

THESE RULES GO INTO EFFECT MARCH 1, 2026

BHCA FUTURITY STAKES RULES

These revisions will be effective for all Futurity Stakes beginning with the 2027 Futurity Stakes.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Basset Hound Club of America Futurity Stakes is to recognize and reward breeders for their efforts in the breeding of better Basset Hounds through carefully planned breeding programs and the evaluation of puppies.

GENERAL

The Futurity Stakes is a “Stand Alone Event” to be held in conjunction with the BHCA Fall Nationals. All financial transactions will be coordinated and reviewed by the BHCA Treasurer.

ELIGIBILITY

1. The Futurity Stakes is open to all breeders, co-breeders, and the Futurity/Maturity Stakes Secretary. All breeders/owners must be members in good standing with the BHCA at the time the bitch is nominated and must remain so throughout the event. Individuals are not eligible to enter the particular stakes as a breeder or co-breeder or allowed to exhibit at a particular stakes if:
 - a. Any individual or member(s) of their immediate family is accepting entries.
 - b. Judging any BHCA National event held in conjunction with the BHCA National Specialty.
 - c. Members of the immediate family or household of the person elected to judge.

2. Each Futurity Stakes begins with the nomination of eligible bitches that will whelp on or after March 1 of the year prior to that in which the stake will be held.
3. Puppies eligible to compete in any given stake are those whelped on or after March 1 of the prior year and on or before February 28/29 of the same year in which the stake is held.

ENROLLMENT

1. **The bitch should be nominated before the litter is whelped.** A fee of \$15.00 and a four-generation, single pedigree of the potential litter must accompany the bitch nomination. An individual sire and dam's pedigree will **NOT** be accepted. The nominating breeder will receive all correspondence and forms relative to the nominations, enrollments and stakes entry. The Nominating Breeder(s) is responsible for submission of all forms and fees and all other requirements set forth below. A \$15.00 late fee applies if the bitch is not nominated prior to whelping. The Bitch must be nominated no later than 30 days after the puppies are whelped.
2. **The litter must be nominated not more than one month after being whelped.** A fee of \$15.00 must accompany the litter nomination.
3. **First enrollment of an individual puppy must be made before the puppy is three months old.** A fee of \$8.00 per puppy must accompany the puppy enrollment.
4. **Second enrollment of an individual puppy must be made before the puppy is six months old.** A fee of \$8.00 per puppy must accompany each puppy enrollment.
5. **Third and final enrollment of each individual puppy must be postmarked on or before June 1 of the year of the Futurity.** A fee of \$8.00 per puppy must accompany the puppy enrollment. **LATE ENROLLMENTS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED**
6. **Late Enrollments:** Apply to the Bitch, Litter, First and Second Individual Enrollment of the puppies.

- a. The penalty for late enrollment will be an additional \$15.00 charge.
 - b. Late enrollments must be postmarked not more than 30 days after the due date.
 - c. Late submissions will not be accepted for any reason for the third and final enrollment of any individual puppy.
7. All fees to include any late fee must be paid on or before June 1 of the current year or the third and final nomination will not be accepted.
 8. Puppies who have been entered by a selected BHCA judge or Futurity/Maturity Stakes judge may not exhibit at the current year's event. To be eligible for the following years' Maturity, the participating judge must complete the Futurity enrollment processes by June 1st.
 9. ENTRIES: Remember even though you have correctly nominated dogs throughout the Futurity/Maturity Process, **you must make your Futurity/Maturity entries in accordance with the Premium List.** Show entry fee shall be \$20.00 per puppy.

DUAL SIRE LITTERS

1. If you are nominating a bitch that has been bred to two different sires the nomination process is as follows:
 - a. The Bitch should be nominated before the litter is whelped. A fee of \$15.00 and a four-generation pedigree of each potential sired litter must accompany the nomination. A futurity number will then be assigned to both potential sired litters.
 - b. The litter must be nominated not more than one month after being whelped. A fee of \$30.00 must accompany the litter nomination for the dual sire litter. If the litter is not found to be the results of a dual sire litter, \$15.00 of the litter nomination will be refunded.

- c. First individual enrollment, before the puppies are 3 months old, second individual enrollment before the puppies are 6 months old and the third and final enrollment before June 1st should be made on separate forms for each sire of the litter using the assigned futurity number for each sire to identify the individual puppy enrollment nomination. A fee of \$8.00 per puppy should accompany the individual puppy enrollment for each sire.
- d. In the event that the appropriate AKC DNA testing has not identified the sire of the litter by the time the individual puppy nominations are due, the nominating breeder should use one individual puppy nomination form identifying the litter by using both assigned futurity nomination numbers and continue to do so until such time as the sires have been identified.
- e. The nominating breeder will be responsible for notifying the Futurity Secretary upon receipt of proof of sire giving the registration number/name, futurity number and the name of the sire for each puppy in the litter.
- f. This should be done on all the individual puppy enrollment forms (3 months, 6 months and final). In the event the litter is sired by only one of the two potential sires the nominating breeder shall contact the Futurity Secretary in writing, requesting the assigned Futurity number be deleted of the non-sire litter.

CLASSES

1. The Futurity Stakes will be judged in four age group classes for each sex. The winners of the eight classes will compete for Best in Futurity Stakes and Best of Opposite in Futurity.
2. The age group classes are as follows:
 - a. CLASS I – For puppies whelped in December of the prior year and, January, February of the year of the futurity event.
 - b. CLASS II – For puppies whelped in September, October, November of the year preceding the futurity event.

- c. CLASS III – For puppies whelped June, July August of the year preceding the futurity event.
- d. CLASS IV – For puppies whelped in March, April, May of the year preceding the futurity event.

PRIZE MONEY

1. All monies collected from nominations, enrollments, penalties and entry fees will be pooled. BHCA will retain 35% to cover expenses. The remainder is to be divided as follows: Winner's pool 40%, Classes pool 60%.
2. The monies in the Winners pool will be allocated to the Best in Futurity Stakes and the Best of Opposite in Futurity Stakes by dividing the total in the Winners pool by 66.6% to the Best in Futurity and 33.4% to the Best of Opposite Sex in Futurity
3. The class pool will be determined by dividing the total money into the classes by the number of entries and then multiplying by the number of entries in the class. This money will be distributed as follows:
 - a. If there are four (4) or more entries, FIRST will be 40% of the class money, SECOND 30%, THIRD 20% and FOURTH 10%.
 - b. If there are three (3) entries, FIRST will receive 50% of the class's money, SECOND 30% and THIRD 20%.
 - c. If there are two (2) entries, FIRST will receive 60% of the class money and SECOND will receive 40%.
 - d. If there is one (1) entry, that entry will receive 100% of the class money.
4. For all winners' prizes, the breeder or breeders of record will receive 100% of the total prize money. All Futurity prize money will be given to the nominating breeder of the Best in Futurity and Best of Opposite in Futurity. It is the responsibility of the nominating breeder to ensure that all prize monies from the event are given to

them by the owner/handler of the dog in the event unless other arrangements are made between the breeder and owner or handler.

5. It is requested that all prize money checks are cashed within 30 days.

In the event that a check is lost it will not be reissued. **Any checks not cashed by Dec 31st of the futurity year in which they were issued will be returned to the F/M account for that year and considered income from the event.**

JUDGES

1. All BHCA members in good standing are eligible to judge the Futurity/Maturity Stakes. Currently AKC regulations prevent BHCA members who Judge the Futurity/Maturity from competing at the National specialty show if they judge the event. BHCA member judges who currently exhibit and participants nominating prospective judges should be mindful of such constraints.
2. Nominations of BHCA members will be solicited from the Futurity/Maturity participants by April 1 of each year.
 - a. Each nominating breeder of a Futurity or Maturity dog shall have one vote for the Futurity/Maturity judge regardless of the number of litters nominated by the nominating breeder during the Futurity year or nominated for the Maturity.
3. Individuals are ineligible to be nominated to judge a particular stake if they:
 - a. Are the Futurity Secretary or Assistant Futurity Secretary or members of their immediate family of that particular stake.
 - b. Any individual who has judged any BHCA National, regular classes, sweepstakes or Futurity/Maturity will be removed from the eligibility list for three years.
 - c. Are judging any local specialty in conjunction with the current year's National Specialty.
4. The Futurity judge will receive \$400.00 as an honorarium towards expense, as well as a medallion or tie tack.

NOMINATION AND VOTING

1. A teller will be selected by the Futurity/Maturity Committee prior to the nominations and selection process for the Futurity/Maturity judge, will be sent to only eligible Nominating Breeders in both events. The teller must be a member in good standing and not a member of the immediate family or household of the Futurity/Maturity Secretary or committee.
2. On April 1, the Futurity /Maturity Secretary shall email to all eligible Futurity/Maturity participants a nomination ballot that allows up to three (3) nominations for potential judges for the Futurity/Maturity, with instructions, closing date for nominations, and whom to email the nomination ballot. The nomination ballot must be emailed to the selected teller by April 25 to be counted
3. On May 1 or as soon as the top three (3) nominees are confirmed by the teller, a final ballot shall be emailed by the Futurity/Maturity Secretary to all eligible participants listing those three (3) or in the case of a tie the top nominees who have agreed to judge the Futurity/Maturity stakes. The final ballot will include instructions to vote for one of the three (3) or more nominees, who to return the ballot to by email and the deadline for receipt of the ballot. The ballot must be emailed no later than May 25. The nominee receiving the most votes will be selected as the judge. The final nomination ballot may be extended further in case of a tie.
4. In the event that the elected Futurity Judge notifies the Futurity Secretary of their inability to be able to judge the event for the current year, the Futurity Chair shall notify the Futurity teller by process of elimination:
 - a. To contact the individuals from the final ballot in order of descending votes received to determine whether they will agree to judge the Futurity Stakes.
 - b. If all of those in (a) decline, to contact those individuals from participants original list of nominees starting with the highest numbers of votes received and the first nominee with the highest

number of votes to agree to judge the futurity will be considered to be elected. In case of ties those names will be placed on a ballot and emailed to the futurity participants for a vote.

- c. If none of the individuals nominated by the Futurity/Maturity participants are willing to judge, because of time constraints, it will be up to the Futurity Committee to select the judge from the BHCA membership or someone else qualified to do so.
5. The selected judge's name will be listed in the Premium List and the Judging Schedule, and a photo and biography will be in the catalog and on the Nationals website.

All acknowledgements and communications between the Futurity/Maturity Secretary will be made via email, except when an individual participant requests otherwise.

Adopted: 1994

Revised: Oct. 7, 1995, Oct. 5, 1997, Oct. 6, 2001, Feb. 9, 2005, Mar. 28, 2007, Mar. 27 2008, April 10, 2008, April 18, 2010, April 2, 2011, Oct. 22, 2011, April 2012, April 25, 2013, Nov. 21, 2014, Feb 13, 2019, Feb 19, 2020, Dec 15, 2022, February 16, 2026