

Illinois Club Lamb Association Rules

Rev. 2026

Section 1: Membership and Dues

- A. ICLA membership is open to any youth, ages 5-21, who is a permanent Illinois resident.
- B. For the purpose of Section 1A, a permanent Illinois resident is defined as any person who resides in Illinois nine (9) or more months in a calendar year or attends a primary or secondary Illinois school (excludes non-permanent Illinois residents only residing in Illinois for the purpose of post-secondary schooling).
- C. Any youth who turns five (5) during the show season is eligible to participate at any ICLA show. In all other cases, a member must be 5 but not yet 21 years of age as of September 1 of the preceding calendar year.
- D. Membership applications can be downloaded from the ICLA website at www.illinoisclublamb.com.
- E. Current membership dues are \$50 per youth member.
- F. An exhibitor will not accumulate ICLA points until he/she has become a member by paying the ICLA membership dues for the current year.
- G. An exhibitor must complete a membership application and pay the membership fee in full before the start of an ICLA-sanctioned show in order to accumulate points for that show.

Section 2: Officers and Directors

- A. Members of the ICLA shall elect Officers and Directors by a simple majority.
- B. The Board of Directors (Board) shall consist of five (5) Directors-at-Large and the following Officers: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Youth Coordinator, and Social Media Director.
- C. One (1) Director-at-Large shall serve from each of the five (5) districts as designated on the District Map attached in the Appendix.
- D. Members will also elect no more than twelve (12) Youth Directors, ages 14-21, to serve on the Board of Directors. Ages will be determined using the age eligibility rule provided in section 1C. The Youth Directors shall serve as representatives, with no voting privileges.
- E. All Officers and Directors, including Youth Directors, shall serve a one-year term beginning on November 1 or the Year-End Banquet, whichever comes later, of the preceding calendar year.
- F. Elections will take place by electronic ballot made available to all members no later than October 1 of the preceding calendar year.
- G. Any member who has paid membership dues for the preceding year will be eligible to serve as an Officer or Director.
- H. No one shall be nominated or elected whose consent to serve has not first been obtained.

Section 3: ICLA Sanctioned Shows

- A. Shows must be registered with and approved by the ICLA Board by April 1 of the current show season to be a sanctioned show. Sanctioned shows must abide by the guidelines set forth in this Section.
- B. Lambs must be exhibited by breed at all ICLA-sanctioned shows. A list of approved breeds is provided in Section 5.B.
- C. Class sizes should try to be as equal in quantity as possible to increase the fairness of class point accumulation.
- D. Each sanctioned show committee has final say on any animals that are questionable on breed character classification.
- E. Showmanship classes must be available to exhibitors in four (4) divisions, with the top three (3) winners selected in each category.
- F. Ages of showmanship exhibitors will be determined using the age eligibility rule provided in section 1C. The four (4) divisions will be as follows:
 - Novice: 5-8 years of age
 - Junior: 9-12 years of age
 - Intermediate: 13-16 years of age
 - Senior: 17-21 years of age
- G. Showmanship exhibitors must have lambs entered in the show to show in the showmanship classes.
- H. Sanctioned shows must provide full results to an ICLA Officer or Director immediately following the show, including a list of the entries with a scrapie tag number of each animal exhibited.
- I. The results provided shall also include the name of the Champion, Reserve, and 3rd place showmanship exhibitor in each showmanship category, along with all participating exhibitors in each category.
- J. If a wether dam division is offered at a sanctioned show, ewe lambs may not be dual entered in both the market lamb division and the wether dam division at a single show. See Section 7 for further rules.
- K. Exhibitors must be members of ICLA to exhibit at the ICLA Spring Jackpot show and the Illinois State Fair Market Ewe Lamb Show, which are both sponsored by the ICLA.
- L. No painting of sheep is allowed at any ICLA-sanctioned show.
- M. Statement of Humane Treatment: Every animal exhibited at an ICLA-sanctioned show shall, at all times, be treated humanely and with dignity, respect, and compassion. The inhumane treatment of any lamb on showgrounds is strictly prohibited. Treatment of any lamb will be considered inhumane if a reasonable person informed and experienced in generally accepted sheep husbandry, management, and exhibition would perceive the conduct of the individual to be cruel, abusive, or inhumane. This prohibition against inhumane treatment applies to ICLA members as well as non-members. ICLA members may be held responsible for the actions of their family members, agents, and/or representatives.

Section 4: Point Accumulation for Year-End Awards

- A. Points for year-end awards will only be accumulated at ICLA-sanctioned shows.
- B. Points will only be accumulated by members who have completed the membership application and have paid their dues.
- C. Members must show in at least three (3) ICLA-sanctioned shows to be eligible for year-end awards. Year-end award totals will be based on points from a maximum of six (6) sanctioned shows. If an exhibitor participates in more than six (6) of the sanctioned shows, the exhibitor's lowest points at a show will be dropped.
- D. An exhibitor's top three (3) sheep at each show will count for the exhibitor's overall point total for the year.
- E. A member may exhibit more than three (3) animals per show and will receive points for the respective breed category in which each animal is shown. However, an exhibitor is limited to two (2) animals per show to count toward year-end point totals in each breed.
- F. Points earned in both shows at a double-header event will count toward year-end awards.
- G. Points are accumulated per exhibitor. Lambs must be entered in the exhibitor's name and must be exhibited by that exhibitor to earn points throughout the year, except if that exhibitor has two (2) lambs that are in the same class.
- H. In case of injury or illness of an exhibitor, another ICLA member may exhibit a member's lamb with board approval before the show.
- I. Points for all sanctioned ICLA shows shall be calculated as follows:
 - 1st in class: 6 x # head in class
 - 2nd in class: 5 x # head in class
 - 3rd in class: 4 x # head in class
 - 4th in class: 3 x # head in class
 - 5th in class: 2 x # head in class
 - 6th or lower in class: 5 points

Classes may exceed 5 head, but the maximum number-of-head-in-class factor for points calculation will be 5. (For example, a class of 8 will be scored 30, 25, 20, 15, 10, 5, 5, 5.)

Breed Champions: 15 points
Reserve Breed Champion: 10 points
Grand Overall: 15 points
Reserve Overall: 12 points
3rd Overall: 9 points
4th Overall: 6 points
5th Overall: 3 points

- J. The Wether Dam Division will be awarded year-end awards, but will not be counted in the overall Market Lamb Division for year-end market lamb awards. The Wether Dam Division will be treated as a separate division, much like an individual breed.
- K. The maximum number of shows that may be used to calculate Wether Dam Division points is five (5).
- L. To be eligible for any additional awards given by the ICLA at the Illinois State Fair Junior Market Lamb Show: a membership form must be filled out, and dues must be paid. In addition, each member must show at a minimum of 3 sanctioned shows to qualify for additional awards given during the Illinois State Fair Jr. Market Lamb Show. NO EXCEPTIONS ALLOWED.
- M. Showmanship points will be awarded as follows:
 - Champion: 12 points
 - Reserve: 9 points
 - 3rd: 7 points
 - All other participants: 6 points
- N. Showmanship points are scored separately and are not included in overall point totals. Members must show up for at least three (3) shows to be eligible for the end-of-the-year showmanship award. Points will be tabulated for those awards based on participation in a maximum of six (6) shows.

Section 5: Market Lamb Breeds

- A. All breeds that qualify as a separate breed will be recognized by the ICLA and provided awards at the year-end Awards Banquet.
- B. The ICLA will recognize and tabulate points for the following breeds within the market lamb division: AOB, Dorset, Hampshire, Natural Colored, Oxford, Shropshire, Southdown, Suffolk, White Face Crossbred, and Black Face Crossbred. There are no minimum requirements on the number of heads in a class per recognized breed. See Section 7 for wether dam breed rules.
- C. For a breed to be considered as a new breed in the ICLA, an individual must petition the ICLA Board to add the breed the following year.
- D. Exhibitors must assign each lamb to a specific breed. If a lamb is entered as an unrecognized ICLA breed (see Section 5.B), it will be entered in AOB. (For example: If an exhibitor has a Dorset wether and there are not enough Dorset lambs to make a class at a particular show, the exhibitor must still enter the lamb as a Dorset on the entry card for ICLA breed points. However, the Dorset lamb may show as an AOB for that show. Each lamb needs to be entered with their official scrapie tag number at the show.
- E. Each exhibitor and family is responsible for placing their animals in the appropriate breeds at the show. There will not be classifiers at any shows except the Illinois State Fair Market Ewe Show. At shows that do not have a classification process, the show committee/superintendents have the final say on any questionable animals.

Section 7: Wether Dam Breeds

- A. There must be a Division Champion and Reserve declared in both the White Face Influenced/Cross and Black Face Influenced/Cross Division. Plus an overall Grand and Reserve Grand are chosen from those two divisions for point purposes.
- B. If a show decides to have breed classes, then the white breeds (including Dorpers) will show for the White Face Champion, and the black-faced breeds will show for the Black Face Champion.
- C. Yearling ewe and ewe lamb classes must be offered, and if ewe lambs are to be broken, it must be done by weight.

Section 6: Illinois State Fair Market Ewe Lamb Show

- A. The Illinois State Fair has elected to include ewe lambs in both the Junior Market Lamb Show and the Open Market Lamb Show at the State Fair.
- B. The ICLA will still host a market ewe lamb show at the Illinois State Fair on Thursday before the Junior Market Lamb Show.
- C. The membership and age rules set forth in Section 1 apply to all eligible exhibitors for the ICLA State Fair Ewe Lamb Show.
- D. In order to show a market ewe lamb in the ICLA State Fair Market Ewe Lamb Show, a member's ewe lamb must be shown at a minimum of one (1) ICLA sanctioned show during the current year, with the official scrapie tag listed on the entry form for that show.
- E. Any ewe lamb that does not meet the requirements listed in Section 6D will not be allowed to enter or show in the ICLA Illinois State Fair Market Ewe Lamb Show.
- F. Ewe lambs must be slick shorn.
- G. The ICLA State Fair Market Ewe Lamb Show will be a jackpot show, with 100% payback and additional awards. There will be an entry fee per head, to be determined by the Board, and all entries must be made on the day of weigh-in.

Section 7: Terms and Amendments

- A. For purposes of these Rules, the term lamb shall include wethers, ewe lambs, and yearling ewes.
- B. Changes to these rules shall only be made by amendment.
- C. All amendments must be voted on and approved by a simple majority of the Board of Directors.

Appendix

District Map

