

## **Section 4. ABBA SHOW RING CODE OF CONDUCT AND ETHICS**

**The American Brahman Breeders Association recognizes the importance of the showing and exhibition of American Brahman cattle and that the competitive evaluation in the show ring is but one method to evaluate animals in our breed. The competitive show ring includes exhibitors who present animals to be placed and approved ABBA judges.**

**This ABBA Show Ring Code of Conduct and Ethics seeks to insure that all participants, exhibitors, and approved judges act in accordance with these guidelines to help insure impartiality, honesty, and fairness to all concerned and in keeping with high standards expected of all ABBA endeavors.**

### **A. JUDGING PRIVILEGES**

- (1)** Designation as an ABBA approved Judge is a privilege, not a right, bestowed by the ABBA Show Committee, according to procedures formulated by the Show Committee and approved by the Board of Directors. This privilege shall be open to individuals whose bovine experience and expertise, as well as personal character, merits the honor. An individual's conduct as a Judge and their ability must be exemplary. An individual's conduct and judging performance will be subject to Show Committee and Executive Committee review.

### **B. EXHIBITOR, OWNER, BREEDER, MEMBER PRIVILEGES**

- (1)** Exhibiting an animal at an ABBA approved event is a privilege, not a right, bestowed by the ABBA to members, exhibitors, owners and breeders. An individual's conduct as a member, exhibitor, owner or breeder must be exemplary and is subject to Executive Committee review.

### **C. GUIDELINES FOR JUDGES - GENERAL**

- (1)** Judges shall act with professional decorum at all times in a manner fitting and proper to one afforded the honor of officiating at any ABBA approved or sponsored show.
- (2)** Judges shall act in a polite manner while carrying out each judging assignment.
- (3)** Judges shall present themselves in attire that is acceptable, appropriate and comfortable for each judging assignment.
- (4)** Judges shall be punctual in availability to fulfill their judging assignment.

- (5) Judges shall not judge two ABBA shows within a period of 6 months. This shall include not judging an AJBA or private ranch sponsored show within 6 months of an ABBA show. The ABBA Youth Activities Committee will utilize the entire approved list for the selection of the All American Judges. If the judges selected for the All American are already assigned an ABBA Show the judge will be contacted to choose their assignment. If the judge selects the All American, the ABBA Judge Replacement Committee will select their replacement.
- (6) Judges shall judge all animals in accordance with the ABBA Standard of Excellence and certify that they have read, understand and will abide by the ABBA Standard of Excellence by signing an affidavit provided by ABBA and returning it to the ABBA Executive Vice-President at the time they are added to the ABBA Approved Judges List.

Judges must certify that they have read, understand and will abide by the ABBA Show Ring Code of Conduct and Ethics by signing an affidavit provided by the ABBA and returning it to the ABBA Executive Vice-President at the time they are added to the ABBA Approved Judges List.

#### **D. JUDGING GUIDELINES - CONFLICT OF INTEREST/ETHICS**

- (1) Judges shall possess and project an unwavering air of integrity, impartiality and ethical behavior that protects the reputation of ABBA shows as being fair and well-judged.
- (2) Judges shall give every exhibitor a fair and equal opportunity in each and every class.
- (3) An animal may not be exhibited or shown under a Judge if that Judge was the breeder of the animal or has been owner, exhibitor, fitter, or agent of that animal.
- (4) An animal may not be exhibited or shown under a Judge if the animal is shown by a member of his/her immediate family or by an employee/employer of the Judge.
- (5) A Judge may not exhibit/show animals as an exhibitor, owner or breeder before those Judges that exhibited animals as an exhibitor, owner or breeder before him to judge for a period of 6 months between shows. This includes shows of all cattle breeds.
- (6) Exhibitors, owners and breeders may not exchange genetics including live animals, semen and embryos with a Judge for 1 month prior to and after the date that Judge has judged their animals.
- (7) A Judge is responsible for disclosing a prohibited relationship as soon as they become aware of the problem to an ABBA official and/or the show representative if an animal is exhibited not in compliance with guidelines (3), (4), (5) and (6). The Judge should notify ABBA officials and/or the show representative and show management of the non-compliance at the next break, or prior to the class being placed. The animal should not be counted as an entry, and the animal shall not be placed in the class. All parties involved, including but not limited to the owner, exhibitor, breeder and Judge, will be held

responsible in the event non-compliance occurs. The Executive Committee will investigate the matter and handle it in accordance with its findings and consistent with ABBA disciplinary rules.

- (8)** A Judge must always act in the best interest of the ABBA avoiding any circumstances which create or appear to create a conflict of interest or raise ethical questions while officiating at any ABBA approved event in accordance but not limited to the following:

  - (a) Judges shall not travel with, dine with or meet with an exhibitor, owner, breeder or agent during the time period beginning 24 hours prior to an ABBA approved show they are judging and ending 24 hours after the ABBA approved show they have judged
  - (b) A Judge shall not appear on the show grounds more than one hour prior to the scheduled start of the show unless as directed or requested by show management.
  - (c) Judges shall talk only with representatives of show management, beyond the exchange of normal greetings, until the entire show or contest is completed.
- (9)** The Show Committee will not assign Show Committee members judging assignments at the top 10 ABBA approved shows.
- (10)** Replacement judges will be selected from the Approved Judges List.