

# **Blue Texel Sheep Society**

## **Selected Bye-Laws**

Volume I – April 2023

Council may review and amend bye-laws from time to time.

If you have any queries please contact the Society Office, or see the website [www.blue-texel-sheep.com](http://www.blue-texel-sheep.com)

### **1. MEMBERSHIP**

- 1.1 All Blue Texel Society members must have a registered prefix and flock letters.
- 1.2 The prefix may only be used for animals born within that flock - no two flocks will be allowed to register the same prefix or flock code (check with the Society that your chosen prefix / flock code is available).
- 1.3 All animals must be ear tagged and registered by the breeder prior to use, sale or transfer.
- 1.4 Pedigree Registration Certificates are issued in PDF format but can be sent in hard copy if requested. A Three generation pedigree certificate is provided for all registered animals.
- 1.5 Transfer of Ownership On the sale of pedigree stock, vendors please notify the transfer via the 'Online Registry' or fill in the details of the new owner on the tear off slip and return it to the Society. A transfer fee as, set out in these Bye Laws, is payable by the purchaser.
- 1.6 Breeders will not be able to register lambs to mothers which have not been transferred into their name.
- 1.7 Members will require their flock letters and a password in order to access the 'manage your own flock' section of the web site via the Online Flock Book which is available 'online' via the Blue Texel Sheep Society website. The site gives access to full pedigree information, and the option to: notify births, register stock, notify transfers and deaths/sale for meat, flag animals available for sale or hire. Registration Rates Payments for all registry services, including those done via the Online Registry are made to the Blue Texel Sheep Society.
- 1.8 Junior Membership is open to individuals under eighteen, when applying a parent /guardian name must be supplied. The Junior Member will not have any voting rights.
- 1.9 Joining Fee (including Prefix Registration): £10.00 + VAT
- 1.10 Annual Membership Subscription: £35.00 + VAT (with no extra charge for partnerships)

### **2. FLOCK BOOK REGISTRY**

- 2.1 The Society will maintain a flock book to record the registration of the pedigrees of male and female Blue Texel sheep owned by members of the Society.
- 2.2 A certificate of registration will be issued for each animal accepted and the animals details will be published in the Society 'Online' Registry. Registration fees will be decided by the Committee and must be paid at the time of application, or via a pre-arranged direct debit.
- 2.3 All registered sheep may be subject to inspection by a member of the Society Committee on a random basis. If any sheep is found not to conform to the relevant breed standard on inspection its registration may be withdrawn.
- 2.4 The Blue Texel Sheep Society Register is administered by Grassroots Systems Ltd on behalf of the Blue Texel Sheep Society.

### **3. REGISTRATION BYE-LAWS**

- 3.1 Registrations may only be made by a fully paid-up member of the Society with a registered prefix.
- 3.2 Applications should be made by the breeder that is the owner of the dam at the time of the birth of the animals to be registered.

- 3.3 Where this is not possible the Society may at its discretion accept an application from an owner other than the breeder, if the offspring is resulting from Embryo Transfer a copy of the Embryo Transfer paperwork is required.
- 3.4 Registration Applications shall be made on the appropriate form obtainable from the Society, or via the Online Registry, or by submitting an Excel report in the required format. Please apply to the Society for details.
- 3.5 Registered sheep should comply with breed standards.
- 3.6 All forms and certificates issued and received by, or on behalf of, the Society shall remain the property of the Society.
- 3.7 Lamb Registrations are open from 1 January onwards, it is discouraged that members lamb before this date, lambs born prior to this may incur an additional fee, or not be eligible for registration. Any members found to be giving false dates of birth on registration to accommodate this rule may have lambs deregistered and membership withdrawn without reimbursement of fees.
- 3.8 All applications and fees for registration must be received by 30 September in the year of birth for inclusion in the next edition of the Flock Book.
- 3.9 Both MV & Non MV sheep may be registered.
- 3.10 Payment of all fees should be made at the time of application unless there is a direct debit arrangement in place. Registration is not deemed to have been completed until payment has been received.
- 3.11 Please note: All lambs to be entered at Society sales must be Birth Notified and Fully Registered before sale entries are submitted, with the exception of spring ewe and lamb sales where lambs need only be birth notified prior to sale and fully registered, at cost to the vendor, if sold.
- 3.12 The Society urges its members to keep their records up to date – particularly those sheep that have been sold, culled or died.

#### 4. BIRTH NOTIFICATION AND REGISTRATION RULES AND FEES

##### 4.1 Birth Notification

All lambs MUST be at least notified, in their year of birth (January to December) in order to be eligible for full registration.

- i) Ram Lambs £2.00 + VAT      Ewe Lambs      £2.00 + VAT

##### 4.2 Full Pedigree Registration

###### i) January – September in year of birth

Ewe Lamb notified and registered at same time in year of birth £12.50 + VAT

Ram Lamb notified and registered at same time in year of birth £25.00 + VAT

###### ii) October – December in year of birth

Ewe Lamb notified and registered at same time in year of birth £14.50 + VAT

Ram Lamb notified and registered at same time in year of birth £27.50 + VAT

###### iii) Registering previously Notified - following the year of birth

Notified lambs may be registered by their breeder, at any time before 30 September in their second year.

###### January – September

Shearling Ewes £12.50 + VAT

Shearling Rams £25.00 + VAT

###### October – December

Shearling Ewes £25.00 + VAT

Shearling Rams £50.00 + VAT

iv) **Late Registrations - Only if previously Birth Notified**

- (a) Late registrations of previously Notified lambs may be accepted at the discretion of the Society for double registration fee
- (b) Late registration fee will apply to everyone that has failed to register or Birth Notify new-born lambs by 30 September that year.

Ewes            £25.00 + VAT

Rams    £50.00 + VAT

4.3 **Embryo Transfer Registrations:**

A copy of the signed embryo transfer paperwork is required before any resulting progeny can be registered.

4.4 **Lambs should not be submitted for registration under the following circumstances:**

Abnormalities including but not restricted to:

- (a) Over/Under shot jaws.
- (b) Twisted feet.
- (c) Poor conformation.
- (d) Blindness, blue, china or wall eyes, either total or partial.
- (e) Reproductive defects - i.e. rams without two sufficiently developed testicles apparent in a single scrotum.

4.5 **Pedigree Certificates**

Pedigree certificates are issued for information only. Registration / Pedigree Certificates are issued in PDF format but can be sent in hard copy if requested. Three generation pedigree certificates are provided for all registered animals. Pedigree certificates are issued for information only. All forms and certificates issued and received by, or on behalf of, the Society shall remain the property of the Society.

4.6 **Transfers - Transfer Fee £5.00 + VAT (Payable by the purchaser)**

Transfer of ownership may be processed either by returning the pedigree certificate and completed transfer form if available, by vendors or auctioneers processing transfers on-line via the Grassroots database, or providing proof of purchase of an animal. Proof of pedigree and ownership should be checked in the online registry which is updated daily.

**5. IMPORT REGISTRATIONS**

5.1 For an imported animal, its parents as a minimum must be registered with a bona-fide (Stamboek Blauwe Texelaar) or Zootech Recognised Society/Association in their country of origin. (This may be more than one country). If the said paperwork carries the correct information including a three generation Blue Texel pedigree from a recognised breeder, the sheep shall be eligible for registration.

5.2 Fee for both Male & Female Import Registration £50.00 + VAT

5.3 A copy of the import certificate is required at time of registration.

5.4 All imports Male & Female must be registered within 60 days of arrival.

5.5 The Society reserves the right to refuse any sheep not registered within the 60-day importation deadline.

5.6 The importer is the person listed on the documents and will be responsible for the full importation registration costs, unless arrangements are organised with the Blue Texel Society prior to importation. Such arrangement must be in writing to Society.

5.7 All agricultural importation documentation must be provided with registering sheep into the Blue Texel Sheep Society. Importer of the sheep must match the person requesting registration.

5.8 If any forgery of certificates or unlawful amendments to breeding information displayed on the certificate have been established for any sheep, these sheep and all offspring will either be refused

entry to the Flock Book or deregistered without any reimbursement of fees. The member responsible may also have their membership revoked without any reimbursement of fees.

## 6. APPEAL

- 6.1 If an application for registration is refused or withdrawn, the owner of the said sheep shall have the right of appeal to the Committee, which will appoint up to three members to inspect the animal and advise the Committee. Any decision made by the Committee will be final. Appeal to the Committee re an application for registration being refused or withdrawn. £250.00 + VAT to be paid by the owner of the animal.

## 7. IDENTIFICATION

- 7.1 Electronic Identification or EID - All Blue Texel Sheep will need to carry double ID tags, one of which must be electronic. The UK number and individual ID are recorded on the chip and also printed on the tag.
- 7.2 The secondary tag will show the UK number and individual ID and should also contain Society registered management information related to your flock. e.g. Flock number and year for example ABC 22 01234 etc shall be implemented as from 01/01/2024.
- 7.3 Please ensure that the Management number is always the same as the DEFRA/equivalent Government organisation, individual ID.
- 7.4 All sheep must be tagged before an application is made for registration. Members should check with DEFRA, or their equivalent Government organisation, that they also comply with current government tagging regulations.
- 7.5 All sheep to be tagged with EID in the left ear (as viewed from behind) and second tag in right ear in accordance with Government legislation.
- 7.6 In the event of any sheep losing its tag it must be re-tagged with the original number.
- 7.7 Any members found to be falsely tagging sheep may have the sheep deregistered and membership withdrawn without reimbursement of fees.



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## 8. RULES REGARDING ARTIFICIAL INSEMINATION

- 8.1 All processes connected with AI to be performed by qualified persons and to be completed in accordance with current legislation.
- 8.2 Any males used for artificial insemination need to be fully registered with the Society as well as the owner of the stud.
- 8.3 Certificate of service is to accompany the registration forms for lambs born by this method. This can be posted or sent electronically.

- 8.4 If the Flock is MV Accredited and resulting progeny is to enter an MV Flock, Embryos, Semen and Recipient ewes must also be MV accredited.

#### **9. RULES REGARDING EMBRYO TRANSPLANT**

- 9.1 All processes connected with embryo transplant ("ET") to be performed by qualified persons and to be completed in accordance with current legislation.
- 9.2 All donors and sires shall be registered with the Society prior to entering an embryo transplant program.
- 9.3 The ET technician is to provide a signed and dated certificate of implantation to the owner of the recipient ewe with ET clearly marked upon it. Details must include those of the recipient ewe and the number and parentage of the embryos implanted, and the contact details of technician. This paperwork must be submitted Before 31 January on year of birth, failure to submit the documentation before this date may result in double registration costs.
- 9.4 Certificate of implantation is to accompany the registration forms for lambs born by this method.
- 9.5 Lambs born by this method will have ET marked on their registration certificate and alongside their entry in the flock book.

#### **10. RULES REGARDING THE IMPORT OF FROZEN EMBRYOS AND SEMEN**

- 10.1 All rules regarding AI and ET above must be complied with.
- 10.2 Donor ewes and Sire of embryos must be registered with an appropriate breed Zootech recognised Society in the country of Origin. (Only resulting offspring that meet the Breed Standard may be registered, the Society may need to inspect offspring at the cost of the person(s) applying for registration).
- 10.3 Any members making an application to register offspring from imported frozen embryos or semen shall provide a copy to the Society of all information relating to the donor animals. The pedigree must include at least parents and grandparents as per an imported live animal.

#### **11. SHOWS AND SALES**

- 11.1 Trimming is freestyle but the use of artificial colouring, paint, sprays, chalk, etc. are not permitted.
- 11.2 Any members attempting to produce a more permanent change to the appearance of a sheep may be barred from Membership of the Society.
- 11.3 Members exhibiting at shows must obey the rules of the Show Society and the Blue Texel Sheep Society.
- 11.4 Only one Genuine Flock Dispersal Sale is permitted at any one Society Sale, these must be sold at the end of the Society Sale. If a member wishes to have a one-off reduction or production sale at a Society Sale, prior Society consent must be given, and these would have to be at the end of the Society Sale
- 11.5 As of 1 June 2022 no Private Production or Reduction Sales are permitted on the same day as Society Sale Venues
- 11.6 Only MV sheep can be exhibited in their appropriate class at Society Sales,
- 11.7 Only sheep of compliance with the breed standard may be shown or presented for Society Sales.
- 11.8 All sheep forward at Society Sales must be registered with the Blue Texel Sheep Society at least 3 weeks prior to entry and all registry fees paid.
- 11.9 All sheep forward will be the property of the Members of the Blue Texel Sheep Society.

- 11.10 Excessive entries at sales: The Committee reserves the right to govern the number of entries at Breed Sales (by means of reduction based on the percentage of registered stock within the seller's flock). This will be adequately described in the appropriate Sale Schedule.
- 11.11 Current Sale Entry Allowance: (per Vendors Flock Code)
- 11.12 Males: Maximum of 2 Aged Rams, 6 Shearling Rams & 3 Ram Lambs per sale
- 11.13 Females: Maximum of 10 Females per Class (Female entries are capped at an overall of 18 lots per sale)
- 11.14 Substitute entries must be notified no later than 24 hours before the sale unless the appropriate Sale Schedule gives a different time limit.
- 11.15 Substitute entries must be identified by a red dot between the shoulder blades. It is the responsibility of the vendor to notify the Society of ALL substitutions in order to avoid animals being transferred incorrectly.
- 11.16 The Committee may set minimum reserve (upset) prices for sale entries. Currently set at 200 gns.
- 11.17 Only two sheep per vendor in each class are permitted at Pre Sale Shows.
- 11.18 At the Championship line-ups the sheep that are placed second to the Champions in their classes should be brought forward when judging of the Reserve Champion takes place.
- 11.19 Should the Champion in any class not meet its reserve and therefore not be sold it will not be permitted to enter the show classes at other Official Breed Sales in the same calendar year if shown by the same vendor.
- 11.20 Only rosettes awarded at the relevant sale can be on display.
- 11.21 In-Lamb Ewe Sales: All rams specified as being the 'sire of' or 'having run with the ewe' must be registered with the Blue Texel Sheep Society in order for the progeny to be registered. Ewes running with unregistered rams shall be excluded from the sale.
- 11.22 All sheep sold at the In-Lamb Sales must be scanned in-lamb.
- 11.23 All sold animals must be transferred into the Blue Texel Sheep Society Flock Book to the new owner by the vendor.
- 11.24 NO offspring can be registered by the vendor of an animal sold at public auction.
- Unless:
- i) The resulting offspring are from embryos collected prior to sale and are accompanied by signed Embryo Transfer Paperwork. The flushing of the ewe MUST have been declared at the time of sale.
  - ii) The resulting offspring are from semen from a ram where semen collection/ ram use was declared time of sale.
- 11.25 If semen has been collected and retained by the vendor of either for personal use or for resale from rams being sold at Society Sales this must be declared in the catalogue and announced at time of sale and notified to the Society for inclusion in the registry database.
- 11.26 If a female sheep entered for a Society sale has been flushed this must be declared in the catalogue and at time of sale.
- 11.27 Showing sheep not for sale is not permitted.
- 11.28 Any interference with natural tooth growth is not permitted.
- 11.29 Private Sales where the Grassroots Software is needed to generate a catalogue a fee of £60.00 + VAT will be invoiced to the vendor.

## **12. PRE-SALE INSPECTIONS**

- 12.1 The Society Committee reserve the rights to appoint Society Sale Inspectors.

- 12.2 All entries to Society Sales to be made available for inspection prior to the Pre-Sale Show and/or sale. Sheep which, in the opinion of the Breed Inspectors, fail to meet the breed standards for characteristics and conformation or are unhealthy or injured will be excluded from the sale. No refund of entry fees will be made for sheep excluded from the Sale. Sheep which have been excluded shall be returned to their transport forthwith and not further exhibited for sale.
- 12.3 Sheep will be inspected on the day of the sale for Tags, Conformation, Locomotion, Breed Standard, Teeth, Testicles & Udder. If the Society Inspector rejects any sheep, they should be removed from the sale centre as soon as possible.
- 12.4 Rams' Testicles should be of even size, move freely and free of abnormalities.
- 12.5 Tags which do not comply with UK legislation and Society requirements will result in the sheep being rejected.
- 12.6 All sheep forward must be back stamped with the lot number, failure to do so will result in rejection.
- 12.7 Neck ties are permissible on the lambs from Ewe & Lamb outfits sold at ewe and lamb sales but the ewe must be backstamped.
- 12.8 Females - udders should be correct and free of abnormalities and working fully on both sides.
- 12.9 Sheep which have failed inspection must be removed from the market.
- 12.10 Sheep which have failed inspection will be identified with a green dot on back of the neck.
- 12.11 **The Official Society Inspectors Decision is final, regardless of if the sheep is accompanied with a valid veterinary health certificate.**

### **13. WARRANTY**

- 13.1 The Society shall adhere to the Livestock Auctioneers Association sale warranties.
- 13.2 Rams and Ram Lambs: All rams, including ram lambs, are warranted by the seller to be capable of natural and effective service within 100 days of the Sale. If at the expiration of the warranty period a ram is proven incapable of natural and effective service and within 14 days of the expiration of the warranty period a Veterinary Certificate is lodged with the Official Auctioneers confirming: The ram is incapable of performing a natural effective service; and The Veterinary Surgeon has inspected the Purchaser's ewes and found them to be in normal and in breeding condition; then the Purchaser may return the animal to the Seller and be fully reimbursed. Rams Testicles should be of even size, move freely and be free of abnormalities.

### **14. DNA TESTING**

- 14.1 The Society reserves the right to DNA Test any registered Blue Texel Sheep to generate profiles, this may be done at shows or sales to help Society build genetic profiles, verify parentage or offspring.

### **15. DISPUTES / MISCONDUCT**

The Committee shall have powers to investigate any claims of misconduct or disrepute, and to sanction any members so involved. If appealed, a bond of £250.00 shall be set and the dispute arbitrated by an independent body eg NSA (National Sheep Association). If unsuccessful, bond will be forfeited

- 15.1 If any member shall be guilty of any conduct which is in the opinion of the Council prejudicial to or not in the best interests of or likely to be prejudicial to or not in the best interests of the Society or to members thereof or if the Council is of the opinion that the continued membership of that member is not in the best interests of the Society such member may be liable to expulsion by a resolution of the Council.

- 15.2 At the meeting at which such resolution is to be proposed such member shall have had notice thereof and of the intended resolution for expulsion and the grounds thereof and at such meeting and before the resolution is put to the meeting the member shall have an opportunity of giving either orally or in writing any explanation or defence he may think fit.
- 15.3 In any case where any such resolution for expulsion is duly passed by Council the name of the member concerned shall forthwith be removed from the Register of Members.
- 15.4 A member so expelled shall not have any claim to a return of any money paid by him to the Society by way of annual subscription or otherwise.
- 15.5 Any Council member having any interest in the matter being dealt with shall declare their interest and should therefore not vote unless it affects all Council members equally.
- 15.6 No sanction may be imposed by Council until all the witnesses made known to Council have given their evidence and all the facts insofar as they are known, have been presented to and been considered by the Council members who are entitled to be present at the initial hearing.
- 15.7 A member shall have the right to be supported by a witness, or a family member, or a Society member. Legal representatives may not attend the initial hearing.
- 15.8 A member shall have the right to appeal against any sanction imposed by Council, in the first instance to an Appeals Panel consisting of the vice-chairman and two other Council members who shall not be present at, or take any part in the initial hearing, or have prior access to evidence, witness statements or any other relevant material.
- 15.9 A member shall have a right to a final appeal in person to the membership at a General Meeting of the Society where the members may decide by ordinary resolution to uphold or reject the decision of Council.

## **16. DISCLAIMER**

- 16.1 The Society is not responsible for the accuracy of any information which is provided by members.