

## 2026 Texas Junior Simmental/Simbrah Association Futurity

### GENERAL RULES

#### I. Registration, Entry, and Fees

- A. Individual entry forms and required fees must be submitted online by the entry deadline of **May 5 by 11:59 PM**. The areas of competition in which an individual will participate must be designated at the same time. The heifer ownership date is May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2026. All heifers must be in the name of the exhibitor by May 5, 2026.
- B. Fees are located on the entry form.
- C. No late entries will be accepted. No Exceptions will be made.
- D. No refunds will be issued.
- E. **\*\*\*New (implemented 2024)\*\*\* Each contestant will have the opportunity to secure “sponsorships” to help offset entry fees.**
  - a. **Contestants must fill out a form with sponsorship information. This may be found on the TJSSA website.**
  - b. **Sponsors who contribute \$100 or more to a contestant will be listed on a banner at the state futurity and will receive “shout outs” during the week.**
  - c. **The contestant is responsible for collecting sponsor money/turning in information to the TJSSA.**
  - d. **This is an option to help offset expenses for exhibitors. It is optional– not required.**
  - e. **EXHIBITOR IS STILL RESPONSIBLE FOR PAYING WHOLE ENTRY FEE, BUT CAN GET SPONSOR TO HELP OFFSET FEES. Please reach out with questions.**

#### II. Eligibility

- A. Participants in the State Futurity must be paid members of the Texas Junior Simmental/Simbrah Association.
- B. To be eligible to compete in the TJSSA state futurity, an exhibitor must be **twenty-One (21) years of age** or younger as of January 1 of current year and be a Texas resident.

### COMPETITION AND AWARDS

#### I. Novice, Junior, Intermediate, Senior and Collegiate Division Eligibility

- A. Contestants entering Kindergarten through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade must compete in the Novice division. Novice contestants may participate in all contests except the Cattle Show. Contests will be age appropriate. **\*\*Novices who participate in showmanship must be accompanied by a family member\*\***
- B. Contestants entering 3<sup>rd</sup> grade through 11 years old as of January 1, 2026, must compete in the Junior Division.
- C. Contestants ages 12 through 14 years old as of January 1, 2026, must compete in the Intermediate Division.
- D. Contestants ages 15 through 17 years old as of January 1, 2026, must compete in the Senior Division.
- E. Contestants 18-21 years old by January 1, 2026, must compete in the Collegiate Division. To be eligible to compete in the TJSSA state futurity, an exhibitor must be **twenty-One (21) years of age** or younger as of January 1 of current year and be a Texas resident.

## II. Individual Competition

- A. At the Futurity, overall competition will be determined by points won in **six of the eight** following events: Cattlemen's Quiz, Public Speaking, Judging Contest, Sales Talk, Genetic Evaluation Quiz, Skill-A-Thon, Showmanship, and the Cattle Show. **\*\*New\*\* A breed promotion poster A digital media design contest and a breed photography contest will be implemented at the 2024 Futurity; however, participation in these events WILL NOT count in overall points (implemented 2024; adjusted for 2026 futurity).**
- B. The top 10 competitors in the Cattlemen's Quiz, Public Speaking, Judging Contest, Sales Talk, Genetic Evaluation Quiz, Skill-A-Thon, Showmanship and the Cattle Show will receive points, with the highest score receiving 10 points and each subsequent score receiving one less point down to one point for tenth place.
- C. In the Cattle Show, the top 10 exhibitors will receive points based on their placing, with the highest receiving 10 points and each subsequent score receiving one less point down to one point for tenth place. Divisions of the cattle show must equal 10% of the largest division or overall points for those divisions will be reduced 50%.
- D. In the case where a contestant has two entries in the top ten, only the points for the highest placing entry will be counted for overall competition. The lower placing heifer will receive recognition, but no points will be awarded to that placing.
- E. To compete in the Cattle Show and be eligible for awards, a contestant must compete in **five of the six** following events: Cattlemen's Quiz, Judging Contest, Public Speaking, Sales Talk, Genetic Evaluation, and Skill-a-thon. **\*\*New\*\* The breed promotion poster digital media design contest and photography contest WILL NOT count as required events, nor will they be counted in "overall" points (implemented 2024; adjusted for 2026 futurity).**
- F. Contestants are required to wear the official Futurity Shirt during the Cattle Show and Showmanship.
- G. **If an exhibitor has a conflict with a leadership contest time, he/she must notify the Board of Directors in writing by May 31st prior to the futurity to request an accommodation (voted on July 2024).** The Board will make an effort to accommodate the exhibitor if at all possible and within reason.
- H. **If an exhibitor is in need of an educational accommodation, he/she must notify the Board of Directors no later than May 15th for this accommodation. This allows TJSSA time to evaluate and plan for specific needs.**

## III. Ties

- A. Ties will be broken by comparing scores in the order of the following events: Cattlemen's Quiz, Judging Contest, and Public Speaking.

## IV. Recognition and Awards

To receive awards, contestants must attend the awards ceremony. The only exceptions must be approved by the TJSSA Board. Approval for early release must be brought to TJSSA Board's attention in writing by the completion of contestant check-in.

- A. Awards will be presented to winners in the Junior, Intermediate, Senior and Collegiate Divisions in each event. Novice competitors will receive recognition only.
- B. Overall competition – The top individuals in the Junior, Intermediate, Senior and Collegiate Divisions will receive an award.
- C. First time exhibitors will be recognized based on overall competition standings.

D. If an early release request is approved/exhibitor is not present at the banquet, and the contestant wishes to receive his/her awards, he/she is responsible for any shipping cost incurred. Exhibitors may appoint a friend or family member to pick up awards at the banquet. TJSSA must be informed in advance. If arrangements are not made, awards will be forfeited.

## V. Conduct and Disciplinary Action

- A. All TJSSA members in attendance at the TJSSA Futurity are expected to conduct themselves in a manner becoming to a member of the TJSSA.
- B. Violations of the above standard include, but are not limited to misrepresentation of animals, vandalism, theft, fighting, unsportsmanlike conduct, failure to comply with the directives of Futurity officials, possessing or being under the influence of intoxicating beverages or other prohibited substances, or willful violation of rules.
- C. TJSSA Board Members and Advisers, upon finding an individual in violation of conduct, may take action as deemed necessary.

## VI. Liability Provisions

- A. All contestants must supply a signed release statement from a parent or legal guardian before being allowed to participate. The release statement is provided on the individual entry form.
- B. The Texas Junior Simmental/Simbrah Association and/or any of its volunteers are not responsible for accidents or theft that may occur during the Futurity.

**CONTEST RULES****Cattle Show – General Rules**

The Futurity Cattle Show consists of the following female divisions: Purebred Simmental heifers, Purebred Simbrah heifers, Simmental Cow/Calf Pairs, Simbrah Cow/Calf Pairs, Percentage Cow/Calf Pairs, Percentage Simmental heifers and Percentage Simbrah heifers

- A. Each exhibitor may bring up to five entries to the Futurity.
- B. Contestants must present the original registration certificate at check-in. Photocopies of registration certificates will not be accepted. Contestants exhibiting scramble heifers must obtain a copy of both sides of the registration certificate. Name of the show must be officially shown on the certificate by letterhead or official seal/logo.
- C. Every animal must be registered with ASA prior to entry and must have a valid registration number. An animal with a pseudo registration number will not be allowed to enter. (voted on July 2024- aligns with AJSA National Classic. AJSA Rule 4D)
- D. Cattle show entries must have a legible tattoo which conforms to the registration certificate.
- E. Health papers are not required if cattle are native to Texas.
- F. Only cattle entered in the Futurity are allowed on the Brazos County Expo grounds.
- G. No artificial filling of animals will be allowed unless under the advice of a licensed, non-owner veterinarian. Anyone caught illegally artificially filling an animal will be removed from the show.
- H. Cattle must be on exhibit at fairgrounds through the conclusion of the cattle show.
- I. Substitutions for entries will NOT be accepted after the entry deadline.
- J. All contestants must wear the TJSSA Futurity T-shirt in the cattle show (and during showmanship).
- K. A substitute exhibitor may be used, at the sole and reasonable discretion of TJSSA by meeting one of the following conditions:
  - a. When an exhibitor has more than one entry in the TJSSA futurity showing at the same time; or
  - b. When an exhibitor is sick or injured (must be accompanied by a signed statement from a certified medical doctor)

**\*\*\* New for 2026- Bred and Owned Bull Show\*\*\* (effective for the 2026 futurity)**

- A. All general Cattle Show rules apply to the Bull Show.
- B. There will be only a Bred & Owned Bull Show
- C. Bulls must be born September 1, 2024 to March 15, 2026. There will be no class for two-year-old bulls.
- D. Bulls must be bred and owned by the junior exhibitor
- E. All bulls twelve months of age and older must be shown with a nose lead or ring.
- F. %Sim and Sim show together, %Simbrah and Simbrah show together
- G. Same %Simbrah and %Simmi rules as heifer show
- H. Minimum Number of entries required to have a show: 5 head in each division.
- I. TJSSA reserves the right to cancel the bull show due to low numbers. In this case, exhibitors will be contacted personally.

**\*\*\* NEW\*\*\*-DNA and Parent Verification Requirements (implemented 2024)**

Any individual entry born on or after 1/1/2024 must meet the minimum requirement of having DNA processed and on file with the American Simmental Association. If either parent of that animal has DNA on file with the ASA, the individual must be verified to any parent(s) already recorded. This requirement must be met by the close of futurity registration on May 5th.

**Purebred Heifer Show (Fullbloods welcome!)**

**Owned Division:** Owned heifers are defined as entries in which the registration certificate is issued in the name of the exhibitor or the name of a membership for which the exhibitor is an ASA-recognized authorized representative.

**Bred and Owned Division:** Bred and Owned heifers are defined as those in which the exhibitor's name is the only name on the dam's registration certificate at the time the entry was conceived, and the exhibitor has been the continuous and sole owner of the animal. The Percentage Simmental and Percentage Simbrah and Cow/Calf shows will not have a bred and owned competition.

- A. Purebred Simmental & Simbrah heifers must have been born on or after July 1, 2024, and on or before March 15, 2026, and be registered with the American Simmental Association as either Purebred Simmental or Purebred Simbrah (5/8 SM 3/8 BR). Simbrah Asterisked (\*) heifers will not be allowed to show in the Purebred Simbrah show.
- B. The registration certificate must be issued in the name of the contestant or in the name of a membership in which the contestant is an authorized representative.
- C. If the animal has a calf at the side, she must compete in the cow/calf competition.

**Percentage Heifer Show**

- A. Heifers must have been born on or after July 1, 2024, and on or before March 15, 2026, and must be registered with the American Simmental Association.  
Half-blood to three-quarter blood Simmental will show in the percentage Simmental show.  
The percentage Simbrah show consists of any animal who is registered with a minimum of ¼ Brahman with no other breed other than Simmental. NO third breed influence will be allowed. Example  
¾ Simmental ¼ Brahman  
¼ Brahman ¾ Simmental  
½ Brahman ½ Simmental
- B. If the animal has a calf at the side, she must compete in the cow/calf competition.

**Cow/Calf Show**

- A. There will be three Cow/Calf Shows: Purebred Simmental; Purebred Simbrah; and Percentage Simmental and Simbrah.
- B. The calf at side must be born on or after January 1, 2026 (not subject to DNA requirements unless also being shown in a class of its own).
- C. Pairs will be shown in two groups: Group 1 is cows born in 2024; Group 2 is cows born in 2023 or older.

## Showmanship

- A. Exhibitors must use the same animal for all phases of the Showmanship Contest.
- B. To compete in Showmanship, the exhibitor must show their own calf in both the cattle show and showmanship. In the event that an exhibitor does not have a calf at the show, they may exhibit a heifer in showmanship if they are an authorized representative.
- C. Exhibitors must wear the TJSSA Futurity t-shirt.
- D. Cow/Calf pairs may not be used for showmanship. Either the cow or the calf may be used individually.
- E. Bulls may not be shown in showmanship.
- F. An exhibitor who only checks in a bull may seek approval from TJSSA to use another exhibitor's animal in showmanship. Approval must be granted in advance. This aligns with AJSA Rules. (Section XII, Rule 3)

## Judging Contest

- A. A committee of officials shall select and place classes, designate and listen to oral reasons, and assign questions about classes. The contest consists of at least 3 classes which will feature live cattle from any segment of the beef industry. Performance data will be used when available. One or more of the placing classes will be designated by the judges as an oral reasons/questions class.
- B. Placing, oral reasons, and questions classes are worth 50 points per class.
- C. Apparel identifying an individual's farm/ranch or team affiliation is prohibited during the contest.
- D. Contestants, parents, or advisers are not allowed in the judging contest area to inspect the cattle before the contest.
- E. Contestants are allowed 10 minutes to place each class. There will be a two-minute time warning for each class.
- F. Contestants must remain with their assigned groups throughout the entire contest unless otherwise instructed by a contest coordinator.
- G. During the contest, there will be no conferring between contestants or between parents and/or advisers and contestants. The use of cell phones is prohibited for the duration of the contest.
- H. Cattle will be judged unaltered in pens or haltered. Close inspection will not be allowed unless directed by the official committee.
- I. Contestants must provide their own note taking material for use in the contest. Additional materials used as an aid are prohibited.
- J. Any violation of the rules will result in disqualification of the contestant.
- K. Ties will be broken on the basis of total reasons/questions scores. If a tie still remains, ties will be broken by highest oral reasons score, then highest placing score. If the tie is still not broken, the Cattlemen's Quiz will be used.

## Cattlemen's Quiz

- A. The junior/intermediate quiz will consist of 35 multiple choice and true/false questions and 50 questions on the senior/collegiate quiz.
- B. One and one half hours will be allotted for contestants to complete the quiz.
- C. Notes, books, and reference materials are not permitted in the testing area. All materials will be provided: quiz questions, supplements, answer sheet, and pencils.
- D. Conferring with other contestants, use of cell phones, or any other form of cheating will be grounds for disqualification of contestants.
- E. Ties will be broken according to pre-designated tie breaking questions.
- F. Primary resources for questions used on the quiz will be *the Register*, material available on the ASA Web site – [www.simmental.org](http://www.simmental.org), and other relevant industry material.

G. Suggested study materials:

H. **\*\*\*New\*\*\* Adult Contest– \$5.00 entry at the door. Adults will take the Senior/Collegiate Quiz. Winner takes all! (effective for the 2026 futurity)**

I. **Suggested Study Materials:**

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Cuqp2z2F7zb6jZTSLs\\_txy21kjc0weZJXLNOjnsLB1o/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Cuqp2z2F7zb6jZTSLs_txy21kjc0weZJXLNOjnsLB1o/edit?usp=sharing)

## Public Speaking

A. **\*\*\*New\*\*\* Contestants in the junior age division will follow the AJSA published rules for a prepared speech over a topic to be released during the spring of each year. (voted on July 2024)**

a. Speech time is 3-7 minutes as published by AJSA, and judges will have the opportunity to ask questions at the conclusion of the speech.

b. Junior level public speaking topics will align with AJSA National Classic topics. Topics will be publicized on the AJSA Facebook page and on the TJSSA Facebook page..

B. Intermediate, senior, and collegiate contestants will give a speech on a topic selected in a random drawing. Subject areas include, but are not limited to, the History and Development of Simmental and Simbrah cattle, Principles of Breeding, Selling, Customer Service, Health, Nutrition, and managing/marketing of Sim-genetics.

C. Intermediate, Senior, and Collegiate contestants will report to the preparation room 30 minutes prior to their scheduled speaking time to draw their topic. Contestants will draw topics and select one on which to speak. 30 minutes will be allotted to prepare the speech.

D. Intermediate, Senior, and Collegiate contestants may receive a specially prepared information packet on the selected topic and two 3x5 note cards. No other reference material is allowed.

E. Speeches will be 3 to 7 minutes in length. Time elapsed will be posted during the speech so contestants are aware of timing. Speakers who finish before 3 minutes have elapsed, or after 7 minutes have passed, will be penalized 1 point for each second over/under. Following the speech, time is allowed for judges to ask questions.

F. Contestants will be judged on subject knowledge (20%); organization (10%); presentation (40%); response to questions (20%); and general effectiveness (10%)

G. Ties will be broken according to placing on the Cattlemen's Quiz.

## Skill-A-Thon

A. The purpose of this contest is to assess practical skills related to the beef industry and SimGenetics cattle.

B. Contest may include a visual identification via PowerPoint, identification of the actual equipment, or a combination of the two.

C. Contest may include but is not limited to identification, practical usage, beef industry problem solving, and practical application of ASA materials.

D. Contestants may not bring notes, books, or reference materials into the contest area.

E. While the contest is in progress, there shall be no conferring between contestants, use of cell phones, use of notes, or any other form of cheating. Any violation will be grounds for disqualification from the contest.

F. Ties will be broken according to placing on the Cattlemen's Quiz.

G. **\*\*\*New\*\*\* Adult Contest– \$5.00 entry at the door. Adults will take the Senior/Collegiate Quiz. Winner takes all! (effective for the 2026 futurity)**

H. **Suggested Study Materials:**

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Cuqp2z2F7zb6jZTSLs\\_txy21kjc0weZJXLNOjnsLB1o/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Cuqp2z2F7zb6jZTSLs_txy21kjc0weZJXLNOjnsLB1o/edit?usp=sharing)

## Sales Talk

- A. The Sales Talk uses a live setting complete with animal, photo (no larger than 8x10) or video and potential buyers. The purpose of this contest is to evaluate the effectiveness of the presentation and the contestant's ability to merchandise cattle.
- B. Contestants may use one of the following as the subject of the Sales Talk:
  1. Any live animal entry
  2. A photo (no larger than 8x10) of a SimGenetics animal
  3. And a one-minute video on a device the exhibitor must provide.
    - i. Only non-audio footage is allowed
    - ii. Only footage of animal alone may be played
    - iii. No other info on the device may be presented.
- C. Contestants may use an animal other than their own. The contestant may hold or tie the subject, or have another contestant hold the subject during the talk. The animal is not to be fitted.
- D. If the contestant's entry is a cow/calf pair, either the cow or the calf may be the subject of the Sales Talk.
- E. Before the talk, contestants will be required to provide judges with a registration certificate for the animal being "sold." The judges will use the registration certificate to evaluate the accuracy of pedigree and performance information provided by the contestant and to also ask questions. The certificate will be returned to the contestant at the end of the talk.
- F. Contestants will be judged on their knowledge of the animal they are selling (25%), ability to relate important information about the heifer/cow (organization and style-25%), poise and delivery (25%), and overall effectiveness in convincing the judge to buy the animal (25%).
- G. A contestant's score will be reduced 10% if additional materials are presented to the judges other than those listed in the above rules.
- H. Sales Talk will be 5-7 minutes in length. Time elapsed will be indicated during the contest so that contestants are aware of time constraints.
- I. Ties will be broken according to placing on the Cattlemen's Quiz.

## Genetic Evaluation Quiz

- A. The quiz will consist of 30 multiple choice, matching, and true/false questions.
- B. Primary resources for questions on the quiz will be *The Register*, *Sire Source*, and material available at <http://www.juniorsimmental.org/index.php/events/classics/contest-information/study-materials>
- C. One hour (60 minutes) will be allowed for contestants to complete the quiz.
- D. Notes, books, and reference materials are not permitted in the testing area. All materials will be provided: quiz questions, supplements, answer sheet, and pencils.
- E. Conferring with other contestants, use of cell phones, or any other form of cheating will be grounds for disqualification of contestants.
- F. Ties will be broken according to placing on the Cattlemen's Quiz.
- G. **\*\*\*New\*\*\* Adult Contest– \$5.00 entry at the door. Adults will take the Senior/Collegiate Quiz. Winner takes all! (effective for the 2026 futurity)**
- H. **Suggested Study Materials:**  
[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Cuqp2z2F7zb6jZTSLs\\_txy21kjc0weZJXLNOajsLB1o/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Cuqp2z2F7zb6jZTSLs_txy21kjc0weZJXLNOajsLB1o/edit?usp=sharing)

**\*\*\* NEW\*\*\* Photography Contest (implemented 2024)****Photography Guidelines:**

- A. Photographs must promote SimGenetics. Ideas include SimGenetics cattle, people, and landscape.
- B. Contestants may enter ONE photograph. All work must be that of the contestant. Photos entered must be the contestant's current year's work.
- C. Photos cannot be enhanced. This does NOT include zooming or cropping. Retouching or altering a photograph is not allowed.
- D. Photo entries must be setup in an 8x10 inch format and in color or black & white.
- E. Photographs will be should be printed and brought to the futurity check in. An entry form found on the TJSSA website should be printed and attached to the back of the photograph.
- F. A "People' Choice" will be voted on at the futurity.
- G. All photo entries will be on display for the duration of the state futurity.
- H. Top 3 overall photographs and a "Peoples' Choice" will receive awards (no age division breaks or categories).
- I. Entering photos in the contest serves as permission for TJSSA to use photos for the association or breed promotion.
- J. The photography contest WILL NOT be counted in the overall exhibitor points. It is not a required contest.

**\*\*\* NEW\*\*\* Digital Media Design Contest (effective for the 2026 futurity)**

- A. Digital posters must promote SimGenetics. Be creative!
- B. Contestants may enter ONE poster. All work must be that of the contestant and must be the contestant's current year's work.
- C. Digital poster dimensions should be 8.5x11 inches or 11x8.5 inches.
- D. All work must be the original design of the contestant.
- E. Judging will be done by a panel of judges who will base placings on originality, creativity, unique theme, interesting visuals, thoughtful design, craftsmanship, and overall message.
- F. All information/facts used must be accurate and up-to-date.
- G. Entering a digital media poster in the contest serves as permission for TJSSA to use the design for the association or breed promotion.
- H. Digital media designs must be submitted via email to [txjrsim@gmail.com](mailto:txjrsim@gmail.com) no later than June 1.
- I. Top 3 overall digital media designs will receive awards (no age division breaks or categories).
- J. The digital media contest WILL NOT count in overall exhibitor points.

**\*\*\* New\*\*\* Fitting Contest (Sponsored by Sullivan Supply) (effective for the 2026 futurity)**

- A. Teams should consist of four contestants: one junior, one intermediate, one senior, and one at large.
- B. All participants must be competing at the state futurity.
- C. Contestants must provide their own animal and materials, including a chute.
- D. Contestants may start with the show halter on the animal.
- E. Time limit: 30 minutes.
- F. Clippers may be used at the discretion of the team members.
- G. No outside assistance allowed during the fitting contest.
- H. Judges will base placings on method, team cooperating and final result.
- I. Fitting contest DOES NOT count for overall points.

**Fun Teams**

- A. Teams may be composed of four contestants. A team must consist of one junior, one intermediate and one senior contestant. The fourth member can be from any age division (junior, intermediate, senior, or collegiate).
- B. Teams for the overall competition must be designated on a posted sign-up sheet before 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday of show week.
- C. Overall team standings will be based upon points awarded in Cattlemen's Quiz, Judging Contest, Public Speaking, Sales Talk, Genetic Evaluation Quiz and Skill-A-Thon.
- D. Awards will be presented to members of the top team overall.

**General Information**

- A. RV hookups available on the Brazos County Expo fairgrounds are water and electricity only, but they do have a dump station located in the back southeast corner.
- B. Full recreational vehicle (RV) hookups are available on the Brazos County Expo fairgrounds.
- C. Straw bedding and shavings will be allowed in designated tie-out area at the Brazos County Expo fairgrounds.
- D. Fans are allowed in the cattle exhibit area.
- E. Only cattle will be allowed along the cattle tie panels. All equipment and display materials must be placed in the aisles without blocking the passage of traffic.
- F. Alcohol is not permitted inside the Expo Center buildings. Absolutely no BYOB at the banquet.
- G. Rules regarding pets must align with the rules of the Brazos County Expo fairgrounds.