

American  
Blonde d'Aquitaine  
Association  
  
Bylaws and Rules  
Revised October, 2006

American Blonde d'Aquitaine Association  
7407 VZ County Road 1507  
Grand Saline, TX 75140

American  
Blonde d'Aquitaine  
Association

**Bylaws**

## **ARTICLE I PURPOSES**

- A. The American Blonde d'Aquitaine Association, hereinafter to be called ABAA, is a nonprofit corporation originally organized in the State of Iowa and presently chartered in the State of Mississippi to promote and develop the Blonde d'Aquitaine breed of cattle.
- B. The ABAA will issue and publish certificates of pedigree and performance. It will collect data from testing and performance programs and research information. It will publish bulletins and other information of interest to its members and the public to promote the Blonde d'Aquitaine breed. It will establish and maintain standards of excellence for breeding and for sanctioned shows and sales.
- C. The ABAA may buy and sell property, equipment, supplies, livestock and research facilities at any place in the world, contract for services or property, or take any other action necessary to carry out its purposes.
- D. The ABAA will maintain the facilities and provide the methods of gathering information on bloodlines and performance necessary for the registration and promotion of the Blonde d'Aquitaine cattle.
- E. A further purpose of the Association is to establish rules and policies for the registration of Blonde d'Aquitaine cattle, through its Board of Directors.

## **ARTICLE II ANNUAL MEETING**

The first Annual Meeting of the membership was held on the twenty-first (21<sup>st</sup>) day of May, 1973. Annual meetings thereafter shall be as set by the Board of Directors.

## **ARTICLE III MEMBERSHIP**

- A. Rules Governing Membership
  - 1. An application for membership must be made in writing to the ABAA. The Board of Directors shall accept or reject the membership application within a reasonable period of time. Every membership application must include a statement signed by the applicant, stating that if elected to membership he agrees to be bound by the terms of the Charter, bylaws, and regulations of the ABAA. Each application must be accompanied by the first year fee for the appropriate class of membership.
  - 2. The Board of Directors may suspend or expel any member who conducts himself in a manner detrimental to the ABAA, or fails to comply with the bylaws, as more completely described below.  
Any charge of conduct detrimental to the ABAA shall be reviewed by and ruled on by the Disciplinary Committee. Charges must be made in writing, signed by three (3) Active Members and delivered to the ABAA

Secretary accompanied by a non-refundable cash fee of \$50.00, credited to the ABAA General Fund. The person charged shall be given the opportunity of a personal appearance before the Disciplinary Committee to hear and answer the charges. If a member is found guilty of such charges, the Disciplinary Committee may enforce appropriate disciplinary measures including but not limited to cancellation of his membership in the ABAA. It also may cancel or correct any or all of the member's Registration Certificates. The member charged may appeal the Disciplinary Committee's decision to the Board of Directors. Such appeal must be made in writing within 30 days of the Disciplinary Committee's decision. After consideration of the appeal, the Board of Directors' decision shall be final.

3. A member which is a partnership, corporation, joint venture or other legal organization shall specify in writing the person authorized to vote or act in its behalf at any meeting.
4. All membership shall be for the lifetime of the Member, unless canceled pursuant to the terms of these bylaws.
5. A member whose membership has been revoked must make a written application for reinstatement. He can be reinstated only after having received a two-thirds (2/3) affirmative vote of the Board of Directors.

#### B. Classification of Membership

1. Members shall be owners or breeders of Blonde d'Aquitaine cattle who have paid the first year or equivalent fee in a previous calendar year. Members may not vote, hold office or register cattle at the fees established for Active Members. A Member may become an Active Member in any calendar year by paying the annual fee for that calendar year.
2. Active Members shall be owners or breeders of Blonde d'Aquitaine cattle who shall have paid the first year fee in a prior calendar year and who pay the annual membership fee in the current calendar year or who have paid the first year fee in the current calendar year. Benefits of Active membership will apply to the estate of a deceased Active Member for one year after death, and may be extended by the Board of Directors. An Active Member shall have the right to vote on ABAA business, hold office, attend and participate in meetings, participate in ABAA activities, register cattle at the fees established for Active Members and shall have all other rights and privileges afforded ABAA members from time to time. Active Members must be citizens of the United States.
3. Junior Members shall be those members who are eligible to show cattle as 4-H/FFA members, and who have paid the requisite membership fee. A Junior Member may not vote or hold office, but may participate in all other ABAA activities. Those Junior Members who wish to participate as Active Members may do so upon payment of the Active Membership fee.

- A Junior Member may register as many as five (5) cattle per year in his own name at fees established for Active Members.
4. Associate Members are non-voting members who have an interest in the advancement of the ABAA. Associate Members may not vote, hold elective office or register cattle at the fees established for Active Members. Owners or breeders of Blonde d'Aquitaine cattle who reside in the United States of America may not be Associate Members.
  5. Founder Members may be Active Members for any calendar year by paying the annual fee for that year. Application for Founder Membership ended February 1, 1976.
  6. Honorary Members are Active Members who have made an outstanding contribution to the Blonde d'Aquitaine breed of cattle and/or who have been outstanding in their service to the American Blonde d'Aquitaine Association. The Executive Committee shall propose the appointment of Honorary Members through a resolution to the Board for their consideration. Those approved shall be active members for life without having to pay the annual fee; also they shall be recognized at the Annual Membership Meeting.
  7. Commercial Members shall be those owners or breeders of Blonde d'Aquitaine cattle in the United States of America who have an interest in advancing those cattle and the interests of the ABAA. They shall not be eligible to hold office, vote, or register cattle. They will receive all publications and information dispersed by the ABAA and shall be welcome at all ABAA functions.

#### **ARTICLE IV OFFICERS**

- A. The President shall preside at all meetings of the ABAA and at all meetings of the Board of Directors and shall be a member ex-officio of all committees and shall perform such other duties as may be assigned to him by the Board of Directors. The President may not serve more than three consecutive one-year terms.
- B. The Vice President shall perform the duties of the President in his or her absence or on special request of the President. He shall perform such other duties as are usually pertinent to this office, or as may be required of him by the Board of Directors or its Executive Committee.
- C. The Secretary shall be custodian of the records of the ABAA and shall keep a roll of the members and attend to the giving and serving of notices to members and of meetings of the Board of Directors. He shall perform such other duties as are usually pertinent to this office, or as may be required of him by the Board of Directors or its Executive Committee. He may, with the approval of the Board of Directors or its Executive Committee, delegate to an assistant all or any part of the duties herein assigned to him.
- D. The Treasurer shall be responsible for receiving and safeguarding all funds and other assets of the ABAA and for disbursing the funds of the ABAA as authorized

by the Board of Directors. The Treasurer shall account for the transactions of his office regularly. At least annually, or at any time upon the request of the Board of Directors or its Executive Committee, he shall report to the membership and/or to the Board of Directors on the financial status of the ABAA. All money due to the ABAA shall be accounted for by the Treasurer. He shall pay all bills by check. It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to annually prepare a draft budget including an estimate of the anticipated income and expenditures incident to the affairs of the ABAA for the coming year. He shall perform such other duties as may be assigned to him by the Board of Directors. The Treasurer may, with approval of the Board or its Executive Committee, delegate to an assistant all or any part of the duties herein assigned to him.

- E. The Executive Secretary shall be appointed by the Board of Directors at its discretion and shall perform such duties as may be assigned to him by the Board of Directors and need not be from the membership of the ABAA. At the discretion of the Board of Directors, he shall be a member of the Executive Committee. The discretion of the Board of Directors shall extend to not appointing an Executive Secretary.
- F. Regional Representatives shall be Active Members who shall be appointed by the Board of Directors at its discretion and shall provide liaison between members in their respective region and the ABAA Board of Directors in areas such as promotional programs, research and testing, sales and grievances. A Regional Representative may perform other duties as may be assigned to him by the Board of Directors. The discretion of the Board of Directors shall extend to not appointing Regional Representatives.
- G. Officers, Directors and employees who handle money for the ABAA should be bonded; the cost of being bonded will be paid by the ABAA.

## **ARTICLE V DIRECTORS**

- A. Directors shall be elected at large by the following process:  
The Board of Directors shall appoint a Nominating Committee which shall, not less than forty-five (45) days prior to the Annual Meeting date, nominate three (3) or more Active Members for the Director positions whose terms will expire at the next Annual Meeting. In the event any nominee withdraws, or is for any reason unable to qualify for the office, the Board of Directors may make further nominations at any time before the ballots are mailed.  
The Secretary shall prepare ballots containing the names of nominees and shall afford appropriate space for the insertion of additional name(s) for each position. The ballot so prepared shall be mailed by the Secretary to each Active Member at his last known address as shown on the records of the ABAA, not less than thirty (30) days prior to the Annual Meeting of the ABAA. The ballots shall be returned to the ABAA Secretary not less than five (5) days prior to the Annual Meeting.

Votes will be accepted in a sealed envelope with the Active Member's name printed on the outside. Voted ballots will be kept on file until the next Annual Membership Meeting and can then be destroyed.

At the Annual Meeting additional nominations will be accepted from the floor and voting will be secret ballot. Ballots, including mail ballots, will be counted by two (2) individuals selected by the Board of Directors and results will be announced at the meeting.

- B. Directors shall elect from their own number, a President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer, whose terms of office shall be for one (1) year.
- C. The Board of Directors may appoint additional officers, and an Executive Committee, as needed by the ABAA.
- D. A majority of the duly elected Directors shall constitute a quorum for any Board of Directors' meeting.
- E. The number of Directors may be changed by an ordinary resolution at a General Membership Meeting.
- F. Any vacancy on the Board of Directors, other than that due to the expiration of a term of office shall be filled by the Board of Directors for the unexpired portion of that term.
- G. Any Board member absent two (2) consecutive meetings without just cause may be replaced by a majority vote of the remaining members of the Board of Directors.
- H. The Board of Directors by a two-thirds (2/3) vote may remove any Director for any conduct or action detrimental to the ABAA. Any such determination by the ABAA Board of Directors shall be conclusive.
- I. The ABAA hereby indemnifies and holds harmless any and all of its Directors or officers or former Directors or Officers against any and all liability, cost and expense actually and necessarily incurred by them in connection with the defense of any action, suit or proceeding in which they, or any of them, are made parties, or a party, by reason of being or having been Directors or Officers or a Director or Officer of the ABAA, except in relation to matters as to which any such Director or Officer or former Director or Officer shall be adjudged in such action, suit or proceeding to be liable for willful misconduct in the performance of duty. This indemnification shall not be deemed exclusive of any other rights to which those indemnified may be entitled, under any bylaw, agreement, vote of stockholders or otherwise.
- J. A Director shall be elected for a term of three (3) years.

**K. DUTIES, RESPONSIBILITIES AND AUTHORITY OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

The Board of Directors shall supervise, control and direct the property, business, affairs and activities of the Association; shall determine the Association policies and rules within the limits of the law; shall set the dues and fees of the Association in order to maintain a healthy financially viable organization and shall have absolute discretion in the disbursement of its funds, provided, however, that the Board of Directors shall not authorize the Association to conduct any activity not

permitted to be transacted by a nonprofit corporation and all income and property shall be applied exclusively to the nonprofit purposes of the Association and no part thereof shall inure to the benefit of any private member or individual. The Board of Directors may adopt such rules for the control and conduct of the property, business, affairs and activities of the Association as it shall deem advisable, including, but not limited to, rules relating to registration and transfer of cattle, payment of fees, offenses and penalties, dispute resolution, genetic abnormalities and unethical practices. It shall, at its Annual Meeting, elect the officers of the Association. The Board of Directors, through the Executive Secretary, shall present to each Annual Meeting of the membership a detailed operating report and balance sheet of the Association and shall cause a summary of the operating report and balance sheet to be mailed to any member requesting the same.

## **ARTICLE VI COMMITTEES**

- A. The Board of Directors shall appoint the following committees and shall name one of the members of each committee to act as chairman of such committee. All persons asked to serve on committees shall be Active Members in good standing.
  1. The Audit Committee shall be made up of three (3) members, at least one (1) of which shall be a Director. The Committee shall, at least annually, make such examination of the books of account of the ABAA as they may consider appropriate and shall report the results of their examination to the Annual Membership Meeting and to the Board of Directors.
  2. The Disciplinary Committee shall be made up of three (3) members, at least one (1) of which shall be a Director. The Committee shall meet as required to consider and rule on charges made pursuant to Article III A, 2.
  3. The Nominating Committee shall consist of three (3) members all appointed by the President: one (1) sitting Director to serve as chairman and two (2) other ABAA members, at least one of which shall not be a present Director. The Committee shall actively seek the names of nominees from the membership at large. All nominees must have agreed to serve if elected and the names of all such nominees shall be submitted to the membership at least 30 days prior to the Annual Meeting. The Nominating Committee shall also nominate candidates for other elective offices in the ABAA if so instructed by the Board of Directors.
  4. The Technical Advisory (Performance Standards) Committee shall be responsible for investigating the performance standards of the Blonde d'Aquitaine breed, for suggesting changes in performance measurements, and for conducting whatever activity is deemed advisable to maintain breed improvement and educate the members of the ABAA therein.
- B. The Board of Directors may appoint additional standing and special committees to assist in carrying out the objectives of the ABAA. The Board of Directors shall

specify the objectives and authority of such committees and shall name a chairman for each such committee. The Board of Directors may disband any such committee at its discretion.

## **ARTICLE VII BYLAWS AMENDMENTS**

- A. Bylaw changes may be proposed by a petition signed by two (2) Active Members of the ABAA and delivered to the ABAA Secretary. Bylaw amendments must be submitted in correct form that is compatible with the ABAA bylaws.
- B. All recommended changes to the Bylaws must be filed with the ABAA Secretary at least forty-five (45) days prior to a General Meeting of the ABAA at which they will be considered.
- C. All bylaw changes must be voted on at an ABAA General Membership Meeting at which meeting a quorum is present or represented by a mailed-in ballot. A bylaw change will be approved if a two-third (2/3) majority of the Active Members present or represented by a mailed-in ballot at the General Meeting votes for the proposed amendment. Mailed-in ballots must be in the ABAA Secretary's office five (5) days prior to the General Meeting.

## **ARTICLE VIII MEETINGS**

- A. Membership Meetings
  - 1. General Meetings of the membership shall be held from time to time at places and times designated by the Board of Directors for the transaction of such business as may properly come before such meetings. Notice by letter, or responsible publication, shall be mailed to all Active Members at least 30 days prior to such meeting, together with ballots and pertinent background information on issues to be voted upon by the membership.
  - 2. An Annual General Meeting shall be held each year with the time interval between meetings not to exceed sixteen (16) months.
  - 3. At all meetings of the ABAA, either regular or special, 20% of all Active Members being present or represented by a mailed-in ballot, shall constitute a quorum.
  - 4. At all meetings of the ABAA Membership, either Annual, General, or Special, each Active Member shall be entitled to and shall be given the opportunity to cast one vote on any and each matter submitted to the ABAA membership for a vote. Active Members may cast such votes in either of two ways:
    - (a) Votes may be cast in person by the Active Member at the meeting.

(b) Votes may be submitted by mailed-in ballot. Such ballots shall be provided by the ABAA consistent with the requirements of the bylaws. To be valid, mailed-in ballots must be delivered to the ABAA Secretary, via the U.S. Postal Service or other generally recognized commercial delivery service, consistent with the timing requirements of the bylaws.

5. Proxy voting will not be accepted. Ballots delivered on behalf of one member by a second member, an ABAA officer, or a third party, will be considered Proxy votes and will not be accepted.

B. Board of Directors Meetings

1. Meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held from time to time at the call of the President by giving five (5) days notice of the time, place and purpose of the meeting.
2. The Directors shall meet at least annually at a time and place to be selected by the Board of Directors.
3. Upon the written request of no less than three (3) Active Members, the President shall call a meeting of the Board of Directors to deal with the issue(s) specified in such request.
4. At any meeting of the Board of Directors the presence of at least 50% of the Directors shall be required to constitute a quorum. The vote of a majority of the Directors present and voting shall determine any matter submitted to the Board of Directors for consideration.

## **ARTICLE IX**

### **BLONDE D'AQUITAINE REGISTRY**

A. Blood typing and verification of records commencing March 1, 1992

1. All blood typing for the ABAA will be processed by the ABAA's official serology laboratory.
2. ABAA required blood type and/or parent verification for the following situations:
  - a. All sires whose semen has been collected for A.I. use must be blood typed. It is the responsibility of the owner of record of the bull at the time of collection to notify ABAA and request the necessary blood typing material. The blood type shall be done at the owner's expense and blood type results must be on file at ABAA before use or sale of the semen.
  - b. All females used as donor dams in an embryo transfer program must be blood typed if the resulting offspring are fullblood or purebred. It is the responsibility of the owner or lessee of record prior to the time of embryo transfer to notify ABAA and request the necessary blood typing material. The blood type shall be done at the owner's expense and blood type results must be on file at ABAA before performing any embryo transfer procedure.

- c. Registered fullblood or purebred females and males resulting from embryo transfer must be blood typed and parent verified before a Registration Certificate will be issued. It is the responsibility of the owner of record to notify ABAA and request the necessary blood typing material. The blood type shall be done at the owner's expense and blood type results must be on file at ABAA before the Registration Certificate will be issued.
  - d. All registered offspring resulting from matings wherein the dam was exposed to more than one (1) sire within twenty-four (24) days, whether by artificial or natural mating, must be blood typed for sire verification. The blood type shall be done at the owner's expense and blood type results must be on file at ABAA before the Registration Certificate will be issued. If multiple sires are used, the resulting offspring cannot be registered or computed. A multiple sire mating is defined as any mating in which the female was bred in the same heat period to two (2) or more bulls, whether it be natural or artificial mating. This includes the mixing or blending of semen from two (2) or more sires.
  - e. All foreign and/or imported Blondes must be blood typed. The blood type shall be done at the owner's expense and blood type results must be on file at ABAA before the Registration Certificate will be issued.
  - f. Where parentage is questioned by ABAA, blood typing will be required at the owner's expense.
  - g. Blood typing of a bull or female may be derived if enough close relatives have or can be blood typed by the lab, generally ten head.
3. Any blood sample from an animal registered in the ABAA Registry and received by the ABAA official serology laboratory will be parent verified if the records for dam and/or sire are on file.
  4. If, after the entering of an animal in the ABAA Registry, anything shall be learned which raises a doubt as to the propriety of such registration, the Executive Committee may cause the matter to be investigated and will have power to suspend the registration, pending the investigation. If, upon due hearing by the Executive Committee, it is found that an animal has been improperly registered, they may cause the registry of the animal and any offspring in the ABAA Registry, to be expunged, or corrected and take any other steps the case may require, subject, however, to an appeal to the Board of Directors either by the owner of said animal or by any person financially interested in maintaining its registry or by any two (2) members of the Board itself under appeal procedure.
  5. The Executive Committee may, with cause, investigate or cause to be investigated, examined, identified or blood typed, any animal or herd of registered Blonde cattle and may examine the breed and herd records maintained for the purpose of verifying the applications and records on file in the ABAA office or for the purpose of investigating other matters in which the ABAA may be interested.

6. Blood type phenotypes shall be treated as confidential information by the ABAA and shall not be released except in cases where the information is necessary for foreign export.
- B. DNA testing and verification of records commencing January 1, 2004
- Parent verification by and through DNA testing is an optional method of testing for parent verification and may be used in place of Blood Typing. When the following rules are followed, DNA testing is an acceptable method of verification of records.
1. All DNA testing to be recognized by the ABAA will be processed by the ABAA's official testing laboratory.
  2. The ABAA requires DNA testing in the following instances:
    - a. All sires whose semen has been collected for A.I. use must be DNA tested. It is the responsibility of the owner of record of the bull at the time of collection to notify ABAA and request the necessary kit and instructions to allow ABAA to forward the sample to the ABAA's laboratory. The DNA test shall be done at the owner's expense. The laboratory's results must be filed with the ABAA and placed on record prior to the time when the semen may be offered for sale.
    - b. All females used as donor dams in an embryo transfer program must be DNA tested when the resulting offspring are fullblood or purebred. It is the responsibility of the owner or lessee of record prior to the time of embryo transfer to notify the ABAA and request the necessary DNA kit and instructions. The DNA testing shall be done at the owner's expense and the DNA results must be filed and placed on record with the ABAA before the embryo transfer procedure shall begin.
    - c. Registered fullblood or purebred females and males resulting from embryo transfer must be DNA tested and the parents verified before a Registration Certificate will be issued. It is the responsibility of the owner of record to notify ABAA and request the necessary DNA kit and instructions. The DNA testing shall be done at the owner's expense and the DNA results must be filed and placed on record with the ABAA before a Registration Certificate may be issued.
    - d. All registered offspring resulting from matings wherein the dam was exposed to more than one (1) sire within twenty-four (24) days, whether by artificial or natural mating, must be DNA tested for sire verification. The DNA testing shall be done at the owner's expense and the DNA results must be filed and recorded with the ABAA before a Registration Certificate may be issued. If multiple sires are used, the resulting offspring cannot be registered or computed. A multiple sire mating is defined as any mating in which the female was bred in the same heat period to two (2) or more bulls, whether it be natural or artificial mating. This includes the mixing or blending of semen from two (2) or more sires.
    - e. All foreign and/or imported Blondes must be DNA tested. The DNA testing shall be done at the owner's expense and the DNA results must be filed and recorded with the ABAA before a Registration Certificate will be issued.

- f. Where parentage is questioned by ABAA, a DNA test will be required at the owner's expense.
  - g. DNA testing of a bull or female may be derived if enough close relatives have or can be DNA tested, generally ten head.
- 3. Any DNA test from any animal registered in the ABAA Registry and received by the ABAA official DNA laboratory will be parent verified if the records for the dam and/or sire are on file.
- 4. If, after the entering of an animal in the ABAA Registry, anything is learned which raises a doubt as to the propriety of such registration, the Executive Committee may cause the matter to be investigated and will have power to suspend the registration, pending an investigation. If, upon due hearing by the Executive Committee, it is determined that an animal has been improperly registered, they may cause the registry of the animal and any offspring in the ABAA Registry, to be expunged, and/or corrected, and the committee shall have the power to take any other steps which the case may require. If an owner is aggrieved by the committee's decision, said owner may appeal Executive Committee's decision to the Board of Directors. An appeal may be taken not only by the owner of the animal, but also by any person who has a financial interest in maintaining the animal's registry, or, an appeal may be taken by any two (2) members of the Board of Directors, but in such event, an appealing director(s) shall recuse himself from sitting on the Board in the capacity as a Director during the hearing.
- 5. The Executive Committee may, with cause, investigate or cause to be investigated, examined, identified or DNA tested, any animal or herd of registered Blonde cattle and may examine the breed and herd records maintained for the purpose of verifying the applications and records on file in the ABAA office or for the purpose of investigating other matters in which the ABAA may be interested.
- 6. DNA phenotypes shall be treated as confidential information by the ABAA and shall not be released except in cases where the information is necessary for foreign export.

American  
Blonde d'Aquitaine  
Association

**Rules**

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## **RULE 1 BLONDE REGISTRY**

**A. The ABAA shall maintain a complete set of permanent and properly indexed records, known as the “Blonde d’Aquitaine Registry.”**

**Applications for registering or computing, copies of certificates issued on animals, applications for transfer of registration and other records and documents necessary for registering or computing data in the Blonde d’Aquitaine Registry shall be maintained.**

## **RULE II REGISTRY CLASSIFICATION**

**A. There shall be three (3) classifications in the Blonde d’Aquitaine Registry. The classifications are set out below, and the appropriate classification shall be clearly indicated on each individual Registration Certificate.**

- 1. Fullblood—This class shall include all 100% Blonde d’Aquitaine cattle in the Blonde d’Aquitaine Registry.**
- 2. Purebred—This class shall include all males which are 93.75% or greater but less than 100% Blonde d’Aquitaine and all females which are 87.5% or greater but less than 100% Blonde d’Aquitaine.**
- 3. Percentage—This class shall include males which are 25% or greater but less than 93.75% Blonde d’Aquitaine and females which are 25% or greater but less than 87.5% Blonde d’Aquitaine.**
- 4. Compute-only Recordings—See Rule VI, H.**
- 5. Classifications will be determined through use of the following chart:**

### **PERCENT BLONDE D’AQUITAINE CALCULATING CHART**

<b>SIRE</b>	<b>DAM</b>	<b>CALF</b>
Foundation	Foundation	Unregisterable
Foundation	Halfblood	Unregisterable
Foundation	Three quarter	Unregisterable
Foundation	PB/FB	Halfblood
Halfblood	Foundation	Unregisterable
Halfblood	Halfblood	Halfblood
Halfblood	Three quarter	Halfblood
Halfbloods	PB/FB	Three quarter
Three quarter	Foundation	Unregisterable
Three quarter	Halfblood	Halfblood
Three quarter	Three quarter	Three quarter
Three quarter	PB/FB	Seven eighths
Seven eighths	Foundation	Unregisterable
Seven eighths	Halfblood	Halfblood
Seven eighths	Three quarter	Three quarter
Seven eighths	PB	F=PB / B=7/8
Seven eighths	FB	PB
PB/FB	Foundation	Halfblood
PB/FB	Halfblood	Three quarter
PB/FB	Three quarter	F=PB / B=7/8
PB/FB	PB	PB
PB	FB	PB
FB	FB	FB

**RULE III STANDARDS FOR REGISTERING**

- A. Eligibility for Registration in the Blonde d’Aquitaine Registry**
- 1. Only Fullblood, Purebred, and Percentage Blonde d’Aquitaine cattle will be eligible for Registration in the Blonde d’Aquitaine Registry.**
  - 2. Imported animals which are registered in the herdbook of a Blonde d’Aquitaine Association in the country of origin and are accompanied by the original Registration Certificate issued by that association are eligible for registration if they meet the ABAA’s minimum requirements for registration.**
  - 3. Except for imported animals, mentioned above, animals must be the offspring of a sire and/or dam at least one of which is registered in the Blonde d’Aquitaine Registry.**
- B. Eligibility for Registering Percentage Blonde d’Aquitaine cattle in the Blonde d’Aquitaine Registry.**
- 1. A Percentage animal must be the progeny of a registered sire or dam.**
- C. The requirements for registering are the same regardless of whether the animal is the progeny of an embryo transfer, artificial, or natural service. Breeding certificates shall not be required.**
- 1. Applications must be made on ABAA forms, completed in ink or typewritten, and must give all the pertinent data requested.**
  - 2. A permanent herd ID will be issued by the ABAA for each breeder’s exclusive use.**
  - 3. All animals must be tattooed with their herd ID in addition to a unique individual identification number. All animals must be tattooed in the left ear. All animals must be identified by an individual tattoo, designated year letter to signify year of birth. The letter “S” will signify that the animal was born in 2006, “T” in 2007, “U” in 2008, etc. The letters “I,” “O,” and “Q” shall not be used as designated year letters. No two calves, regardless of sex, can be tattooed with the same number, in the same herd, in the same year.**

**A proper tattoo would be as follows:**  
RIGHT EAR                      LEFT EAR

ABC  
22N

4. Recipient cows must be tattooed or permanently identified. Parentage of embryo offspring must be verifiable by blood typing or DNA testing of the sire and dam.
5. Weaning weights are taken between 160 and 250 days of age. Yearling weights are taken between 330 and 450 days and not less than 160 days after weaning. Adjusted weights are calculated by the ABAA office.

#### **RULE IV CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRATION**

- A. Certificates of Registration will contain all required information as specified in Rule III C 1, 2, 3 plus the following information or data:
  1. The Owner of the animal, which for application purposes is the owner of the animal at the time of application
  2. The Breeder of the animal, which is the owner or lessee of the animal's dam at the time the dam was served
  3. The Permanent Identification of the animal which must be affixed by the dam's owner before sale and delivery
  4. The sex of other animals born of a multiple birth must be stated. A female born with a male will not be registered until she has proved to be a breeder. Calves born of multiple birth must have a separate application made for each calf.
  5. Name of animal, which shall not be longer than twenty-four (24) letters, including prefixes and numbers  
Names may be changed upon application, provided that the new name chosen for the animal is not already in use, and further provided that no offspring from the animal is registered or recorded.
  6. Weaning and yearling data if available
  7. Four Generation Pedigree—to the extent sufficient information is available
- B. Duplicate certificates will be issued upon written request of the owner after the owner has filed a notarized affidavit that the certificate was lost or destroyed.

#### **RULE V TRANSFER OF ANIMALS**

- A. Requests for transfer shall be submitted by the owner of record or the authorized representative on any registered animal in the ABBA Registry. Transfer of recorded animals shall be handled in the same manner.
- B. Transfer of a female after she has been issued a Registration Certificate can be accomplished by completing the back side of the female's certificate.
  1. If the female has been exposed to a bull through natural or artificial service, it must be included on the certificate. This information will allow the new owner to register the subsequent calf, listing the owner at time of conception as the breeder.

2. If the female is being sold with calf at side and the calf is to be transferred, it is the responsibility of the seller to complete the required information on the dam's registration certificate. Any calf sold at side that is to be transferred and registered, must be registered either prior to or at the same time as its transfer.
  3. In cases of embryo transfer, if the female is the property of another person, the owner of the female must provide a transfer of ownership for the calf (calves).
- C. Transfer of a bull after being issued a Registration Certificate can be accomplished by completing the back side of the bull's certificate.
- D. A transfer of registration request will transfer ownership in the ABAA Registry, but is not to be construed as the conveyance of legal title by the Association. The Association shall in no way be involved in or assume liability for the purchase, sale, or terms of sale of registered animals or the passage of legal title.

#### **RULE VI FEES**

- A. ABAA is on a cash basis. If the correct fee does not accompany the transaction, or prior payment has not been made, all material is subject to being returned to the sender. In any event no transaction will be completed until full payment is received.  
Registration fees are based on date of postmark, indicating date mailed by sender. Transfer fees are based on the date of sale.
- B. Fees are based on membership type.
1. Associate members may request transactions involving registered Blonde d'Aquitaine cattle, but the cost will be greater than the fee charged to active or junior members.
  2. Non-members may request transactions involving registered Blonde d' Aquitaine cattle, but the cost will be greater than the fees charged to active or junior members.
- C. The ABAA policy is that the seller will pay any registration and/or transfer fees.
- D. Fees may be changed at the discretion of the ABAA Board of Directors at any regularly scheduled meeting or special meeting called for that purpose.
- E. Annual dues and/or herd assessments will be assessed on a calendar year basis. If payment is not received by March 1, the member shall be dropped from the Active Membership roll. The member shall not be eligible to vote or enjoy member's fee for services, until dues are paid. Dues paid after March 31 shall be higher than regular annual dues.
- F. Any new member will have sixty (60) days from the date of joining the ABAA to register cattle at the lowest rate on the fee schedule, regardless of the age of the animals.
- G. A current fee schedule is available upon request.

- H. Members shall pay a fee to enter data on cattle that they do not wish to register at the time of data entry. At a later date should the owner wish to register the animal from the “compute only” status, the fee for computing shall be subtracted from the registration fee determined by the age of the animal at time of registration.**

**RULE VII GENETIC ABNORMALITIES**

- A. In order to maintain a viable breed relatively free of undesirable genetic factors and to insure that today’s breeding practices will help tomorrow’s Blonde d’Aquitaine cattle stay free of undesirable traits, it is recommended that every ABAA member or breeder of Blonde d’Aquitaine cattle report the occurrence of any abnormal Blonde d’Aquitaine animal. In order for said reports to be recognized as authentic and valid, the animal’s parentage must be verified by blood typing or DNA testing.**
- 1. Abnormal calves should be reported to the ABAA Executive Director by telephone as soon as they are discovered. Based on the description of the abnormal animal and depending upon whether it is dead or alive, the ABAA may ask the caller to complete an abnormal calf report. This can be done over the phone or by the owner or his veterinarian. Generally, a sample suitable for blood typing or DNA testing should be drawn from the calf as well as its sire and dam (if not already on file) and submitted to the approved ABAA serology laboratory to verify parentage.**
  - 2. Members are encouraged to send abnormal calves (either dead or alive) to an ABAA approved research facility for examination, or in special cases, the research facility may arrange to examine the animal on location or pick up the animal themselves for examination at their facility.**
  - 3. ABAA will pay fees for blood typing or DNA testing for all abnormal animals (but not for parents) for which it requests parentage verification.**
  - 4. To facilitate reporting abnormal Blonde d’Aquitaine animals, an official form may be printed annually in the official ABAA publication, or they can be obtained directly from the ABAA office. These forms shall be completed and filed with ABAA.**
- B. The ABAA Executive Director shall receive, keep on file, and monitor all information concerning abnormalities of any registered Blonde d’Aquitaine animal. The file shall be cross referenced by sire, breeder, and abnormality; however, the owners’ and breeders’ names will be kept confidential (pending a final decision by the ABAA Board of Directors). A copy of the abnormality report and blood analysis and/or DNA testing result will be sent to an ABAA approved research facility. The ABAA office and owner of the abnormal animal will each receive a copy of the research facility’s findings and diagnosis.**

1. Each case will be handled on an individual basis and an effort will be made to diagnose all cases whether the problem is genetic or caused by other factors.
  2. When evidence is available that an animal is a possible carrier of a deleterious genetic factor, the owner of the animal and the owner of the animal's parents will be notified in writing by the ABAA. Before taking final action, the owner of the subject animal and the owner of the animal's parents will be given the opportunity for a hearing before the ABAA Board of Directors.
- C. A deleterious genetic factor is defined as one that causes death or impairment of the usefulness of the animal. The ABAA Board of Directors shall, based upon advice of its scientific advisors, determine which deleterious genetic factors will receive special attention and monitoring.
- D. ABAA shall publish in the official ABAA publication a notation of any animal that has been classified as a "proven carrier" of a deleterious genetic factor. The notation will include the specific deleterious genetic factor(s) the animal possesses. ABAA may also release and disclose such information to any of its members, to others who register or transfer animals or otherwise use privileges of the ABAA and who may request the same without ABAA or any of its officers, directors, employees, agents or members becoming liable for damages or otherwise for such release and disclosure.
1. The ABAA Board of Directors will determine a criteria by which an animal shall be classified as a "proven carrier" for each deleterious genetic factor.
  2. A recognized guideline for testing bulls for recessive genes is to mate a bull to at least 35 of his own daughters. If all normal calves results (35 calves from 35 matings), there is a 99.6% probability that the bull is free from autosomal recessive deleterious genetic factors.
  3. The expense of any test(s) to determine whether an animal is "proven clean" or a "proven carrier" will be the responsibility of the owner of the animal.
- E. ABAA considers it an unethical practice to offer for sale a breeding animal or semen from an animal which is known to carry deleterious genetic factor(s) as defined by ABAA without first informing the potential buyer(s) of this fact. Any advertising, descriptive material or pedigree initiated by the owner of an animal which is a "proven carrier" of a deleterious genetic factor as defined by ABAA shall include a statement identifying the deleterious genetic factor(s) which the animal in question possesses. Any effort to conceal such information is considered to be equally unethical. Any person who has engaged in such unethical practice may be subject to suspension or expulsion from membership and may be denied the privileges of ABAA.

**RULE VIII ERRONEOUS ENTRY**

- A. Should any animal be recorded or transferred in the ABAA Registry through error, misrepresentation, or fraud, the Executive Committee may declare the animal void, along with any descendants of said animal. The Executive Committee may direct the Executive Director to refuse for registration, computation, or transfer any subsequent animal dependent upon the signature of any person implicated in a fraudulent transaction.**
- B. Notwithstanding anything herein contained, the ABAA assumes no responsibility, financial or otherwise, for any loss or damage that may be sustained by any individual, partnership, firm, or corporation by reason of the suspension, cancellation, or correction of any registration, transfer, or other documents or by reason of the rejection of any application for membership in the ABAA.**

**RULE IX NATIONAL BLONDE D'AQUITAINE SIRE SUMMARY**

- A. The ABAA shall publish, at regular intervals, a national sire summary indicating the Expected Progeny Differences (EPD) values of all the qualifying registered purebred/fullblood bulls in the ABAA Registry.**

**RULE X GOVERNING RULES**

- A. The rules contained in the current edition of "Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised" shall govern the ABAA in all cases in which they are not inconsistent with the ABAA Bylaws and any special rules or policies of the ABAA.**