

# **TILDEN LIVESTOCK SCHOLARSHIP ASSOCIATION**

## **McMullen County Jr. Livestock Show 2025-2026**

### **RULES & REGULATIONS**

**Show Dates January 21-23, 2026**

Tilden Livestock Scholarship Association's (TLSA) sole purpose is to serve the youth of McMullen County. TLSA will make decisions and conduct business based on the morals and ethics emphasized by our youth organizations, 4-H and FFA.

The TLSA Board will continue to make last-minute decisions as deemed necessary. Our sincere desire is to ensure that as many of our youth can participate as possible.

## **TILDEN LIVESTOCK SCHOLARSHIP ASSOCIATION RULES**

### **GENERAL RULES SHOW**

#### **DATE**

**Revised March 26, 2025**

**January 21–23, 2026**

- 1) It is the responsibility of each family member to read and understand the rules herein. By signing the validation form and/or willingly participating in, or allowing youth in your home to participate in, the TLSA livestock show, you agree to have read and agree to follow these rules.
- 2) Competition is open to all 4-H, FFA and Jr. FFA members who are either enrolled in McMullen County ISD (MCISD) or reside in McMullen County and have met their respective club guidelines. Youth must be enrolled in school for the current year, regularly attend classes, and be currently enrolled in McMullen 4-H or Tilden FFA no later than October 1<sup>st</sup>. Each exhibitor and substitute exhibitor must meet the guidelines set forth in the Texas Education Code. All animals must meet the regulations governing admissions of livestock into shows set by the Texas Animal Health Commission.
- 3) In the event that an exhibitor's project dies or becomes disabled, and he/she does not have an extra animal of the same species already validated and on feed, they will be allowed to switch to an alternate project before the alternate project's validation date (exception-rabbits and chickens).
- 4) Each exhibitor will be allowed to show as many as three (3) market animal projects, with a limit of two (2) in each species, with the exception of rabbits and chickens. Exhibitors may only show one pen of rabbits. Exhibitors may only show one pen of chickens. Exhibitors may also show one (1) breeding animal per class. Breeding animals will not count toward an exhibitor's maximum number of market animal projects.
- 5) Any market animal exhibitor entered in a junior livestock show in another county will forfeit the privilege to show in the Tilden Livestock Scholarship Association (TLSA) show. This will cause the forfeiture of any auction proceeds due the exhibitor should he/she enter and/or participate in another county show held after the TLSA show. In the event of the above, or if an exhibitor enters and/or participates in another county show after auction proceeds have been distributed, he/she will permanently forfeit the privilege to participate in the TLSA show.
- 6) A validation fee per project validated will be set by the Board prior to validation. A validation form signed by the exhibitor and parent/guardian will be due at time of validation. Signatures on validation form(s) indicate the exhibitor and parent/guardian have read, understand, and will follow all show rules. Animals should be family validated. Please ensure all youth names are on each project validation form.
- 7) Validation
  - a) All projects must be brought to the show barn, or designated place(s), on the date specified for validation to be weighed and validated as specified in the rules.
  - b) Any animal not validated on time will be ineligible to show.
  - c) Exhibitors of beef, swine, lambs and goats will receive a receipt at the time of validation showing the weight (if applicable), tag number(s) of their animal(s) and shall sign said receipt. By signing the validation paperwork, the family agrees that they have read, understand and will abide by all TLSA rules.
  - d) All youth and families will sign the ethics form provided by Texas Validation.
  - e) All projects must have a county tattoo excluding swine and poultry.

- f) Lost ear tags and illegible tattoos must be reported to be your advisors within two (2) business/school days.
  - g) All applicable animal registration papers must be presented at validation. (e.g. – breed registration papers required for either official identification purposes or as required for major show validation)
  - h) If a market animal has been validated in this show in McMullen County in the previous year it is ineligible to show at our County Show.
- 8) All projects must be owned, in the care of, and at the residence of the exhibitor or at the TLSA livestock pens at the time of validation. Exhibitors must get prior approval by the TLSA Board to house a project at any location other than their residence. Request may or may not be approved. Violation of this rule will result in the exhibitor not being able to participate in the show. The project must be under the daily care of the exhibitor upon validation of the project and remain under the exhibitor's care the entire feeding time. Youth advisors and/or TLSA Board members may conduct unannounced site visits.
- 9) All projects must be clean, slick shorn as per species show rules, and in their assigned pen by the assigned time indicated on the official show schedule. If the exhibitor's animals are not in the assigned pen by the designated time, the animal(s) will be sifted.
- 10) There will be no clipping in the barn after 11:59 PM, the night before the show. Clipping will only be allowed in the designated clipping area.
- 11) Weigh-in
- a) No re-weighs will be allowed after official weigh-in starts. Those projects not meeting their weight requirements during their designated weigh-in time will be sifted.
  - b) See the official schedule for weigh-in times.
  - c) Times are subject to change.
  - d) All projects submitted for weigh-in must be clean, as determined by the Board members.
  - e) Any effort to put artificial fill in and/or on an animal is prohibited prior to weigh in.
  - f) It is the responsibility of the exhibitor to get their animal(s) weighed-in on time; those that are not will be sifted and will not be allowed to show or sell.
  - g) Market animal projects will be called to weigh-in by pen number and in the order determined by the division superintendent in an effort to minimize congestion and potential injury to animals and exhibitors. Exhibitors must present their project for weigh-in only when called. Exhibitors with projects having the same weigh-in time will be called in an order allowing for weigh-in of all projects.
  - h) After weigh-in, all projects must be in a stall or pen on the premises and remain in place until they are released. Animals may be exercised on the premises. Animals will be released immediately after they show. Animals placing 1st or 2nd must stay until the conclusion of the Champion Drive. Youth selected for Showmanship will keep animals on the premises until the conclusion of the Showmanship class.
  - i) All sifted animals must be removed from the show barn.
  - j) Proof of validation must accompany the animal at weigh in.

- 12) Pens will be assigned by the TLSA Board members for each exhibitor. All stalls and pens must be kept clean at all times, with animal waste material disposed of as the TLSA Board or advisors may direct. Pens must be cleaned out before leaving show grounds or a \$50 fine will be deducted from the exhibitor's sale check.
- 13) An exhibitor that is unable to show due to illness, or other approved reason, may get a substitute exhibitor to show for them. The substitute exhibitor must meet all eligibility requirements set forth by TLSA as indicated in General Rule #2. Substitute exhibitors are not eligible to compete in showmanship. All substitutes must fill out the substitution form and submit to the Board for approval.
- 14) All exhibitors must be present and enter the show ring with their animal when their class is called. If not present, the animal shall not show and shall not sell.
- 15) Restraint / Unruly Animals:
  - a) Exhibitor, patron, and livestock safety are a top priority. Therefore, Show Management/Livestock Committee Leadership/Ring Stewards may remove any unruly animal from the show at any time; there will be no appeal.
  - b) Cattle must be shown with halter (except for commercial heifers) and be sufficiently gentle to be properly handled by one attendant.
  - c) If exhibition of a project poses a danger to the exhibitor and/or other parties, Show Management reserves the right to remove the project from competition. In some cases, projects may be instructed to be removed from the grounds.
- 16) Cable Halters are prohibited for all species.
- 17) TLSA reserves the right to drug test any animal.
- 18) Sale
  - a) Exhibitors may only sell one market project entry. If the stock show operations office is not notified five (5) minutes after the last market show is complete, the exhibitor's highest placing animal will sell.
  - b) In the event that an exhibitor wins more than one championship, the youth must decide which to sell and inform the board within 5 minutes of the conclusion of the last market class of the show.
  - c) A 5% commission fee will be deducted from the gross sale amount of each animal/pen sold.
  - d) No animals will be present for the sale.
  - e) All substitutes must fill out the substitution form to the Board for approval within a minimum of 2 hours prior to the sale.
  - f) No buyer gifts in the sale ring.
- 19) Each exhibitor must turn in Thank You letters in accordance with the instructions given club advisors by TLSA. Exhibitors shall turn in Thank You letters by the due dates set by the Board or forfeit 50% of the sale price of their animal. Letters must be received in unsealed, stamped, and addressed envelopes, before checks will be released to the exhibitor. A list with the names and addresses of buyers and donors will be provided to each exhibitor.

- 20) Exhibitors who are transfer students must remain enrolled in MCISD to receive their proceeds from the auction. If not enrolled at the time livestock checks are distributed, the transfer exhibitor will forfeit all proceeds. The transfer exhibitor will not be eligible to show in the McMullen County Livestock Show if they re-enroll at MCISD. If the transfer exhibitor is enrolled at MCISD at the time livestock checks are distributed and checks out of MCISD before the end of the school year, the transfer exhibitor will not be eligible to show in the McMullen County Livestock Show if he/she re-enrolls for the following school year.
- 21) PROTESTS: All protests regarding the TLISA show, regardless of time of year, must be in writing and accompanied by a \$200.00 cash deposit, which will be forfeited if the protest is not sustained. Such protest must state plainly the cause of the complaint or appeal and must be delivered to the Tilden Livestock Scholarship Association Board President. If the protest is launched at the show, the protest must be received within one (1) hour of the protested event. Judging procedures will not be interrupted for protest investigation; and, depending on the basis of the withheld until a thorough investigation process is completed. All costs incurred in the investigation process shall be the sole responsibility of the party bringing the complaint. If the protest is sustained (ruled in your favor), the deposit will be refunded.
- 22) Selection of Champions for large animal divisions will be selected from the first-place winners in each class. The Reserve Champion will be selected from the remaining class winners plus the second-place winner from the class that the Grand Champion came from.
- 23) The Board reserves the final and absolute right to interpret these rules and arbitrarily settle and determine all matters, questions, and differences in regard thereto, and the right to amend or add to these rules as its judgment may determine. An exhibitor who violates any of these rules will forfeit all privileges and premiums.

### **SHOWMANSHIP RULES**

1. The showmanship judge will, at his/her discretion, select youth to be called back for showmanship in each large animal species division.
2. Showmanship will be divided into two classes based on the age of the exhibitor.
  - Junior: grades 3-7
  - Senior: grades 8-12
3. There must be a minimum of five (5) entries in the age division to make a showmanship class.
4. Showmanship awards will be awarded in the beef cattle, swine, goat, lamb, and Poultry divisions.
5. Exhibitors for showmanship will be judged on (a) how well the animal is groomed, (b) how well the animal is trained, (c) how well the exhibitor shows or exhibits the animal, and (d) how well the exhibitor is groomed.
6. Awards for showmanship will vary depending on sponsorship.
7. Exhibitor must show their own animal for showmanship.

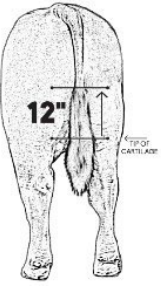
## **DRESS CODE RULES**

These rules apply to exhibitors and substitute exhibitors in the show and sale ring(s):

- Long sleeved button up shirts are required. Shirttails must be tucked in.
- No T-shirts or polo shirts will be allowed.
- No shorts, tennis shoes, or canvas shoes.
- Footwear must be western style and leather in appearance.
- No chewing gum or tobacco products.
- Sweaters, vest, sport coats and blazers are acceptable.
- Cowboy hats no caps.

## MARKET STEER RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. Steers must be validated in June, in conjunction with the validation deadline for major shows, on a date set by the Board.
2. There is no minimum starting weight; however, steers must weigh a minimum of 900 pounds at the time of the weigh-in. All animals not meeting these weight requirements will be sifted.
3. Steers must be dehorned and completely healed prior to show, polled or scurred. Scur growth must not exceed three inches from the base of the head.
4. **Fitting:**
  - a) Steers must be shorn to no more than 1/4" on any location of the body, excluding the tail switch. The tail switch may be no more than 12 inches above the end of the cartilage of the tail.
  - b) Foreign material including (but not limited to) painting, powdering, oiling, artificial coloring, or adhesives is prohibited.
  - c) Touch-up clipping will be allowed.
5. Steers will be weighed at the show during the specified weigh-in time and be divided into classes as evenly as possible based on the weights and/or the number of steers exhibited that year. Each exhibitor is responsible for getting his/her steer to the scales on time.
6. Steers must be shown with a halter. Cable halters or other severe control devices are prohibited.



## RULES FOR BREEDING HEIFER PROJECTS

1. Breeding heifer validation will be in October as set by the TLSA-Board.
2. Heifers must be tagged with official ID (metal NUES or 840 series RFID) by validation date. If registered, registration tattoo and/or fire brand will suffice provided the breed registration papers accompany the heifers at validation.
3. Health requirements:
  - a) Pregnancy status and/or reproductive soundness must be verified by a licensed veterinarian and reported on a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI) dated **within 30 days of the show, indicating pregnancy status**. The CVI must include the address in which the animal resides. Ownership must also be accurately recorded on the CVI.
  - b) The CVI must also include official permanent ID number(s) or breed registration firebrands or tattoos provided the registration papers (or copies) accompany the CVI.
  - c) See General Rule #2 regarding Texas Animal Health Commission requirements.
4. Heifers over 24 months of age must be confirmed pregnant within 30 days or have a calf at side. No heifers over 30 months will be allowed to show.
5. Breeding heifers must be shown at halter. Cable halters or other severe control devices are prohibited.
6. Heifers will be shown "blow and go" with no adhesive, painting or dying allowed.
7. Breeding heifers will be checked in during market beef weigh-in.

8. Heifers can be sold by private treaty only; they will not go into the sale.
9. Showmanship class will be combined with the Market Beef Showmanship class.

### **RULES FOR MARKET GOAT PROJECTS**

1. Goat projects must be validated in October, on a date set by the Board to coincide with validation for major shows.
2. All market goats must be weighed-in for the show at the time specified by the Board. There will be a minimum weight of 50 pounds. There will not be a maximum weight. Goats not meeting the weight requirements will be sifted.
3. All goats must be castrated males or unbred females and horns must be tipped. They will be divided into classes as evenly as possible depending on weight and number of market goat entries for that year.
4. Goats must be shorn slick with 3/8 inch of hair or less from knee & hock up, except for the tail.
5. Goats cannot be shown with a lead rope or leash. They may be shown with a collar and/or halter without a lead attached
6. All animals requiring official identification must be identified at validation.

### **RULES FOR MARKET LAMB PROJECTS**

1. Each lamb will be validated in October, on a date set by the Board to coincide with market lamb validation for major shows.
2. All lambs will be weighed for the show at the time specified by the Board. There will be a minimum weight of 90 pounds. There will not be a maximum weight. Animals not meeting these weights will be sifted.
3. Lambs must be shown free of halters and leads.
4. Lambs must be slick shorn.
5. All animals requiring official identification must be identified at validation.

### **RULES FOR MARKET SWINE PROJECTS**

1. Market swine projects must be validated in November on a date set by the Board.
2. Market swine projects may be a barrow or gilt.
3. All swine projects must be weighed at the show during the specified time period and be divided into classes as evenly as possible, depending on weight and number of entries that year.



4. Swine must weigh a minimum of 200 pounds and not more than a maximum of 280 pounds at weigh-in. Animals not meeting the weight requirement will be sifted.

### **RULES FOR BROILER PROJECTS**

1. Birds must be validated six (6) weeks prior to show on a date set by the Board.
2. All birds must be ordered through the Advisor or County Agent. Each exhibitor must order a minimum of 25 chicks.
3. All birds must be free of disease and parasites. All birds must meet the USDA Grade A standards. <https://www.ams.usda.gov/grades-standards/poultry-and-poultry-products-grades-and-standards>
4. There will be a minimum weight requirement of three (3) pounds per bird.
5. Lost wing bands must be reported to your advisor within five (5) days of loss.
6. Birds will be shown as a pen of three (3). Each exhibitor can enter one pen.

### **RULES FOR MARKET RABBIT PROJECTS**

1. Rabbits will be weighed, ears tattooed and validated on a date set by the Board, sometime after the middle of December. Note: There will not be a breeding class.
2. Exhibitors are responsible for ordering and purchasing their own rabbits. A list of rabbit breeders will be posted on the TLSA website.
3. Rabbits must be shown in a pen of three (3). Each exhibitor can enter one pen.
4. Rabbits should weigh between three (3) and five and a half (5.5) pounds at the designated weigh-in time at the show.
5. Rabbits should be no older than 70 days and must be on feed and in the exhibitor's possession for the entire feeding period.

### **RULES FOR COMMERCIAL HEIFERS**

1. Exhibitors must follow all general TLSA Show Rules.
2. The class will be open to heifers, commercial or registered, open or pregnant. Heifers over 24 months of age must be confirmed pregnant.
3. Validation:
  - a) Commercial heifer validation will be in October as set by the TLSA Board. Validation fees (see General Rule 6) must be paid at validation.
  - b) Exhibitor may validate up to five (5) heifers but a pen of three (3) will be exhibited.

- c) Heifers may be family validated. Family must own the heifers at the time of validation.
  - d) Heifers must be Brucellosis calfhood vaccinated, tattooed with “RV#” and tagged with official ID (840 series RFID) by validation date. If registered, a registration tattoo and/or fire brand will suffice as official identification provided the breed registration papers accompany the heifers.
4. Heifers will be judged as replacement heifers.
  5. The Commercial Heifer Record Book provided by TLSA must be completed and submitted for judging. The Record Book can be found on the TLSA website.
  6. Pregnancy status and/or reproductive soundness must be verified by a licensed veterinarian and reported on a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI) dated **within 30 days of show**. Ownership and animal place of residence must be accurately recorded on CVI.
  7. Market value will be used to determine the value of home-raised heifers at the beginning of the project (validation date). At project end, a cost of production report (included in the Record Book) will be evaluated by the judge.
  8. All paperwork, including the Record Book, must be complete and turned in to the TLSA Board at the time designated by the TLSA Board, which will typically be the final mandatory “clean-up” day prior to the TLSA Livestock Show.
  9. Each exhibitor may exhibit one (1) pen of heifers.
  10. Evaluation of emergency situations/extenuating circumstances will be interpreted by the TLSA Board.

**Scoring Breakdown:**

- Heifers.....100 points
- Record Book... ..75 points
- Interview .....75 points

**Heifers Criteria:**

- Quality/condition.....30
- Structural soundness.....20
- Femininity... ..20
- Uniformity.....10
- Temperament .....10
- Frame Size for age .....10

**Record Book Criteria:**

**\*\*All exhibitors must use the Commercial Heifer Record Book provided by TLSA, as is\*\***

- Overall content.....25
- Record keeping... ..25
- Profitability... ..15
- 2 required photographs of heifers.....5
- Signatures.....5

**Interview Criteria:**

- Appearance of the exhibitor/first impression... ..15
- Projection of voice/communication skills/eye contact.....25
- Knowledge of project.....25
- General cattle industry knowledge .....10

