

The National Belgian Futurity – Bylaws

Purpose:

The purpose of the National Belgian Futurity is to create and maintain a nationally recognized and revered venue to showcase both the breeding programs of its membership and the Belgian horse.

Futurity Member:

A Futurity Member is one who has paid nomination fees into the Futurity for the current or previous year. A membership in the Futurity carries with its voting privileges for Committee Members.

Futurity Committee:

The Futurity Committee will consist of the four (4) elected Futurity members and a director of the Belgian Draft Horse Corporation of America who will be appointed by the president of the Belgian Alliance. The Futurity Committee shall be responsible for the operations of the National Belgian Futurity.

Officers:

The Officers of the Futurity Committee shall consist of a Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer who shall be chosen by the Futurity Committee and such Officers shall hold office for the period of one (1) year and/or until their successors are duly elected and qualified. Such officers shall be elected from the Committee Members, except the Secretary and Treasurer who need not be a member of the Committee. The offices of Secretary and Treasurer may be held by the same person. Should this office be held by a person appointed by the Committee rather than an elected Committee person, the office will not carry voting rights regarding Committee decisions.

Duties:

- **Chairman** – The Chairman shall preside at all meetings of the Committee and shall see that the rules and regulations of the Futurity are enforced. The Chairman shall also perform all other duties that may be prescribed from time to time by the Committee.
- **Vice-Chairman** – In the absence of the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman shall have the powers and shall perform the duties of the Chairman and such other duties as may be prescribed by the Committee.
- **Secretary** – The Secretary shall keep the minutes of all the Committee's meeting. The Secretary shall be the custodian of the safekeeping of all documents and records of the Futurity. The Secretary shall collect all the monies due to the Futurity and pay such

monies to the Treasurer. The Secretary shall also be charged any and all correspondence between the Futurity and its Membership.

- **Treasurer** – The Treasurer shall be charged with keeping all financial records of the Futurity. The Treasurer shall receive all monies from the Secretary and shall transmit such monies to the Belgian Alliance within thirty (30) days of receipt. The Treasurer shall submit itemized requisitions for any and all disbursements to the Belgian Alliance as set forth by the Committee. The Treasurer shall make an annual report in detail for the Committee Members and the Belgian Alliance.

Meetings:

An annual meeting shall be established by the Committee each year at a date, time and location of its discretion. Any subsequent meetings may be called by the Chairman or by a majority of the Committee Members. These meetings may take place in person, via teleconference and/or via webinar. Notice of all meetings shall be mailed/emailed and/or transmitted via phone to each Committee Member by the Secretary at least ten (10) days prior to the date of such meeting. Any meeting of the Committee at which all the Committee Members are present shall be as valid as if called pursuant to proper notice. A majority of the Committee Members must be present in order to conduct any business of the Futurity.

Term of Committee Members:

After the initial term is set (1 year-2years-3years-4years), the term of each Committee Member would be four (4) years, at which time the Committee Member will either be re-elected or replaced by a majority vote of the eligible Futurity members.

Committee Member Vacancy:

Any vacancy occurring in the Committee caused by death, resignation or otherwise may be filled at the discretion of the remaining Committee Members. Should this be the consensus, the vacant position shall be filled by a nomination and a majority vote of the remaining Committee Members for the residual term duration of the vacated position. Customary election procedure shall apply thereafter.

Nomination and Election of Committee Members:

There shall be at least two candidates named for the office of the Committee Member whose term is expiring. The Committee Members whose terms who are not expiring shall be responsible for nominating the candidates, one of which can be the incumbent if that person chooses to re-run for that position. The names of nominated perspective Committee Members shall be determined no later than May 1st. However, in an election year where the incumbent has chosen to run for re-election, the secretary shall send a letter by April 15 to the entire membership to determine if any member is interested in running for election. If no member responds to the secretary by May 15, the incumbent will automatically serve an additional term without the necessity of an election. In the alternative, if a member is interested in running, then the election process as stated above will be complied with. Further, should more than one member express an interest in running for election against the incumbent, then the remaining committee members not running for re-election shall choose one of the interested members to run against the incumbent. A copy of the candidates' ballot will be sent to all eligible Futurity Members. Each member shall not vote for more than one (1) of the two (2) candidates. Ballots must be mailed out no later than June 1st and must be received by July 1st, to be counted. Ballots will be counted by the Committee devoid of the participation of that Committee Member whose term has expired. Newly elected Committee Members will take office effective September 1st.

Show Rules:

The Committee shall be responsible for establishing Show Rules and their amendments from time to time, which shall be attached as Exhibit A to these Bylaws and become a part hereof. The Bylaws and Show Rules shall be submitted to the Belgian Alliance for their approval. The Bylaws and the Show Rules may be amended by a majority vote of the Committee Members and subject to the approval of the Belgian Alliance.

Exhibit A – Show Rules

Two Division – Eight Classes

The National Belgian Futurity will be shown each year in two divisions – Stallions and Mares. Each division will have four classes, which will be Weanling, Yearling, Two Year Old and Three Year Old, for a total of eight classes, four for each division.

What Horses are Eligible

All horses nominated and shown in the Futurity must be registered with the Belgian Draft Horse Corporation of America or the Canadian Belgian Horse Association. Further, all horses nominated and shown must be the produce of stallions and mares that are registered with the Belgian Draft Horse Corporation of America or the Canadian Belgian Horse Association and properly nominated to the National Belgian Futurity.

Nomination of the Sire

1. For a horse to be eligible to be shown in the National Belgian Futurity, it is necessary that the Sire be nominated.
2. The nomination can be made either by the Sire's owner or the owner of the progeny being nominated to the National Belgian Futurity. Should both the owner of the Sire and the owner of the progeny being nominated to the Futurity, both nominate the Sire, then the Sire's owner's nomination shall prevail, and any fees paid by the progeny owner to nominate the Sire shall be returned.
3. That a nomination fee of \$75.00 be paid to the Futurity on or before July 1st of the year the foal is nominated. A late fee of \$25.00 if paid after July 1 but no later than July 31st of the current year. However, if a yearling was not nominated as a foal, but is nominated for the yearling class and the Sire was not nominated in the calendar year that the yearling was a foal, then a Sire nomination fee of \$100.00 must be paid when that yearling is nominated (see rules for yearling nomination).
4. The nominator of the Sire will be eligible for Sire payouts from the purse depending on the placings of that sire's progeny at the Futurity show.

Nomination of the Dam

To nominate a Dam in the Futurity, the following is necessary:

1. There will be no nomination fee for the Dam.

2. The nominator of the Dam will be eligible for Dam payouts from the purse depending on the placings of that Dam's progeny at the Futurity show.

Nomination of a Weanling

In order to have a foal eligible to show as a Weanling in the Futurity, the following conditions must be met:

1. A \$25.00 entry fee must be paid to the Futurity on or before July 1st, a late fee of \$25.00 (in addition to the \$25 entry fee) if paid after July 1st, but no later than July 31st.

Nomination of a Yearling

In order to have an entry eligible to show in the Yearling Class, the following conditions must be met:

1. A \$50.00 entry fee must be paid to the Futurity on or before July 1st of the year the foal becomes a Yearling. An additional late fee of \$25.00 if paid after July 1st, but on or before July 31st, provided that the Yearling was nominated as a Weanling in the preceding year.

2. However, if the Yearling was not properly nominated as a Weanling in the preceding year, the non-nominated Weanling may be nominated as a Yearling provided that the regular Yearling fee of \$50.00 and a late fee of \$200.00 is paid on or before July 1st. An additional late fee of \$25.00 if paid after July 1st, but on or before July 31st. If the Sire and the Dam of the non-nominated Weanling, which is now being nominated as a Yearling, were not nominated in the year that the Yearling was born, then the Sire and/or Dam will required to be nominated according to those requirements in the preceding paragraphs.

Nomination of a Two Year Old

In order to have an entry eligible to show in the Two Year Old Class, the following conditions must be met:

1. The entry must have been entered in the Weanling and Yearling Classes, (including a non-nominated Weanling properly nominated as a Yearling) and all conditions of those classes and all conditions of those nominations must have been fulfilled.

2. An entry fee of \$75.00 must be paid on or before July 1st of the year the entry becomes a Two Year Old. An additional late fee of \$25.00 if paid after July 1st but on or before July 31st.

Nomination of a Three Year Old

In order to have an entry eligible to show in the Three Year Old Class, the following conditions must be met:

1. The entry must have been entered in the Weanling, Yearling (including non-nominated Weanling properly nominated as a Yearling) and Two Year Old Classes and all conditions of those classes must have been fulfilled.
2. An entry fee of \$100.00 must be paid on or before July 1st of the year the entry becomes a Three Year Old. An additional late fee of \$25.00 if paid after July 1st but on or before July 31st.

Other Provisions

The Sire, Dam and all horses nominated to the National Belgian Futurity must be registered with the Belgian Draft Horse Corporation of America or the Canadian Belgian Horse Association.

Weanlings may be entered/nominated as (pending) registration but cannot be shown unless registration papers have been issued no later than the day before the Show. For all nominated horses, copies of registration papers no longer need to be submitted at time of nomination, because registration papers can now be viewed online.

For all entries and/or nominations to be eligible, the entry/nomination must be postmarked by the above stated deadlines. Entries/nominations postmarked or made in person after July 31st and up to the day of the show will no longer be accepted.

Unless the National Belgian Futurity Committee and the Belgian Alliance agree otherwise, the National Belgian Futurity Show shall be held in conjunction with the Indiana State Fair, at a time and date to be announced prior to the show.

All classes of the National Belgian Futurity Show presently qualify for the Merit Program and the Committee will strive to continue to have those classes qualify but cannot guarantee the same.

There will be no return of nomination fees. In addition, the right is reserved to reject any entry and nomination and to disqualify any entry or nomination from competition for failure to comply with the By-laws and Show Rules of the Futurity.

The judge for the National Belgian Futurity Show will be chosen by majority vote of the National Belgian Futurity Committee.

Regardless of what has occurred in the past, the above rules will be strictly adhered to.

In fairness to nominators and exhibitors who comply with all of the above rules, payment of fees and nominations and entries will be required.

Premium Payouts

For qualifying horses shown, at the National Belgian Futurity Show and properly nominated Sires and Dams, shall be determined by the National Belgian Futurity Committee and all approved payouts shall be forwarded to the Belgian Alliance so that checks may be issued.

Bylaws and Show Rules updated May 11, 2021.