



2026 Hoosier Elite Beef Circuit Rules

1. Exhibitor Eligibility

Residents of the United States only, **ages 7-21 years of age as of January 1, 2026**, are eligible to participate.

2. Nomination Fee and Enrollment

To receive Hoosier Elite points, participants must pay a **\$30.00 per member nomination fee**. This is a one-time nomination fee for the show season. Exhibitors must nominate their animals for the program prior to the start of the first show from which they wish to receive points. Nominations can be made at any participating show or mailed to ILA/IJLA. A nomination form must be completed for each animal nominated and may be submitted during registration at the animal's first sanctioned show and must be turned in before the conclusion of the show (multiple animals can be entered on one form).

****For purebred animals, please include a copy of the registration papers with the nomination form.**

3. IJLA Membership

To receive points, an exhibitor must be a resident of the United States and be a member of the IJLA. Membership must be paid before points can be accumulated on a nominated animal. Annual membership dues are \$25 and can be paid at time of nomination of animals. Membership will be good for all Hoosier Elite Species Circuits.

4. Show Your Own Animal for Points

To receive points, animals must be shown by their owner. An exception is made if the participant:

- a. *owns two or more animals that are in the same class;*
- b. *has two different animals that are both showing simultaneously in adjacent rings.*

In these two scenarios, another junior may exhibit the second animal and the participant would still receive points for both animals. When the class conflict is over and for championship drives, the actual participant must return to showing his/her own animal to retain the points earned. It is the participant's responsibility to inform the Hoosier Elite committee member in charge of the class conflict, as it happens, not after the show.

- Participants that are physically unable to show their animal, may ask another junior who meets the age and program requirements to show their animal. The unable participant must be present at the show to earn points. If the participant becomes ill after the animals have arrived at a show and been checked-in, another junior who meets the age and program requirements may show the animal(s). The participant must seek prior approval from the Hoosier Elite Committee and the participant must be present at the show facility. Should a participant become ill and stay home prior to the animals leaving for a show, no points will be awarded to the participant's animals.

- Family emergencies are at the Hoosier Elite Committee's discretion, but the participant must seek prior approval for points to count. The Hoosier Elite Committee reserves the right to use discretion in administering this rule regarding situations not already covered. All decisions by the Hoosier Elite Committee on points associated with showing your own animal shall be final.

5. Sanctioned Show Requirements

A sanctioned show must be open to all HE exhibitors but is not limited to them. A sanctioned show may be open to the world, but only HE members will accumulate points. Sanctioned shows fees are **\$100 per ring by September 15th, 2026**. Each sanctioned show must offer a Heifer and Market show as well as showmanship.

- A representative from the IJLA or ILA will be at each sanctioned show. A space needs to be available to accept nominations and provide information about the organization. Forms will also be made available online.

- The representative at the show will be provided a copy of the show program so that results can be kept and points be determined as soon as possible. Show program must include tattoos and/or ear tags.

- The show must send an official copy of placings within 5 days of the completion of the show. Results can be emailed.

- The HE representative is available to help with the show if needed.

- Classes are to have no more than 10 head/class

- Classes must be placed 1st through 5th with the option to place through last

- Classes must be broken to give the most points possible to participants (avoiding single entry classes where possible).
- Awards must be given to all Breed Champions. Banners are acceptable awards.
- The show will include Top Five Heifers and Top Five Market awards. Banners are acceptable awards.

6. An entry form will be available on the IJLA website for shows to use. Shows can also use electronic entry systems (such as the ShowmanApp) as long as the information needed for tabulating points is included.

7. Cattle Age Requirements

Animals eligible for participation must meet the following age requirements: Steers – born on or after January 1 of 2026, Heifers – born on or after September 1 of 2025.

8. Breed Class Qualifications

a. NEW FOR 2026 – we have added **Dairy Beef** as a breed for the HE Beef Circuit. This needs to be added to your list for breeds available to enter.

b. Exhibitors must have original registration papers or electronic papers (if available) at time of check in. If not available at first show, then they must be submitted as soon as possible to the HE Committee for the points to county. All registration papers meeting the national breed eligibility requirements will be accepted. No copies will be accepted. Original registration certificates must be in the name of the junior exhibitor who is exhibiting the animal. For points, no family farm names will be permitted. Papers pending participants will be allowed to compete for points in showmanship, but their animal will only receive points as a crossbred until the original registration papers arrive. The sanctioned show reserves the right to evaluate all breed steers and heifers for breed standards.

c. Cattle without registration papers and legible tattoos that correspond to registration papers will be considered crossbred. Tattoos will only be checked one time at a show. If the animal has illegible tattoos they will be placed in the crossbred division. The animal will not be permitted to leave the chute and come back. Market heifers are only eligible to show once per show, in either the heifer or steer ring, but not both. Dual registered cattle may only show in one breed at one show.

d. Breed heifers must be shown by age and crossbred heifers by weight. Steers must be shown according to breed and weight. The following breed classes will be offered based on breed minimum percentages as listed. **Note – all high and low percentages must show in their appropriate division.

Breed	Heifers	Steers/Market Animals
Angus	Purebred	Purebred
Belted Galloway	Purebred	50% with papers
Black Hereford	62.5% or higher with papers	62.5% or higher with papers
Charolais	Purebred	Sire or dam must be registered Charolais
Composite Charolais	50% (sire or dam must be registered)	None
Chianina	Papered	Papered
Chi-Angus	Papers must have CHIANGUS denotation	None
Gelbvieh	75%	50% Gelbvieh or higher
Hereford	Purebred	Purebred
Limousin	25% or higher	12.5% or higher
Maine Anjou	75% (brown papers)	25% (green or brown papers)
Mainetainer	1/4 -5/8 (green papers)	none
Market Heifer	None	Any breed, must be female
Red Angus	87% or higher	50% or higher
Red Poll	Purebred	Purebred
Salers	50%	50%
Shorthorn	Purebred (15/16)	Purebred (15/16)
ShorthornPlus	50% (green papers)	25% (green papers)
Simmental	76% and higher	50% and higher
SimSolution	50-75%	None
Crossbred		
**NEW - Dairy Beef		

- e. An animal can be shown as a crossbred one week and a breed animal the next week and maintain two sets of points. The multiple sets of points will be added together on the animal for Top 5 Heifer and Steer awards. Points for breeds will be treated as two separate animals.
- f. All Sunday shows must start by 10:00 A.M. EST.

8. Ownership, Possession and Care

All animals nominated for the Hoosier Elite program must be in the ownership, possession and care at the time of nomination by the exhibitor making the nomination and must remain in the ownership, possession and care of the exhibitor throughout the remainder of the Hoosier Elite show season.

9. Showmanship Requirements

- a. Each Hoosier Elite show must offer complete showmanship classes (all four divisions) in each ring and place the top five in each age division for points. Showmanship class premiums are at the discretion of the sanctioned show.
- b. Showmanship divisions will be divided into multiple heats if there are more than 10 participants in a division. A show has the discretion to combine heats if scratches take place that brings the number of participants down to 10 or less per division.
- c. Age divisions – **AGE AS OF JANUARY 1, 2026: Novice Division: 7-9 years; Junior Division 10-12, Intermediate Division 13-16; and Senior Division 17 - 21. Participants are encouraged to show their own animal or a sibling's animal. However, a participant can show an animal entered in the show if they do not have anything entered in that show. A PeeWee division can be held but will not receive points.**

10. Complaint or Protest Procedure

Any exhibitor or their family member that seeks to file a complaint or protest regarding a perceived infraction of a rule or sanctioned show rule must submit a fee of \$150 to the Hoosier Elite Committee. The Hoosier Elite Committee will not release the name of the individual filing the protest. The fee shall be refunded only if the protest is sustained by the Hoosier Elite Committee. The Hoosier Elite Committee shall hold a meeting regarding the protest at which time the party making the protest may present evidence or argument in support of the protest. Should other parties be found in violation of the rules, the Hoosier Elite Committee will take appropriate action regarding the situation. Committee action is not limited to the following, but may result in the exhibitor found in violation to lose points for a show, lose multiple show points, and/or be barred from current or future participation in the program. The decision of the Hoosier Elite Committee regarding the protest shall be final. The Hoosier Elite Committee also reserves the right to review any potential rules violation without a \$150 complaint filing. Points challenges are not subject to the \$150 fee, however, there will be a 5 day limit to challenge points, once the committee makes a posting or changes a points posting.

11. Exhibitor Code of Conduct

All Hoosier Elite exhibitors, their family members and others acting on behalf of the exhibitor must display good sportsmanship and act in a courteous manner at all sanctioned shows. Unsportsmanlike conduct will be referred to the Hoosier Elite Committee for appropriate action, if the committee deems necessary. Unsportsmanlike conduct may include but not limited to physical actions, threats, or outbursts of profanity. Committee action is not limited to the following but may result in the exhibitor found in violation to lose points for a show, lose multiple show points, and/or be barred from current or future participation in the program. The decision of the Committee regarding the unsportsmanlike conduct shall be final.

12. Points System

- a. Point totals will be kept for each individual animal. If an animal receives points in two different breeds, the points will be treated as two separate animals. Points will be combined on that animal to figure Top Heifer and Market points.
- b. Points will be posted on the IJLA website within 7 days of the completion of a show. If there are multiple shows on a weekend, they will be posted within 14 days.
- c. There will be a 5-day limit to challenge points, once the committee makes a posting or changes a points posting.
- d. If a Hoosier Elite nominated animal is sold during the show season, the points are not transferable. Animals may be re-nominated under the new owner.
- e. An exhibitor can compete in as many of the point shows as they choose with the best **6 (six)** show scores on an individual animal or showmanship counting for overall points for the season.

f. All Hoosier Elite shows will follow the same point system. Points will be awarded as follows:

Class Placing

1st Place = number of head in class x 8 (5 and less in a class); x 10 (6 or more in a class)

2nd Place = number of head in class x 7 (5 and less in a class); x 9 (6 or more in a class)

3rd Place = number of head in class x 6 (5 and less in a class); x 8 (6 or more in a class)

4th Place = number of head in class x 5 (5 and less in a class); x 7 (6 or more in a class)

5th Place = number of head in class x 4 (5 and less in a class); x 6 (6 or more in a class)

Breed Champion = 20 points

Reserve Breed Champion = 10 points

Grand Champion = 50 points

Reserve Grand Champion = 45 points

3rd Overall = 40 points

4th Overall = 35 points

5th Overall = 30 points

g. Showmanship (one showmanship class per exhibitor)

Champion = 20 points

Reserve = 17 points

3rd Overall = 14 points

4th Overall = 11 points

5th Overall = 8 points

All other Participants = 5 points

Heats (advancing) = 2 extra points

13. Top Five Market Animals and Heifers

Each show will pick Top 5 Market Animals and Top 5 Heifers. It is up to the individual show to determine if they give additional awards. Those animals eligible to compete for the Top 5 Heifers and Market Animals will only include breed champions and reserves and the crossbred champion and reserve. Only champions will initially enter the ring for the overall champion competition. Each reserve after that can then enter until the final five have been selected.

14. Awards must be given to each breed champion as well as Top 5 at each show. This is at the discretion of the show but banners are highly suggested.

15. A judge can only judge one show on the circuit during the season; exceptions must be made through the Hoosier Elite Committee. Inform the Hoosier Elite coordinator of judge selection as soon as it is made. A Hoosier Elite participant or the parent/guardian of a participant cannot judge a Hoosier Elite show.

16. An Awards Program will be held at the last show of the circuit in November in Hancock County, Greenfield. It will be held after the conclusion of the show; time will be announced. Awards to be presented are –

Top 5 Exhibitors

Top 5 Heifers

Top 5 Steers

Top 5 Crossbred Heifers and Steers

Top 5 Purebred Heifers and Steers

Champion and Reserve Showmen in each division