



Junior National Rules

UPDATED 4/8/2026

GENERAL RULES

1. Exhibitor must be at least 7 years old and less than 22 years old by January 1, 2025, and a member of the American Black Hereford Junior Association (ABHJA). Dues are \$30 and must be paid prior to entry. Membership forms may be downloaded at blackhereford.org.
2. All animals must be registered and in good standing with the ABHA at time of check-in.
3. All animals will need to be parent qualified back to the **sire only** at any ABHA Point Show beginning Junior Nationals in 2026. Due to potential lab delays, cattle will be allowed to enter Junior Nationals this year as long as a sample has been submitted for parent verification back to the sire and the test has been ordered through the ABHA.
4. Altering the conformation or natural appearance of the animal is prohibited. This includes the alternation of the animal's natural hair color and the use of artificial tailheads, switches, or the adding of hair to the animal. Other prohibited products include illegal or unlicensed pharmaceuticals, or artificial filling. Any animal/exhibitor found in violation will be removed from the entered show and will be subject to disciplinary action.
5. Each entry must be owned solely by the junior exhibitor(s) and in his/her recorded ownership before June 1, 2026. Siblings may jointly own animals, provided both are members of the ABHJA and meet ABHJA age requirements.
6. Horned, de-horned or scurred animals are eligible to show.
7. **ENTRY DEADLINE IS MAY 15, 2026. ONLINE ENTRY FEE IS \$40 PER ENTRY.**
8. Ownership Deadline is June 1, 2026. All animals must be registered and transferred prior to the entry and ownership deadlines. No late transfers will be accepted. Entry fees are non-refundable.
9. Calves showing as part of a pair, can be shown on their own, a separate entry fee is due.
10. Cattle may begin arriving at 9 AM CST on June 10TH and **MUST** be on the grounds and checked in by 6:30 PM CST on June 10, 2026. Late arrival, if required, will be approved on a case-by-case basis.
11. Registration certificate must be presented at check-in. Tattoos that are missing, illegible, altered, incorrect and/or in any other way disagree with the official ABHA records will be justifiable cause for disqualification of entry. Check tattoos well before leaving for the Junior National.
12. ABHA Staff or designated individual can ask to check tattoos at any time. Tattoos

will be checked as part of the check in process and registration papers will be stamped confirming tattoos have been checked.

13. Entries must meet Indiana State health regulations. All animals must have an official health certificate. Refer to Indiana State Health Requirements.
14. Exhibitor must show his/her own animals. Only exhibitors who attend the AJBHA and are physically unable to show the animals due to illness or injury will be excused. In the case of extenuating circumstances, the family must come to the ABHA board/staff, in which case, the board of directors / staff have sole discretion as to whether the animal may be shown by a substitute showman. Owner may secure another junior member to show his/ her animals if that exception is made, or if exhibitor has more than one entry in the same class. It is recommended that if an exhibitor has more than one animal being shown in a class utilize a fellow junior member. Any request for an assistant in the show ring shall be presented to an attending ABHA Staff member or ABHA Officer before the beginning of the show for a ruling. In the event that an assistant is required and approved, the assistant shall provide the least amount of interference as possible for the handler to properly display the animal and shall not interfere with any other entrant or otherwise block the path or view of the Judge.
15. Exhibitors must wear the official Junior National t-shirt for all shows as directed. Entry numbers must be worn on chest/back. Additional show shirts may be purchased.
16. If all requirements are not met, the ABHA Board and staff reserve the right to disqualify any entry.
17. All persons making entries in the show shall agree to abide by all the rules and regulations as outlined and agrees that the American Black Hereford Association or the American Black Hereford Junior Association Show Committee organizers are not responsible for accident, loss or injury to any person, animal or article.
18. Any animal a Junior enters may be used in the team-fitting competition and/or be asked to be used in the judging contest.
19. The ABHA reserves the right for all champions to be subject to DNA testing to verify parentage.
20. It is a policy of the AJBHA board of directors that if an animal gets loose in the showing, an exhibitor will be given two chances to regain control of said animal throughout the duration of that particular show. After the third instance, exhibitor and animal will be dismissed from the showing by an ABHA staff or board member.
21. **STANDARDS OF CONDUCT.** All members of the AJBHA in attendance at the Junior National are expected to conduct themselves in a manner becoming an AJBHA member and abide by the on-site directives of the facility, ABHA staff, and/or host state. Violations of these standards include but are not limited to; misrepresentation of animals, vandalism, theft, fighting, unsportsmanlike conduct, failure to comply with the directives of officials, being under the influence of intoxicating or prohibited substances, or willful violation of rules. Failure to adhere to the above regulations may lead to disciplinary actions, which may include expulsion from the event at the discretion of the ABHA staff and/or ABHA executive board.
22. **PROTESTS:** All protests must be in writing and be accompanied by one hundred and fifty (\$150.00) dollars cash or certified check plus cost of protest (testing, etc.), which will be forfeited if protest is not sustained. Such protest must state plainly the cause of the complaint or appeal and must be delivered to ABHA Staff or ABHA Show Committee immediately after the occasion for such protest. Protests must be submitted either prior to judging or immediately after the conclusion of class judging. Once an animal reaches championship judging, no

protest will be accepted. Judging procedures will not be interrupted for protest investigation; and depending on the basis of the protest, a decision may be withheld until a thorough investigation is completed. No complaint or appeal that Judges overlooked an animal will be considered.

STALLING

1. Stalling may be pre-assigned by the show staff.
2. No cattle OR tack is allowed in the barns until Wednesday, June 10, 2026, at 9 AM CST.
3. All cattle exhibiting at the event must be stalled in respective space. If under special circumstance the case arises, petition may be made to show staff for relocation.

ANIMAL HEALTH

1. Livestock exhibiting signs of any infectious, contagious, or communicable disease such as, but not limited to, warts, ringworm, pinkeye or foot rot are not eligible for exhibition. All animals entered for exhibition must be individually identified on a certificate of veterinary inspection written within thirty days of the show.

COW CALF PAIR SHOW

1. All calves are to be less than 240 days of age on show day and must be registered with the ABHA and parent verify back to their sire in order to shown in the Cow Calf Pair show.
2. One entry fee is required for pairs.
3. Females can be F-1, HX, Percentage or Purebred with calves at side being HX, Percentage or Purebred to be eligible to show.
4. F-1 and HX females must have an HB calf at side.
5. Calves on the side of cow-calf pairs MUST BE the cow's natural calf.
6. Calf is eligible for individual classes but must be entered in the appropriate class and an additional entry and fee is required.

HEIFER SHOW

Heifers will be shown by designation (F-1, HX, Percentage and Purebred). Final classes will be determined after all show entries are processed. The committee reserves the right to adjust these classes.

1. F-1
2. HX (percentage or purebred)
3. Percentage (62.5 - 87.49% Hereford/Black Hereford)
4. Purebred (87.5% or Higher Hereford/Black Hereford)

BULL SHOW

1. Percentage and Purebred bulls are eligible to show.
2. Bulls one year of age and older must have nose lead.
3. Bull maximum age limit day of show is 36 months of age.

STEER SHOW

1. F-1, HX, Percentage and Purebred steers are eligible for exposition in the Junior Steer Show. Steers must be out of two registered parents to be eligible to show.
2. Entries will show by weight and will be weighed prior to the show.
3. Classes will be broken at the discretion of show management by weight and number

of entries.

GRAND CHAMPION SELECTION

1. Cow/Calf, F-1, HX, Percentage, and Purebred females will be eligible to compete in the Grand Champion selection at the conclusion of the Owned heifer show.
2. Percentage and Purebred bulls will be eligible to compete in the Grand Champion selection at the conclusion of the Owned bull show.

BRED & OWNED

1. To be eligible to show in Bred and Owned show, the junior exhibitor or family farm must have owned the entry's dam at the time of conception and must be listed as the breeder on the registration certificate.
2. If it is an ET animal, the junior exhibitor or family farm must own the donor dam of the animal.
3. The breeder of the animal must be either in the junior exhibitor's or the family farm name.
4. Heifers and Bulls will have their own Bred-and Owned classes.
5. Heifers will show in their respected group for Bred and Owned: F-1, HX, Percentage and Purebred.
6. Bulls will show in their respected group for Bred and Owned: Percentage and Purebred.

PREMIER JUNIOR EXHIBITOR

The results from the show will be used to calculate the Premier Junior Exhibitor. In the event of a tie, the results of showmanship will be used to break the tie.

The following will be awarded for class placing:

- 1st - 5 points
- 2nd - 4 points
- 3rd - 3 points
- 4th - 2 points
- 5th - 1 point

The following will be awarded for Champion placing:

- Grand Champion - 5 points
- Reserve Champion - 4 points

CONTEST RULES

DIVISION BREAKS FOR CONTESTS

As of January 1, 2026:

- Beginner - 10 years of age and under
- Junior - 11 to 13 years of age
- Intermediate - 14 to 16 years of age
- Senior - 17 to 21 years of age

CATTLEMEN'S QUIZ CONTEST

1. Materials: Contestants may not bring notes, books, or other reference materials into the testing areas. All materials, including quiz questions and answer sheets, will be provided. Highlighters are permitted but will not be provided.

2. Cattlemen's Quiz will consist of 30 questions plus 5 tiebreaker questions.
3. Contestants will have one hour to complete the quiz. After thirty minutes have passed, contestants will be notified of the remaining time at ten-minute intervals.
4. Primary resources for quiz questions will be listed in a study guide, available on the Showman.app Junior Nationals show site or on the ABHA website.
5. Once the first quiz has been turned in, no other contestants will be allowed to begin the quiz.
6. Ties will first be broken according to scores on five additional, clearly marked tiebreaker questions. If a tie still remains, it will be broken by order of finish.

INDIVIDUAL SALES CONTEST

The main objective of the Individual Sales is to give Juniors a glimpse at real-life situations of selling while promoting the importance of communication skills, marketing technique and understanding of performance and pedigree information. The contest will be held in conjunction with the American Black Hereford Association Junior Nationals.

1. Contestants must be members of American Black Hereford Junior Association.
2. Individuals will compete in their corresponding age divisions.
3. Presentations will be 3-6 minutes long. The objective of each individual will be to convince the judges that they should purchase their entry.
4. Individuals may present any item that is related to the agriculture beef industry, i.e.: an animal, embryo package, semen, etc.
5. Participants may be discounted for using notes.
6. The order of presentation will be determined by ABHA staff and will be posted prior to the contest.
7. Animals are not allowed in this contest; however, participants may use visual aids such as I-Pads, tablets, binder with information pertaining to the item being sold, etc.
8. Exhibitors will have two (2) minutes to setup their presentation.

Scoring for Junior and Beginner Contestants: Points will be awarded as follows:

- Knowledge - 25 Points
- Ability to communicate - 25 points
- Organization - 25 points
- Overall effect - 25 points
- (Salesmanship, Creativity/Originality, and Believability)

Scoring for Senior and Intermediate Contestants: Points will be awarded as follows:

- Knowledge - 20 Points
- Ability to communicate - 20 points
- Organization - 20 points
- Overall affect - 20 points
- (Salesmanship, Creativity/ Originality, Believability)
- Creative Design - 20 points

Ten (10) points may be subtracted from the total if judges detect the use of notes. Two points will be subtracted for each minute a presentation goes more than the allotted 6 minutes.

GRAPHIC DESIGN

Beginner & Junior

The following general contest rules apply to Beginner and Junior divisions ONLY and are as follows:

1. There will be two categories to choose from:
 - Breed/Association Promotion: Highlight the value of Black Hereford Cattle in a successful cattle enterprise or the benefits of active membership in the American Black Hereford Association
 - Herd Advertisement: Create a poster suitable for promotion of your own herd or a fictitious (but realistic) situation.
2. The contest is limited to **One (1)** entry per person.
3. Entries must utilize a regular size poster board (22in x 28 in).
4. There is no limit to the use or style of drawings or lettering, provided they are the design and handiwork of the entrant. Posters should **NOT** be made using computer generated graphics or designs. Photographs, magazine clippings, stencils and adhesive letters may be used. If the judges question whether the work was computer generated, the entry may be subject to disqualification or the deduction of points.
5. It is suggested that the posters be laminated or covered with clear contact paper, but not required.
6. Contestants should attach the following information in the upper lefthand corner on the back side of the poster: contestant name, category, and age division as of January 1, 2025. Failure to supply the correct information will result in a deduction of points.
7. Judges will rank the top 2 in each age division. Awards will be given to the top two in each division.

Intermediate & Senior

The following general contest rules apply to Intermediate and Senior divisions **ONLY** and are as follows:

1. Entries must be created using computer technology.
2. The category is the following:
 - Breed/Association Promotion: Highlight the value of Black Hereford Cattle in a successful cattle enterprise or the benefits of active membership in the American Black Hereford Association.
3. Contestants should email submissions before June 1 at 11:59 p.m. to ernie@blackhereford.org. Entries should be sized to an 8.5” x 11” page and will be attached as a PDF or JPG file.
4. When submitting a graphic design, you must include the following in the body of the email: contestant name, and age division as of January 1, 2026. Failure to submit correct information will result in a deduction of points.
5. The contest is limited to 1 entry per person.
6. All work must be that of the contestant. Entries must be the contestant’s current year’s work and cannot have been presented for competition at a previous ABHA Junior National. Each contestant’s graphic design entry will be uploaded to the AJBHA Facebook Page prior to the Junior National and have an equal amount of time to gain interactions via social media.
7. Graphic design entries will be evaluated on the following: originality, message, ability to attract attention, use of space and design. 50% of the grade will be determined by the amount of “**Likes**” obtained on the **Original** social media post on the AJBHA Facebook Page.
8. Judges will rank the top 2 in each age division. Awards will be given to the top two in each division.

JUDGING CONTEST

1. Each age division will be scored separately.

2. Senior and Intermediate division participants will answer one set of questions and give one set of reasons.
 - Registration for contest will be made at animal check in.
 - The maximum rotation for each class is 12 minutes.

PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

The Photography Contest is designed to provide Junior members the opportunity to learn and showcase photographic skills.

General contest rules pertaining to all age divisions are as follows:

1. There will be 2 categories:
 - a. Color: Highlighting Black Hereford cattle in a colored photograph.
 - b. Black and White: Highlighting Black Hereford cattle in a black and white photograph.
2. Contest is limited to 2 entries per person, 1 per category.
3. Photos must highlight Black Hereford cattle on the farm, ranch or at an event. The cattle should be the dominant focus of the photo. Photos must be 8in x 10in and presented as best you see fit (see item 5 below).
4. All entries must be original, untouched photos taken by the Junior member who enters the photo. Photos must be the contestant's work.
5. Photos may be presented as best you see fit without altering the effects of the picture. Photo mats, frames, foam board, etc. are all eligible methods of presenting the media.
6. ABHA staff reserves the right to utilize any photos in the contest at the staff's discretion.
7. Contestants should attach the following information to the photo: category, contestant name, address, and age as of January 1, 2026.

SHOWMANSHIP

1. Each age division will have a class.
2. Show staff will determine how to break each division if needed.
3. Registration for showmanship will be made at animal check in.
4. **NO BULLS ALLOWED FOR SHOWMANSHIP.**
5. Juniors exhibiting bulls or steers only and who do not have a heifer entered in the show, will be allowed to show a heifer entered by another junior exhibitor.
6. No excessive coaching will be allowed.

TEAM FITTING CONTEST

1. Each team will be comprised of three (3) members (or can be modified by show management based on number of total participants).
2. Time limit of thirty (30) minutes.
3. A team member must wear a show harness to display assigned team number.
4. Contestants must bring any and all materials needed to the fitting area, including animal.
5. Each team will be allowed the use of one blower.
6. No improper fitting methods may be used.
7. Clippers may be used at the discretion of team members.
8. When time is called, one member from each team will exhibit the animal for final viewing and judging.
9. Judging will be based on fitting techniques and outcome. In the event of a tie, teams will be allowed back in the chute for an additional five (5) minutes.

- No spectators, parents, etc. are allowed on the floor during contest.

Judging will be by a two-member panel of judges based on 100 points maximum from each judge. Each judge will then rank the individuals based on points allocated.

STAR JUNIOR

This award will look at the exhibitor's participation in contests, which includes showmanship.

Each Contest Participation - 1-point Contest Placing:

- 1st - 5 points
- 2nd - 4 points
- 3rd - 3 points
- 4th - 2 points
- 5th - 1 point