

# GUIDELINES FOR MERIT POINT SHOWS

These guidelines for Merit point shows in Victoria and Tasmania are adapted from the procedures recommended by the Boer Goat Breeders Association of Australia (BGBAA) for the National Merit System. The Victorian Branch of the Association would appreciate the Show Committee's co-operation in following these guidelines.

## **1. Objective:**

The Objective of the State Merit System is to enable all members to be able to strive for a State Based Title thereby assisting them with the marketing and promotion of their stock. This system is not part of the National Merit System but exclusive to the States of Victoria and Tasmania.

## **2. General:**

Points will be allocated at shows starting with the Royal Melbourne Show in September each year and finishing on the commencement of the Royal Melbourne Show the following year. At the end of each year the animals with the highest number of points will be awarded the title of Victorian or Tasmanian Top Doe/Buck for the Year and Supreme Champion.

Points are cumulative and once animals have gathered 100 points they will be honoured with the title of "State Champion".

From September 2008, points will be allocated to Group classes and an award given to the most successful Stud in Victoria/Tasmania. This will be an accumulation of all points for a Stud for individual exhibits as well as group exhibits.

## **3. Eligible Shows:**

All shows within the States of Victoria and Tasmania are eligible provided registered animals are shown, the show meets the criteria for a merit point show (below), it has an accredited BGBAA Judge and the show is run in accordance with BGBAA rules and regulations. The State Committee reserves the right to not allocate points.

## **4. Criteria for a Merit point Show from September 2008:**

There is a minimum number of 20 animals, and a minimum of three studs exhibiting. State Shows should have a minimum of 35 animals and five studs exhibiting. If a Show does not meet these requirements exhibitors cannot receive points.

## **5. General Conditions and Show Ring:**

Exhibitors should have close access and egress for the loading and unloading of animals and entry to the show ring.

Pens need to be of a size large enough to fit one or two animals and ideally slightly higher than those for sheep. Approximate height of pens to be 1050mm.

Show Committees are expected to provide bedding but all exhibitors are expected to provide their own feed. Depending of the length of the show and what animals will be standing on, at least a biscuit of straw per pen should suffice. Exhibitors should be advised if they are to carry out a clean up at the end of the show.

Exhibitors should be provided with easy access to water.

As most of these animals are judged on free movement, the ring size should be large enough to accommodate the number of animals in the class allowing enough room between each exhibitor with their animal. The ring should be suitable for all weather conditions. Where possible there should be a catching area made available.

The height of the ring should prohibit animals from jumping out and should be a minimum of 1200mm.

Animals should only be allowed off the lead at the judges discretion; the judge having taken suitability of the ring and safety factors into consideration.

### **6 Classes:**

Full Bloods and Pure Blood Does may be judged together and Merit Points may be gained by both Full Blood and Pure Blood Does. Both Fullbloods and Pureblood Does are eligible for Championships.

The Association allows the registration of cross-bred animals. It is entirely the decision of the show committee as to whether they include cross bred classes in their show schedule. Pure Blood Does are eligible for Merit Points.

Classes should be as follows and must apply for Standard and Red Boers:

### **FULL BLOOD OR RED CLASSES**

BUCK KID 4 TO 6 MONTHS	DOE KID 4 TO 6 MONTHS
BUCK KID 6 TO 12 MONTHS	DOE KID 6 TO 12 MONTHS
BUCK 1 - 2 YEARS	DOE 1 - 2 YEARS
BUCK 2 - 3 YEARS	DOE 2 -3 YEARS
BUCK 3 YEARS AND OVER)	DOE 3 YEARS AND OVER

With animals up to the age of 12 months the decision may be made by the Show Committee or the Judge to divide the class based on animals' weight. In this case the appropriate measures (time allocation, equipment) needs to be factored into the decision.

### **GROUP CLASS:**

GROUP OF THREE ANIMALS BRED BY OWNER

SIRE'S PROGENY GROUP OF THREE

## **7. Awards:**

The number of ribbons awarded for class winners and placegetters should be based on the number of entries in each class but would not go beyond 5<sup>th</sup> place.

### **Major Awards are for:**

Champion Junior Boer Doe

Reserve Champion Junior Boer Doe

Champion Senior Boer Doe

Reserve Champion Senior Boer Doe

Champion Junior Boer Buck

Reserve Champion Junior Boer Buck

Champion Boer Buck

Reserve Champion Boer Buck

Grand Champion Doe

Grand Champion Buck

Supreme (this title may be abolished from September 2008).

Show Committee's may decide to include an award for "Most Successful Exhibitor".

## **8. Merit Points:**

Points are awarded on a 3/2/1 points scale for First, Second, Third respectively in each class. This includes Group classes.

Reserve Champion Buck & Doe- 5 points, Champion Buck and Doe and Grand Champion Buck and Doe- 10 points, Supreme Champion- 15 Points.

Interstate and National Shows will be allocated double Merit points. State shows will be allocated double points from September 2008.

Merit Points must be accumulated from at least two different judges.

## **9. Notification of points:**

Notification of points must be made to Judith D'Aloisio (Fax 03 57973232) email: [judithdaloisio@yahoo.com](mailto:judithdaloisio@yahoo.com) within 30 days of the Show on the appropriate form. Forms are available by downloading from the website <http://www.bgbaavictoria.com.au> or phoning (03) 57973232 for a hard copy.

Postal return of the form can be sent to Judith D'Aloisio RMB 3001, Ghin Ghin Road, Yea, 3717.

It is the responsibility of the exhibitor to also keep track of their own animals' points as well as forward them on the appropriate form within fourteen days of the show.

### **10. Rules of Entry:**

The Show Committee shall define the relevant rules but cannot alter any of the Associations' rules. Rules may include but are not limited to the following:

- All animals entered in the show and exhibited must be the bone fide property of the exhibitor.
- All Boers entered and exhibited must be registered with the BGBAA and be tattooed accordingly.
- Full Bloods and Pure Blood Does are judged together. Both Fullbloods and Pureblood Does are eligible for Championships. Cross Breeds are to be judged separately.
- The signing of the entry form for any exhibit is accepted by the Committee as a guarantee that the animal/s specified thereon is/are free from all disease as far as is known to the owner, and in the case of infectious disease being spread through or by an exhibit, the exhibitor only, and not the Association shall be held responsible thereafter.
- A Johnes disease declaration form should be included with the entry
- In signing the entry form for a Merit point show the exhibitor agrees to the terms and conditions of this document.
- The Show Committee shall have the power to refuse admission to or cause to be removed from the show any exhibit in their opinion infected with any parasite, contagious or other disease.
- The Association will not be responsible for any accident that may be caused through or by an exhibit and it shall be a condition of entry that such exhibitors shall hold the Association blameless and indemnify it against any legal proceedings arising from such an accident.
- It is the responsibility of the Show Committee to ensure they have adequate insurance cover. The Association will not be held responsible under any circumstances whatever for exhibits, for any damages or injuries thereto, for any loss or mis-delivery thereof.
- The age of the animals is calculated to the day of the Show.
- Exhibitors should ensure that their exhibits are prepared to the best of their ability and that they are properly cared for whilst on exhibition. Every effort should be made to control exhibits without the use of extreme force where appropriate carrying rather than dragging. Exhibitors should also make an effort not to exhibit any animal not fully fit or showing signs of distress or illness.

- No animal will be admitted into the Show Ring unless duly entered which requires the completion of the Entry Form. .
- Suckling kids can accompany mother without being entered in classes
- All Merit point shows must be run in accordance with BGBAA regulations and this overrules all other conditions.

### **11. Judges and Stewards:**

The BGBAA has an approved Judges listing which is available on the Association's National website and the Victorian website. For Merit point Shows Judges used must be current financial members of the BGBAA and be on the approved list.

Level 1 trainee judges are encouraged to steward as a means of learning ringcraft and gaining confidence in the ring

Remuneration for both Judges and Stewards is entirely the decision of the Show Committee but both lists detail Judges and Stewards travel arrangements and remuneration, where applicable.

If Judges are appointed from Interstate it is recommended that the Show Committee charge an appropriate entry fee to cover interstate travel costs.

### **12. Code of Ethics for Judges/Exhibitors**

Prior to the show, the Judge should not be entertained by anyone who is exhibiting animals. They should not be transported or accommodated by any exhibitor until after judging. The judge should not judge an animal that they have sold within 90 days of the show, and they should have no financial or management interest in any animal being judged. They should not have a family relationship with any exhibitor.

### **13. Johnes and/or Other Diseases:**

The Victorian Branch has not set rules on the way Show Committees are to handle animals which may be free of Johnes Disease and depend on the relevant State regulations. Health Certificates for other Diseases are the decision of the Show Committee.

### **14. Junior Handlers:**

Parents have a responsibility to match their child's size with the size and maturity of the animal the child is showing. Parents must have their own liability and send evidence of this with their children's' entry form.

### **15. Insurance:**

The BGBAA (Vic Branch) considers it essential that exhibitors have their own liability when attending shows.

**16. Dress:**

Dress needs to be neat and smart and in accordance with the conditions of the entry of the show - some shows require the wearing of dust coats Clothing worn by handlers should not have Stud identification visible while in the show ring.