

# JUDGES' POLICY 2021

In accordance with the Society's policy to evaluate its judges' policy on an annual basis and to amend it according to circumstances, and, if necessary, place more emphasis on certain economically important traits, or give scientific elucidation on the implementation of such, consensus was reached on the following, at the Judges' Conference 20 February 2020.

## OBJECTIVE

The contents of this document aim to assist you as judge, with specific reference to your role as ambassador and responsibility to, on the basis of breed and production standards, execute your judging in the show ring meticulously, and as an important training assignment. Your placing and comments are therefore crucial in the pursuit of our broad mission, viz:

*The breeding of Brahmans that perform economically under South African climatologically conditions, due to their adaptability, efficient utilization of natural grazing, and the total improvement of the breed.*

## 1. GENERAL RULES

- 1.1 Judges should pay meticulous attention to the fact that no animal/s 15 (fifteen) months and older, without brands and ear tattoos may be judged.
  - 1.1.1 Animals older than 20 months with fresh brand, may not be placed.
- 1.2 An exhibitor's animals will not be considered for any placing, unless the handlers are dressed in accordance with the Society's official dress.
- 1.3 Reproduction: That all heifers older than 32 months are certified in calf, or already calved. (The calf must be exhibited) Heifers certified pregnant between the ages of 28 – 32 months will have the advantage in the judging of her class.
  - 1.3.1 It is not compulsory to be certified pregnant for heifers between 24 – 28 months old.
- 1.4 You as judge should continually strive towards your judging being viewed as a professional training assignment, and your comments being constructive and presented in a positive way.
- 1.5 Judges shall be strict with any animal that is difficult to handle in the ring, or, for some or other reason, is unmanageable.
- 1.6 All bulls older than 15 months must have a nose ring.
- 1.7 A cow must have her own fully registered calf.
- 1.8 A calf on its dam may not be older than 210 days on day of judging.
- 1.9 No cattle will be judged if made fast to the side of the ring or any object.

- 1.10 A second handler will be allowed in the ring to help move the animal that is lazy and cannot move, at the judges' discretion.
- 1.11 A cow's calf must be present in or at the side of the ring when judged. At the judges' discretion after he has seen the calf, it may be removed
  - 1.11.1 A cow without her calf and not in calf will not be judged.
- 1.12 Females which reached the age of 30 months, must be certified in calf or have a calf at foot on the day of judging. (non-halter trained class)
- 1.13 Only fully registered animals will be judged. Animals with pending registration (held entry), may not be entered.
 

*(Late entries must be screened by die Office, and certified as fully registered, in order to be exhibited.)*
- 1.14 Animals of which the birth date had been changed twice or more, will not be allowed in the show ring.
- 1.15 Breeders and/or Exhibitors who are guilty of misconduct to Judges and fellow breeders/exhibitors, will be referred to Council by the Breed Improvement Committee, for disciplinary action.
- 1.16 Disqualification of corkscrew hooves: Disqualify animal in the show ring with corkscrew hooves.

## **JUDGE'S POLICY**

In order to enable you to execute the responsible task entrusted to you as efficiently as possible, sufficient emphasis should be placed on the following important traits:

Traits vary in accordance with their relative importance and consequently continuous attention should be paid to their economic importance compared to functionality. Turned out front legs and a straight hock can for example be identified as two faulty leg traits, but the hock would be judged as more important, as it could adversely influence the primary function of a bull, namely to serve. Try to let your placing as well as your comments continuously focus on what the beef chain or market demands. In order to maintain this market share, the following traits should enjoy continuous emphasis in the judging ring:

### **(A) SEXUAL TRUENESS**

#### **(1) Masculinity**

Which traits constitute a function of masculinity? The head, hump development, neck (neck pleats), testicle development, wedge and even darkening of color in most of these traits. Per definition most of these traits will be described with words such as: strong, broad, prominent and balanced.

(2) **Femininity**

Which traits constitute a function of femininity? The head, hump development, neck (neck pleats), teat development and wedge. Pay special attention to positioning of hump directly on shoulders. Per definition, most of the traits will also be described with words as mentioned under Masculinity, but with the emphasis on finer development.

(3) **Reproduction / Reproductive organs**

Even though the emphasis are not mentioned in order of importance, it is very important that fertility should be stressed sufficiently. No considerations for defects in any of the following traits should be allowed:

a) Testes – too small or too twisted.

**Scrotum size (SC) measurements.**

When judging SC where the relevant data are available, only bulls with an SC of which the parameter is not less than 5 may be selected. (MEASUREMENTS ARE ONLY DONE AT SHOWS WHERE 50 OR MORE ANIMALS ARE EXHIBITED AND ON BULLS AGED ≥15 MONTHS).

b) Insufficient development of the female genitalia, e.g. vulva and teats.

c) Since show animals are subjected to optimal conditions, there is no reason why production should not be measured by optimal standards. Inter calving periods (ICP) exceeding 425 days and days since last calving of more than 399 days must also be penalized (if relevant data are available).

d) If a poor calf is exhibited with a cow, the cow must be penalized. Remember that the calf is also an indication of the cow's stage of lactation.

**(B) CONSTITUTION**

Traits such as;

1) Walking ability or mobility

Mindful of the fact that the Brahman is pre-eminently an extensive breed, mobility is of cardinal importance. Leg and hoof faults must receive serious consideration. Give meticulous attention to the animal's hind legs, especially hocks and pasterns, as they determine an animal's mobility. Pasterns must be of medium length.

2) Width of the chest floor.

3) barrel– good eye muscle development and ribs well sprung.

4) Structural correctness – each a function of constitution.

Pay special attention to a strong, broad muzzle, a well formed hump placed directly on the shoulders, good shoulder attachment without prominent shoulder bumps, length and broadness in the hindquarter and well defined inner and outer thighs. A broad chest floor will normally go hand in hand with width in the forequarter, while a narrow chest can lead to a narrow stance in the front legs.

**(C) BEEF TRAITS / MUSCLING**

- 1) Concentrate here on important economically important traits that are a function of growth and muscling and place the emphasis on:-
  - a) Length, width, depth and balance.
  - b) Look at definition of eye muscle, back, loin and length from hipbone to pin bone (rump).
- 2) Mass (M)

In the case of M attention is drawn to the fact that, should this data be available (MEASUREMENTS ARE ONLY DONE AT SHOWS WHERE 50 AND MORE ANIMALS ARE EXHIBITED), you should endeavor to select animals between parameters 6 to 8. This does not imply, however, that, should an animal's SH be >8, the relevant animal may not be placed. In your comments the emphasis should fall on the fact that the animal inclines towards being too big, and in terms of market requirements falls outside the primary selection objectives of the breed. Give special attention to over fat animals and discriminate against such.
- 3) Frame size, Hip Height (HH)
  - 3.1. The measurement will only be done on shows where more than 50 animals are exhibited.
  - 3.2. Where a concrete floor is available along with weighing facilities to carry out the measurement as accurately as possible.
  - 3.3. According to the official HH table, an animal with a score of more than 10 and less than 4 may not be placed. Such an animal must be dismissed during the qualifying round along with other animals featuring discriminating traits.

**(D) SHEATH / PREPUTIUM**

In terms of the bull's functional ability to serve being an economically important trait, adequate attention should be given to the preputium. During judging of the preputium the following should receive special attention:

- 1) Preputial opening  
The opening must be small and tightly closed.
- 2) Preputial nozzle  
A nozzle which is long and atonic (protruding) must be discriminated against. A short and firm nozzle is therefore desirable. The preputial nozzle must preferably not hang below the "Os-to-Os" line (an imaginary straight line from the hock to the knee).

The preputial opening, as well as the preputial nozzle, must not project ventrally, but cranio-ventrally, in other words from the abdomen towards the front dew claws.

- 3) Navel  
The navel must preferably not be over developed, in other words must not appear bulky or hang like a curtain in front of the navel. Discriminate against such an event.

Eversion (prolapse) of the Lamina interna (inner tissue surrounding the penis) should occur by way of exception and not as a rule and discrimination should once again be applied.

The navel can appear pendulous, but no loose skin folds must appear on the Lamina externa (outer tissue).

**(E) COMMENTS**

- 3.1 Make certain that you know your terminology and apply it correctly when referring to a specific trait or part of the anatomy of an animal.
- 3.2 Be specific in your remarks and under no circumstances use words like: **nice, attractive, flabby**, or a mere expression like **"I like ..."**. Remarks like "Heifer No. 1 is better than Heifer No. 2, because she has better muscling, gives no explanation to the exhibitor or bystander, unless you can point out which economic traits in Heifer No. 1 stand out above Heifer No. 2".
- 3.3 Give only the major reasons for your placing by explaining your placing in pairs, e.g. 1 compared to 2, 2 to 3, etc. Be methodical in your placing.
- 3.4 Avoid assumptions or statements that are not scientifically accountable.
- 3.5 Your comments must be constructive and do not hesitate to give compliments to an exhibitor(s) for an exceptional animal, group of animals, or champions in the presence of the public. Remember that you are not representing yourself. You are acting as ambassador for the Brahman breed.
- 3.6 In the comments endeavor to organize your reasons in a logical sequence, so as to explain those traits that have influenced you in your placing. It is recommended that you apply the following methodology, as guideline: Start with the head and work systematically towards functionality:
- (1) HEAD
  - (2) FOREQUARTERS
  - (3) BARREL
  - (4) HINDQUARTER
  - (5) CONSTITUTION
  - (6) REPRODUCTION / SHEATH AND NAVEL SKIN / REPRODUCTIVE ORGANS

**(F) METHOD OF JUDGING**

To act successfully as Judge it is recommended that you use the following method as guideline to execute your task in a professional, methodical and organized way.

Judging basically comprises two phases, namely a Qualifying Phase and a Comparative Phase that have to be continuously applied throughout each class.

1. **THE QUALIFYING PHASE**

As soon as all the animals for the relevant class are in the ring, place yourself in such a position that you can instruct the ring steward to allow every animal move in your direction, so that you can judge every animal from the front, while walking. Always let the animals walk clockwise in the ring, because it places the handler on the outside of the animal. Now you take note of the following:

- (a) Head and muzzle, front legs (walking ability) and chest,

Now step to the inside so that the handler is on the outside and observe the following:

- (b) Muzzle (pay special attention to the lower jaw) neck, shoulders, hump and spring of rib, length and depth of body, preputium, navel skin, hindquarter and walking ability.

Now step backwards while the animal is moving away from you, and observe the following:-

- (c) Observe the pin bone width, since it is generally a function of the width across the entire body of the animal. Now also carefully observe the animal's hind legs, especially hocks and pasterns (walking ability).

If necessary, you can let the animal stand still, while carefully looking at the following:

- (d) Take note of the bull's testes (testicular development), or in the case of a female animal, sexual development, as well as the udder, teat shape, and udder attachment.

- (e) Docility :- Animals that handle with difficulty in the show ring.  
(i) An animal that pulls free from its halter in the ring gets ONE chance only.  
(ii) If an animal runs out of the judges' ring, it is disqualified and not judged any further.

Now you have finished with your Qualifying Phase and animals with obvious characteristics you were not satisfied with, are out of the ring. Now you can commence with the Comparative Phase.

2. **THE COMPARATIVE PHASE**

At this stage you should already have a very good idea of the standard of the class, which animal(s) have impressed you, or even your probable first placing.

Now position yourself now in the centre of the ring, while the animals circulate around you. You can even start changing the sequence of the animals, letting your second best animal walk behind your best one. The animals are now compared with one another. Note the following:

- (a) Start by taking out your best and second best placing etc., tentatively comparing them with each other where they stand next to each other in the middle of the ring. Place the animals from left to right as seen from the front.
- (b) Now concentrate mainly on traits like **Sexual trueness, Constitution, Beef properties/Muscling and Sheath/Preputium as referred to in the Judges' Policy.**
- (c) Make a final observation of the animals, while you let the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> placing walk again, to gain absolute certainty. Compare the 1<sup>st</sup> with the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> with 3<sup>rd</sup>, etc.
  - (i) **Overfat animals**  
If an animal is the best in its group, but overfat, it is demoted by one placing. This will be explained in the commentary.
- (d) Look at the measurements on the entry card and use the Brahdex data to explain a trait during your commentary.
- (e) Now instruct your ring steward to place the animals from left to right, seen from the front. Place at least 6 animals, depending on the number of entries.
- (f) Now you should have all the animals properly memorized and be ready to give a proper explanation of your placing to the public and bystanders in your comments.

Success with your judging.

## **Promotion of Brahman Judges – Rules and application in terms of Judges Policy** (Refer minutes of Training Meeting 26-02-2020)

### **Training Committee**

The Training Committee consists of 6 members – all Breed Judges and/or a nominated Council Member, e.g. Head of the Training Committee or Breed Improvement Committee.

Currently only 5 Breed Judges are part of the Committee. Five persons are being considered to be promoted to Breed Judge, and are in the process of evaluation. It should be completed during the 2021 show season.

The Training Committee also has the authority to nominate a person from the Junior/Senior Judges' ranks to be promoted, without such a person applying for evaluation him- or herself.

### **Promotion of Judges**

Junior / Senior Judges have to operate as Brahman Judges for at least 5 years before they are allowed to apply to the Training Committee to be promoted to Senior / Breed Judge. The Training Committee then facilitate an opportunity during an official Brahman Show where the applicant can be evaluated.

### **Courses to qualify as a Brahman Judge**

Beginners' courses are presented by the Training Committee in different areas of SA. The examiners, which are Breed and Senior Judges, may recommend a trainee to attend a follow-up course, before being allowed to attend a bi-annual Junior evaluation course by invitation from the Training Committee.

### **Annual Training Conference**

Participation is compulsory. Bi-annual evaluation / practical examination of all Judges also happens during this event. This procedure is co-ordinated by the Training Committee.

If a judge does not attend the Training Conference twice in a row with-out a valid reason, he/she is demoted by one level as a judge.

A Senior becomes a Junior and a Junior must repeat the process. The main reason for this decision was to ensure that decisions taken at the annual conferences, as well as the focus that will be put on specific traits in the ring that year, must be properly explained to the judges and to ensure unanimity regarding the application of the Judges Policy.

All judges are allowed to inspect animals on farms.

Only Breed and Senior Judges are allowed to do B-brand inspections.

Examiners at courses must preferably be Breed or Senior Judges. Two judges per course, up to 30 attendees, for more candidates a third examiner must be appointed, whom may be a Junior Judge.

**Judging at Schools**

Persons whom attended the annual judges conference, are allocated to a show by the Training Committee. Persons whom did not attend the annual conference, may not judge during that year.

**Ring Stewards at Shows**

Persons whom performed well at the bi-annual Junior Judges' evaluations, but did not pass the exam, are invited to assist at major shows as ring stewards. Junior judges and persons nominated by the Show society can also act as ring stewards. This way trainees gain experience and motivation to perform better at the next evaluation process.

**Technical Staff**

Involved with weighing and measuring at shows, accumulation of relevant documentation which supports the judging process at shows.

If no ring stewards are available, technical staff can act as ring steward.

Two technical officers are currently functional:

- Sytze Smit, Senior Judge
- Jan Louw, Junior judge