Tennessee Cattlemen's Youth Association
2027 Tennessee's Top Tier Rules

Tennessee's Top Tier (TTT) is a youth program of the Tennessee Cattlemen's Association (TCA) and Tennessee Cattlemen's Youth Association (TCYA) that exclusively recognizes and rewards TCYA members for their participation and placings through a series of sanctioned junior cattle shows. The TTT program is designed to increase youth involvement at junior cattle shows in Tennessee, promote commitment to the cattle industry at a young age, and allow youth the opportunity to network with their peers and industry leaders.

1. **Exhibitor Eligibility**

   Exhibitor eligibility is limited to Tennessee residents who are enrolled in 4th through 12th grades as of January 1, 2027, and are paid members of the Tennessee Cattlemen's Youth Association (TCYA). To be eligible for the TTT program, participants must be in good financial standing with TCA. TTT participants must continue to be in good financial standing with TCA to be eligible to receive TTT awards and to be listed in the TTT final points.

2. **TCYA Membership**

   To receive points, an exhibitor must be a paid member of TCYA. Membership dues must be paid before points can be accumulated and must remain up to date to continue receiving TTT points throughout the program year. Youth memberships are $10, annually. Every reasonable effort will be taken by TCA to remind members to renew their membership; however, it is up to the member to keep their membership up to date. Every TCYA member with up-to-date membership is eligible to participate in their showmanship division. They do not have to complete a nomination form if they are just competing in showmanship.

3. **Animal Nomination & Enrollment**

   - To receive TTT points, TTT Exhibitors must complete the nomination form and pay a $20.00 per head nomination fee. The nomination form and fee only have to be submitted **one-time** for the show season. TTT participants must nominate their animals in the Top Tier program 15 days (postmarked if mailing) prior to the show date set forth by the first show from which they wish to start receiving points with that animal. Since Tennessee Beef Agribition does not have an early entry deadline, nominations must be postmarked 15 days prior to the show. Cattle can be nominated at any point during the TTT program year.
   - Nominations must be submitted on the official Tennessee's Top Tier nomination form. By signing the TTT nomination form, TTT exhibitors, parents, and others acting on behalf of the exhibitor agree that they have read the rules and agree to abide by all TTT rules.

- ***NEW this year:** Printable nomination forms and an online form option can be found at www.tncattle.org/tennessee-s-top-tier. For the online form option, there will be a link to pay online and submit required paperwork. If you would like to use the online nomination form, but mail in a check and/or required documents, please make sure you select that option on the online form. Nomination paper forms, required documents, and fees must be mailed to: Tennessee Cattlemen's Association c/o Tennessee's Top Tier 530B Brandies Circle Murfreesboro, TN 37128.

4. Sanctioned Shows

4a. Each sanctioned show will select Top 5 Steers and Top 5 Heifers. It is up to the individual show to determine if they give additional awards.

- ***NEW this year:** Each sanctioned show will select a TTT breed grand and reserve champions and a TTT overall Top 5 heifers and steers. At the conclusion of each breed show, if the grand and reserve are not nominated for TTT in accordance with the rules and set forth herein, the judge shall select a TTT breed grand and reserve champion. For steers, this will be at the class level. At the conclusion of the supreme drive for the show, the judge will select a TTT overall top 5 heifers and steers. It is the sole responsibility of the exhibitor to be ringside during the selection of the show's top 5 drives. In the event that the exhibitor is not on standby at the time of shows drive, they may be precluded from the TTT supreme drive.

4b. Each sanctioned show (that offers showmanship) will include five showmanship divisions, and place 1st through 5th. It is up to the individual show to determine the awards, if any, are given.

4c. All exhibitors MUST follow the rules outlined by each individual show. TCA/TCYA will not be responsible for the formulation or enforcement of individual show rules. These are the sole responsibility of the show management. If there is a question or discrepancy regarding the show or show rules, exhibitors should contact show management directly. TCA/TCYA do not manage any of the sanctioned shows.

4d. The 2026-2027 points circuit begins on Saturday, December 5, 2026, at the Rocky Top Classic and ends August 19-28, 2027, at the Wilson County / Tennessee State Fair. The circuit will consist of the following shows:

Show	Date	Location *(subject to change)*	Contact
UTK Rocky Top Classic	Saturday, December 5, 2026	Brehm Animal Science Building *Knoxville, TN*	Max Richardson
MTSU B&B Preview Show	Saturday, February 20, 2027	MTSU Tennessee Livestock Center *Murfreesboro, TN*	Dr. Jessica Carter
Tennessee Beef Agribition ***No showmanship***	Sunday, March 14, 2027	James E. Ward Agricultural Center *Lebanon, TN*	Sonya Wright Jamie Nicholson
Cumberland Mountain Showdown	Saturday, April 3, 2027	Bledsoe County Fairgrounds *Pikeville, TN*	Brian Wyatt
West TN Spring Klassic	Saturday, April 10, 2027	Obion County Fairgrounds *Union City, TN*	William Pitts
UTM AGR Sickle & Sheaf Showdown	Sunday, April 11, 2027	Obion County Fairgrounds *Union City, TN*	Chas Rowlett
Shelbyville Showdown	Saturday, April 17, 2027	Bedford County Fairgrounds *Shelbyville, TN*	Julie Phillips
Knoxville Spring Junior Cattle Show	Saturday, May 1, 2027	Appalachian Fairgrounds *Gray, TN*	Aaron Fisher
Eiffel Tower Classic Cattle Show	Saturday, May 8, 2027	Henry County Fairgrounds *Paris, TN*	Angela Wilson
Tennessee Junior Beef Expo	Friday & Saturday, July 9- July 10, 2027	James E. Ward Agricultural Center *Lebanon, TN*	Aaron Fisher
Wilson Co.- Tennessee State Fair ***No showmanship & heifers only***	August 19-August 28, 2027	James E. Ward Agricultural Center *Lebanon, TN*	Sonya Wright Jamie Nicholson

*Wilson Co.- Tennessee State Fair- points will be accumulated from the Junior show only.

5. Show Your Own Animal for TTT Points

To receive points, animals must be shown by their owner. An exception is made if the TTT participant (1) owns two or more animals that are in the same class or (2) has two different animals that are both showing simultaneously in adjacent rings. In these two scenarios, another junior, who is eligible for participation at the show, may exhibit the second animal and the participant would still receive TTT points for both animals. When the class conflict is over and for championship drives, the actual TTT participant must return to showing their own animal to retain the points earned. **Additionally, for showmanship purposes, the exhibitor must show their own animal or a sibling's animal to receive points.**

TTT exhibitors who are physically unable to show their animal may ask another TTT exhibitor or have a family member who meets the age requirements for the TTT program to show their animal, but the unable TTT

participant must be present at the show to earn TTT points. The TTT exhibitor must seek prior approval from show officials first and the Tennessee Cattlemen's Association second.

University of Tennessee Extension Tennessee 4-H/FFA Livestock Lease Agreement- If a participant is using this lease agreement, a copy of the lease form must be submitted with the nomination form. The same rules will apply as to once the lease agreement is submitted to TCA, the points accumulated with that calf are not transferable to another participant.

6.Breed/Class Qualifications

6a. Exhibitors must have original registration papers at the time of check-in. Registration papers must meet national breed eligibility requirements to be accepted. No copies will be accepted. Original registration certificates must be in the name of the junior exhibitor exhibiting the animal.

6b. Steers and commercial heifers must have a legible tattoo that corresponds with the tattoo on their TTT nomination form and be tagged with an EID tag. Registered heifers must also have a legible tattoo that corresponds with the tattoo on their TTT nomination form and breed registration papers and be tagged with an EID tag.

6c. Cattle are subject to having their registration papers, tattoos, and EID tags checked at any point during TTT sanctioned shows, by shows officials and/or TTT/TCA officials. If the animal's information does not correspond with the information on file and/or the tattoo is illegible and/or the EID tag appears to be altered or incorrect, no points will be given and show officials may prohibit the animal from showing.

6d. A heifer can only receive points in one division, breed or commercial/crossbred. An animal cannot be shown as a commercial/crossbred one week and a breed animal the next week and maintain two sets of points. Their points will be counted for the declared breed on their TTT nomination form.

6e. In the event that a TTT sanctioned show does not have enough head to create a breed show for your animal, you must show in the All-Other Breeds category to still be eligible for breed points. IF a breed category for your animal is offered, you MUST show in your respective breed. Failure to do so will result in no points being earned.

6f. All cattle showing in a TTT sanctioned show MUST be tagged with an EID ear tag before arriving at their first TTT show. The primary method of identification for all cattle exhibiting in the state of Tennessee is their EID tag. This will also serve as the TTT program nominated cattle's TTT number throughout the season. The secondary method of identification will be tattoo, and for registered animals their breed registration number.

7.Points System

7a. Point totals will be kept for each individual animal.

7b. TTT participants will receive points for ALL of their animals that are nominated in the TTT program at each show.

7c. If a TTT nominated animal is sold during the show season, the points are not transferable. Animals may be re-nominated under the new owner.

7d. If the animal(s) and/or person(s) that place above you are not eligible for TTT points, you will still receive the points for the placing that you received, except for the TTT Top 5 Steers and Heifer as noted above.

7e. If the sanctioned shows deem that showmanship heats are necessary, participants are selected to move from the heat will receive 3 points in addition to showmanship points listed below.

7f. Points will be awarded as follows:

A. Showmanship

Division	Age
Explorer	4th Grade
Junior	5th-6th Grade
Junior-High	7th-8th Grade
Senior I	9th-10th Grade
Senior II	11th-12th Grade

Placing	Point Value
1	15 Points
2	13 Points
3	11 Points
4	9 Points
5	7 Points
Participation	6 Points

B. Heifer & Steers

Class Points

Placing	Point Value
1	5 Points
2	4 Points
3	3 Points
4	2 Points
5	1 Point
Participation	5 Points

Top 5 Overall Points

Placing	Point Value
Supreme	30 Points
Res. Supreme	25 Points

3rd Overall	20 Points
4th Overall	15 Points
5th Overall	10 Points

Breed Champion Points

Placing	Point Value
Champion	15 Points
Reserve	10 Points

8. Minimum & Maximum Point Accumulation

Minimum: To be eligible for year end points awards, the TCA member must exhibit at **THREE** or more sanctioned point shows.

Maximum: The total number of shows calculated in the year-end point totals will vary based on the division (steers, heifers, showmanship). Each exhibitor's/animal's **lowest FOUR (4) shows** will be dropped per division. See the breakdown below for the number of shows that will count per division. As an exhibitor, you may attend more than the number of shows being counted for points, however, only your best sets of points will count. The purpose of counting a maximum number of shows per division (or dropping shows) is to account for an "off day" that an exhibitor might have had in the show ring, or account for when an exhibitor must miss a show due to a parent working, a school event, sports game, family event, sickness, injury, etc.

Maximum Number of Shows Counted per division:
Total number of Heifer Shows = 11, Count each exhibitor's best 7
Total number of Steer Shows = 10, Count each exhibitor's best 6
Total number of Showmanship Shows = 9, Count each exhibitor's best 5

9. Year-End Awards

End of the year awards will be presented during the TCA Youth Awards Banquet. Award recipients will be notified in advance with banquet details, including location, date/time, etc. Awards will be presented for the following:

a. Top 5 showmanship in each division
b. Top 5 overall heifers
c. Top 5 overall steers
d. Top 2 heifers in each of the following breeds: Angus, Charolais, Chi/ChiAngus, Hereford, Limousin, Red Angus, Shorthorn, ShorthornPlus, Simmental, % Simmental, Commercial, AOB

If a breed is not listed above, it will fall into the AOB category for end of year awards. If a sponsor would like to recognize a breed not listed, they are welcome to reach out to TCA to sponsor that specific breed for year-end awards for $150. This donation must reach the TCA office within 60 days of the set banquet date.

*All breeds listed will be reviewed each year and are subject to change from year to year.

e. Top 2 Tennessee Bred Heifers (***To be eligible for the Top 2 Tennessee Bred Heifers the breed registration papers submitted with your nomination must demonstrate that your heifer was solely raised by a Tennessee breeder. Commercial heifers and steers are not eligible).

f. ***NEW this year:** Top 2 Tennessee Bred & Owned Heifer (**To be eligible for Top 2 Tennessee Bred & Owned, the submitted registration papers that are submitted with the nomination form MUST have the exhibitors name listed as BREEDER. For breeds that allow multiple siblings listed as breeder, the participant listed on the nomination form must be listed as a BREEDER that is submitted with the registration paper will only receive the points. Commercial heifers and steers are not eligible).

*The TN Bred Heifers and the Tennessee Bred & Owned Heifers will be separated into categories. You will not be eligible to win both TN Bred Heifer and TN Bred & Owned.

10. Exhibitor Code of Conduct

All Tennessee's Top Tier exhibitors, their family members, and others acting on behalf of the exhibitor must display good sportsmanship and act courteously at all sanctioned shows. TTT exhibitors are encouraged to exhibit their animals in collared shirts to promote professionalism and uphold the integrity of the show ring environment. Unsportsmanlike conduct will be referred to the TCA Committee for appropriate action, if the committee deems it necessary. Unsportsmanlike conduct may include but is not limited to physical actions, threats, or outbursts of profanity. Committee action is not limited to the following but may result in the exhibitor found in violation to lose points for a show, lose multiple show points, and/or being banned from current or future participation in the program. By signing the TTT nomination form, exhibitors, parents, and others acting on behalf of the exhibitor agree to abide by all TTT rules, including the Exhibitor Code of Conduct. The decision of the Committee regarding unsportsmanlike conduct shall be final. It is important to remember that TCA is not responsible for the individual shows on the TTT circuit. If you have an issue while at a TTT show, you should consult show management directly.

11. Complaint/ Protest Procedure

Any individual who seeks to file a complaint or protest regarding a perceived infraction of a TTT rule must submit a fee of $250 to the Tennessee Cattlemen's Association. The fee must be submitted at the time the

protest is filed. It is the responsibility of the individual filing the protest to provide ALL evidence in support of their protest. TCA will not release the name of the individual filing the protest. The fee shall be refunded if the D4.02.14.54 6 protest is sustained by TCA. Should other parties be found in violation of the rules, TCA will take appropriate action regarding the situation. Action is not limited to the following but may result in exhibitor found in violation to lose points for the animal in violation, lose points for a show, lose multiple show points, and/or be barred from receiving show challenge points. Following an exhibitor's 2nd infraction, the exhibitor will be disqualified from the TTT program for the remainder of the program year. The decision of TCA regarding the protest shall be final. TCA also reserves the right to review any potential rule violation without a **$250** complaint filing.

12. Point Disputes

After TCA show point files are posted to the Tennessee Cattlemen's Association website, members have five business days to dispute the report. At the end of five business days (5:00 p.m. CST), the points for that reporting period become final. All disputes must be submitted in writing via email to *taylor@tncattle.org.*

13. TCA Website/ Social Media

During the 2026-2027 show season, current point standings will be posted on the Tennessee Cattlemen's Association website, www.tncattle.org. This site will include information and rules on the Tennessee Top Tier program. It will also provide information and a link to each sanctioned show, including entry information. Additionally, when points have been posted, an announcement will be made on the official TCYA social media outlets. Other updates regarding early entry deadlines, nomination reminders, etc. will also be posted on TCYA social media. If the exhibitors email address is on file, they will receive a TTT update email periodically with program updates and reminders.

14. TCA Youth Committee

The TTT program is planned and governed by the TCA Youth Committee, however, all decisions are subject to approval by the TCA board of directors. The TCA President will appoint the committee chairman and committee members.

15. Committee Decisions

DNA is subject to being pulled should there be any discrepancy related to animal identification, age, ownership, etc. The decisions of the TCA Youth Committee and Officials, subject to the approval of Tennessee Cattlemen's Association board of directors, on all issues pertaining to the TTT program shall be final. The Tennessee Cattlemen's Association, Tennessee Cattlemen's Youth Association, Tennessee's Top Tier program, and other program sponsors are not responsible for accidents or sickness.

Questions? Contact Taylor Kaufman, Youth Programs Coordinator
taylor@tncattle.org OR (615) 896-2333

The Tennessee Cattlemen's Association reserves the right to alter, amend, update, or otherwise adjust rules of the Tennessee Top Tier Program as necessary. Every effort will be made to remain consistent and fair to all individuals participating in the program. The Tennessee Cattlemen's Association and all sponsors of the program are not liable for any injury or loss which may occur by exhibitors participating in these events.