structure and the departure of the original programmer have delayed corrective action; however, the office continues to work closely with 701X to resolve the issue.

Following discussion, the committee agreed that no current year show animal points should be publicly posted until the algorithm has been fully corrected and verified to avoid confusion and potential inaccuracies.

The committee further discussed whether previously issued awards should be adjusted if discrepancies are identified in prior years. After discussion, members agreed that retroactive changes would create unnecessary disruption and that the focus should remain on ensuring accuracy moving forward.

Bill Deaton made a motion to withhold posting current year show animal points until the algorithm has been fully corrected and verified. Seconded by Natalie Herzog. Motion carried unanimously.

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Natalie Herzog made a motion that no retroactive changes be made to previously issued show awards based on prior scoring discrepancies. Seconded by Pasquale Swaner. Motion carried.

The committee discussed proposed revisions to the show animal points calculation system to place greater emphasis on quality of competition rather than total number of shows attended.

Under the proposed format, animals would be required to attend a minimum of ten (10) ABBA-approved shows, as well as either the National or International Show, to qualify for year-end show animal awards.

Rather than counting every show attended, only an animal's top twenty (20) qualifying shows would be used in the final calculation. Winners would then be determined based on average points earned per qualifying show, rather than total accumulated points.

Committee members discussed how this revised format would reduce the competitive advantage of simply attending a high volume of shows and better reward consistent winning performance.

It was noted that regional show awards would remain unchanged under the current format.

The committee agreed the revised system would take effect beginning with the July 2026 show season.

Natalie Herzog made a motion was made to implement the revised show animal points system beginning with the July 2026 show season. Seconded by Pasquale Swaner. Motion carried.

The committee discussed the possibility of establishing additional breeder recognition awards, specifically Sire of the Year and Dam of the Year, based on progeny performance and accumulated points.

Members discussed the potential value of recognizing breeding programs and influential genetics beyond individual show animal success. It was agreed that additional research should be conducted to determine how similar awards are administered by other breed associations.

Paul Maulsby will gather information regarding comparable recognition programs and report findings back to the committee for future consideration.

No formal action was taken.

The committee received an update regarding entry procedures for the upcoming Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo.

Paul Maulsby advised that show management is preparing a detailed communication outlining the official entry process and requirements. Once received, the office will distribute the information to the membership via E-Blast and remain available to assist members with questions.

Members were encouraged to establish customer accounts in advance to streamline the entry process when the system opens.

No formal action was taken.

The committee discussed additional operational improvements to strengthen accuracy and transparency in the show points process moving forward.

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Paul Maulsby outlined plans for more frequent internal audits and proposed quarterly reviews of the top ten animals in each division to identify discrepancies early and provide opportunities for member feedback.

The office also noted improved internal coordination among staff in collecting and reviewing show data.

The committee discussed proposed changes to the judge selection eligibility rules for ABBA-sponsored shows.

Members reviewed the current five-year layoff period between judging major ABBA-sponsored events and discussed concerns regarding the limited pool of qualified judges under the existing rule.

After discussion, the committee agreed that reducing the layoff period to three years would maintain fairness while expanding the available pool of qualified judges for future events.

It was clarified that this proposed change would apply to all ABBA-sponsored shows, including the International Show, National Show, and other Association-operated events.

The committee acknowledged that judge rankings remain advisory and that final selections are based on qualifications and committee discretion.

A motion was made by Steve Hudgins to amend the current judge layoff requirement from five (5) years to three (3) years for all ABBA-sponsored shows. Seconded by Pasquale Swaner. Motion carried.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

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