



American Brahma Club Bylaws

ARTICLE I - NAME, PURPOSE, AND NON-DISCRIMINATION

Section A - Name

The name of this organization shall be **American Brahma Club** (“the Club”).

Section B - Purpose

The American Brahma Club is organized exclusively for livestock and poultry improvement, and educational purposes under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Its purposes include:

- Educating members about Brahma poultry, their history, genetics, care, and exhibition.
- Promoting high standards in breeding, husbandry, and exhibition of Brahmas; whether it be the recognized varieties or by supporting members raising non-recognized varieties.
- Supporting youth agricultural education and participation in the club.
- Providing educational materials, seminars, publications, and outreach.
- Supporting scientific, historical, and educational activities related to poultry.

No part of the Club’s net earnings shall inure to the benefit of any private individual. The Club shall not participate in political campaigns or substantial lobbying activities.

Section C - Non-Discrimination

Membership is open to all Brahma fanciers regardless of race, color, religion, creed, national origin, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, age, or veteran status.

ARTICLE II - MEMBERSHIP

Section A - Eligibility

Membership is open to all individuals interested in Brahma poultry.

Section B - Dues

As of January 1, 2026:

- \$20 for 1 year
- \$50 for 3 years
- Junior and Family memberships are at the same rates as Adult memberships

Section C - Lifetime Membership

Members aged 70 or older who have been in good standing may be granted Lifetime Membership by majority vote of the Board. Lifetime Members pay no dues and retain full voting privileges.



Section D - Membership Privileges

Paid members receive:

- Three annual newsletters
- Access to educational materials
- Access to breeder directory
- Ability to earn points at Club-sanctioned meets
- Invitation to all Club meetings
- Full access to the Membership section of the website (americanbrahmaclub.com) which retains all club documents and information.

Section E - Membership Lapse

If membership lapses for two years, exhibitor points are removed unless dues are paid in full. If membership lapses for three years, exhibitor points reset to zero.

ARTICLE III - EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND OFFICERS

Section A - Composition

The Executive Committee consists of:

- President
- Vice-President
- Secretary/Treasurer
- Point Master
- District Directors

Each officer and director has one vote.

Section B - President

The President shall:

- Direct the Club and officiate at all functions.
- Coordinate relationships with officers and members.
- Form or appoint committees.
- Organize, coordinate, set agendas, and run meetings using Robert's Rules of Order.
- Present an annual vision and action plan which is up to the President to execute on.
- Generate updates for club newsletters and updates to their action plan.
- Attends the National Meet.

Section C - Vice-President

The Vice-President shall:

- Assist the President with execution of their action plan and vision for the club.
- Step in for the President for all club meetings or club business when the President is not present.



- Coordinate the generation of all newsletters and Club materials.
- Coordinate club promotion through outlets such as Poultry Press, American Poultry Association and American Bantam Association Yearbooks, the club Facebook page, and other outlets.
- Attends the National Meet.

Section D - Secretary/Treasurer

The Secretary/Treasurer shall:

- Manage administrative procedures and correspondence.
- Purchase trophies and ribbons for National and other meets
- Maintain Club mailing address.
- Provide meeting minute updates and treasurer report updates in the club newsletters.
- Collect dues and maintain membership lists through mailed membership forms or through the club website.
- Pay Club bills with consent of one other officer.
- Deposit funds in an account bearing the Treasurer's name and that of the President or another officer.
- Maintain accurate financial records and report them to membership.
- Turn in all IRS and State annual documents to maintain non-profit/501(c)3 status.
- Attends the National Meet.

Section E – Points Master

The Points Master shall:

- Manage all District Directors ensuring they are placing meets and submitting show reports.
- Keep record of all membership points earned by members from placings at club sanctioned shows.
- Ensure all show reports and updated member points are updated on the website.
- Places club meets for Districts without Directors to benefit members in those areas.
- Point of contact for members within Districts without Directors.
- Attends the National Meet.

Section E - District Directors

District Directors shall:

- Place a District Meet (1 per district per year) and attend that meet to promote the club.
- Place any State and Special meets to benefit club members.
- Generate a list of meets in their District for the club website, club newsletters, and for the club Facebook page.
- Ensure Show Reports are submitted for all meets in their District.
- Appoint State or District Representatives as needed to assist with their duties.



- Serve as point of contact for member questions.
- Write an update from their District for the club newsletters, especially pictures from meets.
- Attends the National Meet.

Section G - Vacancies

Officers may resign with advance notice. The President may appoint interim officers who must run in the next election cycle. In the event the President resigns, the Vice-President will take over until the next election cycle

Section H - Removal of Officers

Any paid member may motion to remove an officer for failure to perform duties or violation(s) of code of conduct. The motion must be communicated to all members and voted on. A replacement election must occur before year-end.

ARTICLE IV - DISTRICTS

Section A - District Structure (Current)

The Club shall have **five Districts**, each with one Director:

1. **District 1 (Northeast)** - ME, VT, NH, MA, CT, RI, NY, NJ, PA, DE, MD, WV, VA
2. **District 2 (Southeast & South)** - KY, TN, NC, SC, GA, FL, AL, MS, AR, LA, OK, TX
3. **District 3 (Midwest)** - MI, OH, IN, IL, WI, MN, IA, MO, NE, KS
4. **District 4 (West)** - ND, SD, MT, WY, CO, NM, ID, UT, AZ, WA, OR, NV, CA, AK, HI
5. **District 5 - Canada**

ARTICLE V - ELECTIONS

Section A - Election Cycle

- Even years: President, Secretary/Treasurer, Directors for even-numbered Districts.
- Odd years: Vice-President, Point Master, Directors for odd-numbered Districts.
- Terms are two years.

Section B - Election Administration

The President shall appoint a member to oversee elections.

Section C - Nominations and Voting

- Nominations accepted in October and November.
- Elections held in December.
- Results announced December 31.
- Voting may be paper or electronic.



ARTICLE VI - MEET PLACEMENT

Section A - National Meet Placement

- One National Meet per year.
- Even years: The Ohio National Poultry Show in Columbus, Ohio.
- Odd years: Rotating shows based on National Meet Bids.
- Executive Committee may override placement based on membership activity.
- Poultry Show Clubs may request placement via bid form or email.

Section B – District, State, and Special Meets

- District Directors are required to place 1 District Meet per year within their District to best serve the membership in that District. The club show and State where the meet is place should be rotated to benefit all members living in different parts of the District.
- Directors may Place 1 State Meet per State within their District, but it is not required due to low membership in certain States.
- Directors may only place Special meets (1 per State within their District) if there are at least 2 members within their District that request a club meet at a particular show.

Section C - Restrictions

No National Meet shall be given to bantam-only clubs or clubs restricting entries. Special Meets may be placed at bantam-only shows.

Section D - Timing

District Meets may be placed any time of year at Director discretion. National Meets may be placed any time of year but preference will be given to Fall shows.

Section E - Awards

Awards ordered only for the National Meet and the Canadian District Meet for the Open and Junior shows for Bantams and Large fowl:

- Reserve of Variety (to be awarded to non-recognized varieties if shown)
- Best of Variety (to be awarded to non-recognized varieties if shown)
- Reserve of Breed
- Best of Breed
- Best Non-Recognized Variety of Brahma
- Best Brahma in Show

Awards ordered for District Meets within the United States for the Open and Junior shows for Bantams and Large fowl:

- Reserve of Breed
- Best of Breed



Section F - Meet Requests

- Meet requests must be directed to District Directors or the Point Master.
- A show report must be filled out and sent in to the Secretary/Treasurer to be digitally retained before being sent to the Point Master for point calculation.

Section G - Reporting

Directors must provide meet lists to the Secretary/Treasurer and Vice-President for the club website, newsletters, and for the club Facebook page.

ARTICLE VII - FINANCES

Section A - Financial Records

The Secretary/Treasurer shall maintain accurate financial records and report them to membership in all club newsletters or upon request.

Section B - Expenditures

- Expenses under \$500 require Executive Committee majority approval.
- Expenses over \$500 require quorum approval.

ARTICLE VIII - QUORUM

A quorum for Club business or expenditures over \$500 requires:

- 4 Executive Committee members (2 officers + 2 Directors or Points Master)
- 8 paid members

Total: **12 votes**.

Voting may occur online, email, or in person and a record of the meeting minutes must be retained and reported in the next club newsletter.

ARTICLE IX - RECORDS AND INSPECTION

The Club shall maintain accurate and complete books and records. Members may inspect records as permitted under Illinois law.

ARTICLE X - COMPENSATION

No officer or member shall receive compensation except reimbursement of reasonable expenses submitted to the executive committee with official receipts and approval from the executive committee to make the purchase.

ARTICLE XI – CONFLICT-OF-INTEREST

The Club shall maintain a Conflict-of-Interest Policy. Any officer with a financial, personal, professional, or any other type of interest in a club matter must disclose it and abstain from voting.



ARTICLE XII - REGISTERED OFFICE AND AGENT

The Club shall maintain a registered office and registered agent in Illinois as stated in its Articles of Incorporation. This person will be the Secretary/Treasurer unless the club votes to appoint a new Registered Office and Agent.

ARTICLE XIII - FISCAL YEAR

The fiscal year shall run from January 1 to December 31.

ARTICLE XIV - DISSOLUTION

Upon dissolution, all assets shall be distributed for one or more **charitable or educational purposes** consistent with Section 501(c)(3). No assets shall benefit any member, officer, or private individual.

ARTICLE XV - AMENDMENTS

Amendments to the Bylaws must follow quorum requirements specified in Article VIII.

ARTICLE XVI - CODE OF CONDUCT

The Code of Conduct establishes expectations for ethical, respectful, and professional behavior by all members, officers, volunteers, and representatives of the American Brahma Club (“the Club”).

Section A - General Conduct Expectations

All members and officers shall conduct themselves with honesty, integrity, fairness, and professionalism in all Club activities; treat all individuals respectfully; uphold the Club’s non-discrimination policy; and support the Club’s charitable and educational mission.

Section B - Ethical Responsibilities

Members shall provide accurate information, avoid misrepresentation of birds or show results, refrain from harassment or bullying, maintain confidentiality of sensitive information, and follow all applicable poultry show rules and animal welfare standards.

Section C - Conduct at Shows and Events

Members shall demonstrate good sportsmanship, respect judges and exhibitors, follow show rules, avoid confrontational behavior, and represent the Club positively.

Section D - Online Conduct

Members shall communicate respectfully online, avoid defamatory or inflammatory statements, protect confidential Club information, and uphold the Club’s reputation in digital spaces.

Section E - Enforcement



Violations may result in warnings, suspension, removal from office, or revocation of membership. The Executive Committee shall investigate violations and document actions taken.

ARTICLE XVII - ANTI-HARASSMENT AND ANTI-BULLYING POLICY

The Club is committed to maintaining an environment free from harassment, bullying, intimidation, and discrimination.

Section A - Prohibited Conduct

Harassment, bullying, intimidation, threats, or discriminatory behavior toward any member, youth exhibitor, judge, volunteer, or officer is prohibited.

Section B - Reporting

Reports may be submitted to any officer. The Executive Committee shall investigate promptly and confidentially.

Section C - Disciplinary Action

Confirmed violations may result in suspension, removal from office, or termination of membership.

ARTICLE XVIII - YOUTH PROTECTION POLICY

The Club supports youth involvement and is committed to ensuring their safety at all Club events.

Section A - Appropriate Conduct

Adults shall maintain appropriate interactions with youth, avoid one-on-one unsupervised situations, and model respectful behavior.

Section B - Online Safety

Adults shall not privately message youth without parental awareness and shall avoid sharing youth photos without consent.

Section C - Reporting Concerns

Concerns involving youth safety must be reported immediately to the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE XIX - CONFLICT RESOLUTION PROCEDURE

This Article establishes a fair and transparent process for resolving disputes within the Club.

Section A - Informal Resolution

Members are encouraged to resolve minor disputes directly and respectfully.

Section B - Formal Complaints



Formal complaints must be submitted in writing to the President or Secretary/Treasurer.

Section C - Investigation

The Executive Committee shall investigate complaints, gather statements, and review relevant information.

Section D - Decision and Appeal

The Executive Committee shall issue a written decision. Members may appeal to the full membership, whose vote is final.

ARTICLE XX - WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTION POLICY

The Club protects individuals who report misconduct, violations of law, or breaches of bylaws.

Section A - Protected Activity

Members may report suspected financial misconduct, ethical violations, abuse of authority, or violations of law.

Section B - Non-Retaliation

No member or officer may retaliate against a whistleblower. Retaliation is grounds for removal from office or membership.

Section C - Investigation

Reports shall be investigated confidentially by the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE XXI - DOCUMENT RETENTION AND DESTRUCTION POLICY

The Club shall maintain accurate records and preserve documents according to legal and organizational needs.

Section A - Records to Be Retained

The following records must be retained for a minimum of seven years:

- Financial records
- Membership lists
- Meeting minutes
- Show reports
- Election ballots
- Legal documents
- IRS filings

Section B - Destruction of Records



Records may be destroyed only after the retention period expires and with approval from the Secretary/Treasurer and President.

ARTICLE XXII - VOLUNTEER POLICY

Volunteers are essential to the Club's mission and must adhere to standards of conduct and responsibility.

Section A - Expectations

Volunteers shall act professionally, follow officer instructions, uphold Club policies, and represent the Club positively.

Section B - Training

Volunteers may be required to complete training related to youth safety, show procedures, or Club policies.

Section C - Removal

Volunteers who violate policies may be dismissed from volunteer roles.

ARTICLE XXIII - DATA PRIVACY AND MEMBER INFORMATION POLICY

The Club is committed to protecting member information and complying with privacy standards.

Section A - Use of Member Information

Member information shall be used only for Club operations, communications, and breeder directory listings with member consent.

Section B - Access to Data

Only authorized officers may access membership data. Data shall not be sold or shared outside the Club.

Section C - Protection of Minors

Information about youth members shall be protected and not shared publicly without parental consent.

ARTICLE XXIV - MEETING PROCEDURES AND NOTICE REQUIREMENTS

This Article clarifies how Club meetings are conducted and how members are notified.

Section A - Notice Requirements

Meeting notices must be provided at least 14 days in advance via email, newsletter, or website posting.

Section B - Agenda Preparation



The President shall prepare meeting agendas. Members may request agenda items in writing.

Section C - Minutes

Minutes shall be recorded by the Secretary/Treasurer and made available to members.

Section D - Virtual Meetings

Virtual meetings are permitted and carry the same authority as in-person meetings.

ARTICLE XXV - OFFICER PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

This Article establishes expectations for officers to ensure effective leadership.

Section A - Minimum Activity Requirements

Officers must attend meetings, respond to communications, and fulfill assigned duties.

Section B - Reporting Requirements

District Directors must submit meet lists and reports. Officers must provide updates at meetings.

Section C - Ethical Leadership

Officers shall act with integrity, transparency, and professionalism.

Section D - Removal for Non-Performance

Officers who fail to meet performance standards may be removed according to Article III, Section H.



APPENDIX A - HISTORICAL AMENDMENTS

Membership Amendments

Amendment to Article 1 Section B (1983): At the Annual Meeting in Claremore, Oklahoma, November 1983, it was proposed to carry any member over the age of 70 and who had been a member in good standing as a Lifetime Member. A Lifetime Member would not be required to pay dues and would receive all benefits and voting privileges. Lifetime Member approval is to be made by the majority of the Board and Directors of the Club. Amendment passed with one dissenting vote.

Executive Committee Amendments

Amendment of Article 2 Section A (2012): The Points Keeper position was added to the governing members of the Club, with one vote. This was a unanimous vote with all members present at the Annual Meeting in Columbus, Ohio, November 2012.

Officer Role Amendments

Amendment to Article 4 Section B (2026): The President shall also (in addition to Article 2 Section B) organize, coordinate, set the agenda, and run all Club meetings using Robert's Rules of Order for in-person or online meetings. The President will communicate their vision, action plan, and execute on that plan for each year in office at the beginning of each year.

Amendment to Article 4 Section C (2026): The Vice-President shall also (in addition to Article 2 Section C) coordinate the creation of all newsletters and Club materials. The Vice-President will also ensure all District Directors are placing meets and assist the Secretary/Treasurer with meet placement. The Vice-President will also fill in to assist if Districts do not have a Director or a current Director steps down, to assist the Secretary/Treasurer.

Amendment to Article 4 Section D (1979): At the meeting in Frederick, Maryland, 1979, the position of Secretary was combined with that of the Treasurer by unanimous vote.

Amendment to Article 4 Section E (1979): At the meeting in Frederick, Maryland, 1979, the position of Secretary was combined with that of the Treasurer by unanimous vote.

Amendment to Article 4 Section E (1981): The Secretary/Treasurer shall deposit funds of the Club in an account bearing the Treasurer's name and that of the President or some other officer of the Club. Voted on at Richmond, 1981.



Amendment to Article 4 Section F (2026): The District Director is the point of contact for Brahma Club members to reach out to with questions and concerns. They shall also place and attend (at a minimum) a meet within their District, District Meet, to promote the Club, the breed, and talk to current or prospective members. They may also place a meet within each state within their District, or State Meet; one per state, and Special Meets. District Directors are not required to attend every meet they place; however, every effort to attend their District Meet should be made. For any Brahma Club meets, the District Director shall also ensure a Show Report is filled out and submitted to the Secretary/Treasurer for records so it can be submitted to the Points Master. If the District Director cannot attend any meets placed, they are responsible for having a member fill out the form at the show or submit it to the Show Secretary of the show hosting the meet. District Directors may appoint State or District Representatives to assist them in their duties.

District Structure Amendments

Amendment to Article 5 Section A (1998): There shall be 7 Districts, with a Director from each. New Districts were submitted and approved by majority vote at Columbus, Ohio, November 1998. The new Districts will read as follows:

District 1 - Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Delaware, Washington, D.C.

District 2 - Alabama, Georgia, West Virginia, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Florida, Mississippi

District 3 - Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, Kentucky, Ohio

District 4 - Washington, Oregon, California, Nevada, Arizona, Alaska, Hawaii

District 5 - Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Texas, Louisiana, Missouri, Iowa, Arkansas

District 6 - Canada

District 7 - Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, Utah, Colorado, North Dakota, South Dakota

Amendment to Article 5 Section A (2025): There shall be 5 Districts, with a Director from each. The following Districts will be as such:

District 1 (Northeast) - Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, West Virginia, and Virginia

District 2 (Southeast and South) - Kentucky, Tennessee, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Texas

District 3 (Midwest) - Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, Nebraska, Kansas

District 4 (West) - North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, New Mexico, Idaho, Utah, Arizona, Washington, Oregon, Nevada, California, Alaska, Hawaii

District 5 - Canada



Meet Placement Amendments

Amendment to Article 5 Section B (2001): The National Meet shall be placed by the general mail ballot. The Secretary shall secure as many bids as possible and present these bids in the form of a ballot to be returned before the Annual Meeting. At the Annual Meeting in Connersville, Indiana, in 2001, it was voted on and passed that the Board of Directors, consisting of the President, Vice-President, Secretary/Treasurer, and all District Directors, will vote on the selection of judge for the National Meets.

Amendment to Article 5 Section B (2011): The National Meet shall be placed by the Board and the District Directors, choosing from the bids submitted. The Secretary shall secure as many bids as possible and present these bids in the form of a ballot to the Board and to the District Directors for decision. This amendment was proposed and voted on unanimously by all members present at the Crossroads Show in Indianapolis, Indiana, 2011.

Amendment to Article 5 Section B (2025): At the Eastern National in Columbus, Ohio, where 12 active members were present, a motion was made and passed to have one National Meet placed at the Ohio National Poultry Show on even years, with the meet to move to other poultry shows on odd years. Eastern and Western Nationals were eliminated. Special Meets will also be limited so Directors focus on their State and District Meets. The Executive Committee reserves the right to select the placement of the National Meet based on Club membership and activity; however, poultry clubs and members can request placement for the National Meet through the Bid Form or by emailing the Club. The Executive Committee must entertain any requests by membership for National Meet placement.

Amendment to Article 5 Section C (1998): A Special Meet only may be placed at a bantam-only meet. Voted on and passed at Columbus, Ohio, November 1998.

Amendment to Article 2 Section A (2011): No National Meet shall be given to a club promoting bantams only, or by any club that restricts entries. Voted on and passed with 20 votes in favor and 4 votes against at Crossroads in Indianapolis, Indiana, October 2011.

Amendment to Article 5 Section D (1991): The time of the year of placement of District Meets shall be left up to the discretion of the District Director. At the discretion of the District Director, the District Meet can be placed at any time of the year, provided the host club meets the other requirements for hosting a Brahma Meet. Voted on and passed at Milwaukee, Wisconsin, September 1991.

Amendment to Article 5 Section E (2005): By unanimous vote at the 2005 Annual Meeting held in Midland, Michigan, ribbons and rosettes would continue to be awarded to those in Junior shows, and for first-time winners in the Open show only. The point system introduced by



President Danny Williamson at this meeting will be used for all other wins that are sponsored by the American Brahma Club (initiated January 1, 2006).

Amendment to Article 5 Section E (2010): By unanimous vote on October 9, 2010, in Frankenmuth, Michigan, all 20 members present voted that there will no longer be any ribbons or rosettes awarded.

Amendment Procedure Amendments

Amendment to Article 6 Section A (2009): This was voted on and passed at the 2009 Annual Meeting in Shawnee, Oklahoma. Any amendments to these articles shall require a two-thirds majority vote at an Annual Meeting by no less than 12 paid members eligible to vote.

Amendment to Article 6 Section A (2026): Revisions can be voted on outside Annual Meetings as long as the Executive Committee shares revisions with the membership and receives a majority vote of the paid members.



APPENDIX B - CLUB POINT SYSTEM

Section A - Accumulation of Points

- The exhibitor must be an active club member prior to the show in order to receive points from wins at club sanctioned shows.
- If a member has allowed their membership to lapse for two years, the points will be removed from the records unless the two years of outstanding membership dues are paid back in full.
- Any lapse in membership 3 years or older will result in exhibitor points being reset to zero.
- For historical purposes, former members achieving the Hall of Fame status (100 points) will be recorded and maintained indefinitely.
- Members showing non-recognized varieties are only allowed variety points at half value based on the type of meet they attend

Award Category	State & Special Meets	District Meets	National Meets
Reserve of Variety / Best of Variety	1-24 = 1 point; 25+ = 2 points	1-24 = 3 points; 25+ = 4 points	1-24 = 5 points; 25+ = 6 points
Reserve of Breed / Best of Breed	1-24 = 1 point; 25+ = 2 points	1-24 = 3 points; 25+ = 4 points	1-24 = 5 points; 25+ = 6 points
Reserve of Class / Best of Class (Asiatic & Feather-Legged)	Reserve = 1; Champion = 2	Reserve = 3; Champion = 4	Reserve = 5; Champion = 6
Reserve or Best Large Fowl / Bantam	Reserve = 1; Best = 2	Reserve = 3; Best = 4	Reserve = 5; Best = 6
Reserve in Show / Best in Show	Reserve = 1; Best = 2	Reserve = 3; Best = 4	Reserve = 5; Best = 6

- Breeder Award = 10 points
 - Club Recognition in Newsletter and Website
- Master Breeder Award = 20 points
 - Club Recognition in Newsletter and Website
- Grand Master Exhibitor = 50 points
 - Plaque
- Hall of Fame = 100 points
 - Plaque and Lifetime member nomination