



JACOB SHEEP SOCIETY LTD

A Company Limited by Guarantee and not having a share capital
and a Registered Charity

BYE-LAWS v5.6

These Bye-Laws are to be read in conjunction with and are complementary to the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Jacob Sheep Society Ltd ('the Society') and supersede all previous Bye-laws.

A reference in these Bye-laws to the Secretary includes any organisation or individual appointed by The Board to perform specific functions of the Secretary. At the date of these Bye-laws the organisation with responsibility for membership matters and flock book registrations is Grassroots Systems Ltd. References in these Bye-laws to submission of information on forms includes the submission of the relevant information by electronic means which may be authorised by The Board including, but not limited, to any online system which may be available specifically for the submission of that information.

1) LIFE MEMBERS

Membership is subject to Article 43 and the following conditions:

- a) All applicants must have been a member of the Society for a period of no less than 10 years or have attained the age of 60 years.
- b) The fee for life membership shall be 12 times the amount of the annual subscription at the date of application and life membership shall not be transferable.
- c) In certain circumstances The Board may waive a proportion of the qualifying period in return for an appropriate increase in the Life Membership fee.

2) JUDGES PANELS

Official and Provisional Judges panels.

These shall be drawn up by The Board of the Society and shall consist of Society members having considerable knowledge of the Jacob breed.

(a) The Provisional Judges Assessment Panel:

- (i) The Assessment Panel will comprise three assessors, drawn from the Full Judges Panel who will be appointed by The Board on the recommendation of the Field Officer. Appointments to the panel will be based on their experience and not on geographical representation.
- (ii) The appointment of assessors will be for three years. Assessors will be eligible for re- appointment at the end of their terms in post.
- (iii) The assessors will elect one of their numbers to act as chairman. The Field Officer may act as a reserve assessor if required.
- (iv) The Panel chairman will organise an assessment as a stand-alone event or in conjunction with another suitable event in the year when applications are received. Applicants should be prepared to travel to the organised assessment panel.

(b) Applications for assessment for the Provisional Judges Panel

- (i) Applications should be made on the form available to download from the Society's website or available from the member's Regional Contact Member. Completed applications should be sent to the chairman of the assessment panel.
- (ii) To be eligible for that year's assessment day, the application must be received by 30th April.
- (iii) Applicants should be at least 21 years of age.
- (iv) Be a fully paid up member of the Society at the date of their application. In the case of a joint membership only one person is eligible to apply for the Judges' Assessment Scheme; the other person would need to be an individual member if they wished to apply for the scheme. Similarly, only one person in a family membership is eligible to apply for the scheme, others in the family membership wishing to apply would need to become individual members.
- (v) Have a minimum of ten years' active involvement in the management of a Jacob flock.
- (vi) Have a minimum of five years' experience of showing their Jacob sheep
- (vii) Some flexibility of (v) & (vi) above may be allowed if an applicant is able to show previous experience of judging for example at YFC events or other classes of livestock or breeds of sheep.
- (viii) The application forms will be considered by the Assessment Panel, applicants who meet the expected criteria will be invited to attend an assessment. Applicants not meeting the criteria or deemed unsuitable by the panel for any other reason, e.g. inappropriate behaviour in or out of the show ring, will be notified in writing. Candidates may request feedback by writing to the Chairman of the Assessment Panel who will draft a letter and send it to the panel members for approval before sending it to the candidate.

(c) The Assessment

- (i) The assessment will be designed to enable the panel to assess the applicants' knowledge of sheep in general and the Jacob breed with reference to the Breed Standard and to positively represent the Jacob Sheep Society.
- (ii) It will also assess their experience, presentational skills, and their ability to deal with exhibitors with tact and confidence.
- (iii) There will also be a hands-on judging test placing a number of sheep and explaining their reasons.
- (iv) Unsuccessful applicants may re-apply after three years.

(d) Appointment to the Judges Panels

- (i) In the year following their selection at an assessment day, applicants will be required to attend one or more shows at the discretion of the Field Officer to shadow experienced judges.
- (ii) Provided the applicants have completed this stage satisfactorily the Field Officer will put their names forward to the November Board meeting for appointment to the Provisional Judges Panel.
- (iii) During their period on the Provisional Panel, judges must attend as many judges' seminars and regional events as possible and not less than one seminar every three years.
- (iv) After three years on the Provisional Panel, judges will be automatically considered by The Board for appointment to the Main Panel.
- (v) Judges on the Provisional Panel should not accept appointments to judge at Royal Shows, major county shows or Official Shows and Sales. If in doubt about the status of a show the judge should consult the Field Officer.
- (vi) If for any reason a Provisional Judge is not up-graded within 5 years their name will be removed from the Provisional Panel. That member will be eligible to reapply to become a member of the Provisional Panel after a further 3 years.

(e) Regulations relating to all judges

- (i) Judges must be fully paid up members of the Society.
- (ii) Judges are expected to attend at least one Judges Seminar in any three year period
- (iii) Judges will be expected to attend regional events whenever possible.
- (iv) Judges must complete the annual return of shows they have officiated at, and seminars and events attended and send it to the Field Officer.
- (v) In any year, Judges should avoid accepting appointments to officiate at shows which are less

than 50 miles apart or where they would have reason to expect that shows would have a significant proportion of exhibitors in common.

(f) Conflicts of interest

(i) A conflict of interest may arise where there is, or has been in the preceding 3 years, a continuing business relationship or stock sharing arrangement between the judge and the exhibitor or where the exhibitor is a close family member or a member of the judge's household.

(ii) It is important to the Society that all stock judging should be fair and impartial.

(iii) Judges should avoid accepting appointments at shows where such a conflict of interest would be likely to arise.

(iv) If a judge is in any doubt about any proposed appointment, they should consult with the Field Officer.

For the purposes of this byelaw 'continuing business relationship' would include those where the connected parties:

are in partnership together:

are directors or substantial shareholders in the same non-quoted company:

are members of a syndicate type ownership of a ram. In this instance the competitor should not show a ram in which both he and the judge have a syndicate style ownership of the ram but could show his progeny.

are in an employer/employee or similar relationship.

(vi) Where there is an accidental potential conflict of interest, for example a sheep is forward which has been bred by the Judge, but the exhibitor was unaware of this, then the judge should consult the rules in the show schedule and/or liaise with the ring steward in case they permit the sheep to be placed in the line if another suitable judge is available.

(g) Disqualification and other sanctions

The Board is empowered to remove any judge from the panel or to require any judge to attend an assessment day in the following circumstances:

- (i) The judge ceases to be a member of the Society.
- (ii) The judge continually refuses to officiate at shows when invited to do so.
- (iii) The judge repeatedly fails to attend judges' forums or seminars.
- (iv) For any other reason at the discretion of The Board.
- (v) In the event that the behaviour of any judge leads to a complaint being made to the secretary or other office holder of the Society, that complaint shall be dealt with as stated in clause 10 below.
- (vi) The Board decisions on any matter arising from byelaw 10 shall be final and will be confirmed in writing to the judge concerned.

3. INSPECTIONS

- (a) **Sheep at "Shows" and "Shows and Sales"**. Only an Official Full Panel Judge may carry out inspections at Shows and or Shows and Sales and will be appointed by the Field Officer.
- (b) **Sheep for Export**. If requested by the buyer, an Official Panel Judge will inspect any sheep to be sold for export. The buyer shall reimburse that Judge's travelling expenses plus £20 payable to the Society for making the arrangements.

4. BREED STANDARD

General Appearance: The Jacob is an alert, active sheep being upstanding and deep bodied; white with well-defined black patches; head and neck generally black with a white blaze on the face extending down the chest. Both sexes are to be horned.

- (a) **Head:** The head should be clear of wool forward of horns. All sheep should have a clear white blaze. A symmetrical blaze with even black cheeks is preferred. In adult sheep a pink nose in conjunction with a broad white face is undesirable. A dark nose is preferred. Dark bold eyes are preferred with no tendency to split eye deformity. Ewes should have a fine feminine appearance, whilst rams should be thicker set and masculine. Both shall be correct in the mouth. Black ears preferred.
- (b) **Horns:** Sheep should have either four or two horns. Where there are four horns the top pair should grow upward from the top of the head and have no forward growing tendency. There should preferably be space between the top and lower horns. Where there are two horns there should preferably be space between the roots of the horns at the crown of the head, and there

should be a space between the horn and the sheep's cheek. Black horns are preferred. Horns should grow in such a way as to ensure that a sheep is free from injury and is not in discomfort when feeding.

(c) **Neck:** Strong, of medium length, and well set on the shoulders.

(d) **Body:** Back – straight, level from base of neck to setting on of tail – which should be broad. Well sprung ribs, with a deep body, forming a good bottom line. Tail should be well set up on the chine with well-developed thigh.

(e) **Legs:** These should be medium boned and of medium length, clear of wool below the knee and hock. They should preferably be white with little or no black. All sheep shall be correct on their pasterns.

(f) **Fleece:** Of a medium quality, white with well-defined black patches. Preferably, the skin beneath the white areas should be pink, and beneath the dark wool should be black. There should be little or no kemp. Mottled wool and skin are undesirable. The average staple length should be 3" to 7" (75 mm to 180 mm). There should be a good degree of springiness.

5. FLOCK BOOK - RULES FOR REGISTRATION

- a) **Flock book.** A Flock Book shall be produced and published each year by Grassroots containing details of the previous year's lambs of all members. Members wishing to register sheep must follow the rules set out below and notify Grassroots during the year of the details of their lambs to be registered, using the methods described in (f) below.
- b) **Registration:** There are two levels of registration:
 - Member Registration: For fully paid-up members. Apply by submitting lamb details via mail or online and having a previously registered Flock Prefix.
 - Non-member Registration: For non-members. Apply by sending the required 'Non-Member' registration form and other required details, by post, to the JACOB SHEEP SOCIETY, care of Grassroots. (The non-member identification number issued by Grassroots is prefixed by NM) The person owning the dam at lambing time is responsible for registering the lambs. No person may register a lamb bred by another breeder.
- c) **Flock Book Entries:** The Society will enter eligible purebred Jacob sheep into the JACOB SHEEP

SOCIETY flock book without discrimination based on country of origin.

- d) **Identification Numbers:** Each Jacob sheep for registration requires the following:
- i) The Society Membership number of the breeder or the Non–Member identification number allocated via Grassroots.
 - ii) The European Identification Number of the individual sheep (unique animal number comprising a Europe Country identifier, species code, UK or EU flock mark, and individual number (E.g. UK0312704–00123).
 - iii) This European Identification Number will also be used by the Society to identify the sheep in the Flock Book. Duplicate numbers are not accepted.
- e) **Tagging:** There is a separate document dealing with general ear tagging requirements, but in general tagging methods to consider include ear tags, pastern tags, and EID (ear tags, pastern tags, or boluses).

All **registered** Jacob sheep **must** be tagged according to their country's legislation. Registered Jacob sheep must be separately identified with the breeder's membership or identification number.

In UK and EU countries requiring Electronic Identification, the primary tag must be the colour specified by the sheep's birth country (yellow in the UK). The second tag can be any colour except yellow, red, or black. White with black lettering is recommended.

Unregistered sheep leaving their birth holding must not carry a tag with the breeder's society membership number, except for direct slaughter or dedicated slaughter markets. Unregistered sheep going for further finishing or store markets must also not carry this tag.

- f) **Registration Forms:** Members can register online through the Grassroots website (linked on the Society's homepage). For those without internet access, or non–members, use the following paper forms: •
- i) Form FB: For members registering purebred lambs from registered parents for the Flock Book. No inspection required. •
 - ii) Form NMFB: For Non–members registering purebred lambs from registered parents for the Flock Book. No inspection required •
 - iii) Form App. A: For registering purebred ewe lambs from foundation ewes sired by a

registered ram for Appendix "A" of the Flock Book. No inspection required.

g) **Registration Fees:** Registration fees are:

i) Society members: £6 for females, £20 for males.

ii) Non-members: £12 for females, £40 for males. Fees may change as decided by the Board.

Late registrations (after 30th November) incur double fees.

h) **Pedigree Certificates:** Pedigree Certificates will be issued for all registered sheep. Duplicates can be ordered from Grassroots online or by phone for a fee.

6. **NEW MEMBERS**

(a) All new members will be contacted by the Regional Contact Member (or his appointee) for the Region in which they reside by telephone or email. The purpose of this contact is to welcome the new member to the Society and the local region and to deal with any queries that the new member may have regarding Jacob Sheep or the Society. If the new member would like a visit from a judge put them in contact with the Field Officer.

(b) A new member wishing to register lambs must: –

(i) Apply for a flock prefix.

(ii) Complete the form provided for this purpose with the ear tag numbers of all sheep owned.

7. **MEMBERS' RECORDS.**

All breeders of registered sheep must maintain a suitable register of their own flock. Movement of all sheep to and from a member's premises must also be recorded in accordance with the current requirements of the UK or European the Board regulations where the flock is kept. The breeder/seller of any registered sheep shall be responsible for completing the Pedigree Certificate of any animal sold and transferring that certificate (or a duplicate of it) to the new owner.

8. RULES FOR SHOWS

The rules for members wishing to show Jacob sheep are as issued by The Board. These rules must be read in conjunction with the Rules for Entry as laid down by the particular Show Society. All sheep entered will be judged in accordance with the Jacob Sheep Society Breed Standards. Members should carefully note the following: –

- (i) ALL JUDGES should be from the Jacob Sheep Society panels.
- (ii) Jacob Sheep Society Championship Rosettes will ONLY be issued to Shows where a judge has been chosen from the Society's list of Official or Provisional Judges.
- (iii) ALL EXHIBITORS must be fully paid up members of the Jacob Sheep Society unless the Show Society's Regulations otherwise provide.
- (iv) ALL SHEEP shown, born prior to 1st January of the year of showing, MUST be correctly REGISTERED in accordance with Bye-law 5.
- (v) Where there is a conflict of interest between the exhibitor and the judge as defined by clause 2 (f) (i) and (vi), the exhibitor should not enter any Jacob sheep at the show and should notify the Field Officer of the situation.
- (vi) If an exhibitor is in any doubt about his or her relationship to a judge they should consult with the Field Officer.
- (vii) If there is a sheep forward which has been bred by the judge, then the judge should consult the show schedule to see whether the show has a policy in place to cover this situation. If permitted and there is another panel judge available and willing to act, and with the consent of the ring steward, the other judge can be asked to place the sheep in question in the line. Otherwise, the sheep in question will be disqualified.
- (viii) If a conflict arises because there has been a last minute change to the judge, then the same process described in clause 2 (f) (v) can be applied.
- (ix) LAMBS born before 1st January cannot be shown as lambs.
- (x) LAMBS shown must be from registered parents and eligible for entry to the Flock Book and have an identification ear tag.
- (xi) All Show Schedules which state in "FULL WOOL" mean in Full Fleece untrimmed except for light dagging around the tail.
- (xii) All sheep to be shown must be shorn bare on or after 1st January and show no previous year's growth.
- (xiii) LAMBS – All lambs are to be shown to the best advantage.

(xiv) COLOURING – No colouring matter, dressing, bleaching or chemical agent (except the use of DEFRA approved non-bloom dips) may be used on sheep with the exception of COLOURLESS oil on the horns.

(xv) The use of growth promoters, steroids and tranquillisers is FORBIDDEN.

(xvi) ALL EXHIBITORS AND ASSISTANTS MUST wear white coats when showing their sheep.

(xvii) SMOKING IS FORBIDDEN IN THE JUDGING RING.

(xviii) Judges and inspectors are instructed to disqualify any member contravening these Rules.

(xix) All rams of one year or older must be kept on a halter at all times in the show ring.

9. SHOWS AND SALES

(i) Official Regional sales, approved by the Board, will be held annually at which the Society will award rosettes to the Champion, Reserve Champion and up to sixth place in all classes. These Official Shows and Sales will be organised by the Regional Contact Member in whose region the sale is organised, their committee and the Society Field Officer. No other sales of Jacob sheep may bear the prefix "Official".

(ii) The Society Field Officer shall appoint two Inspectors to officiate at Official Shows and Sales. A bookkeeper and an adjudicator should also be available. The organisers of each Show and Sale shall appoint a Judge and a reserve judge.

(iii) Official Regional Shows and Sales may be held in any region that satisfies The Board that it will apply all rules laid down by The Board for that Show and Sale and has received The Board's permission to hold such Show and Sale. The Board may agree to authorise travel expenses for judges and inspectors and a contribution towards overnight accommodation. The Board may agree to authorise advertisements in the National Farming press in England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales.

All sales will be conducted in accordance with the following Rules for Shows and Sales:

(i) All vendors must be FULLY PAID UP members of the Society.

(ii) All tags must comply with UK, EU and Jacob Sheep Society regulations in force at the time of the sale. Sheep not correctly tagged (i.e. without the breeder's Society Membership Number and the sheep's individual identification number), may not be sold in **ANY** section of the sale and must be removed from the market.

(iii) A sheep may be substituted for an original entry provided that any substitution is by a sheep in the same class and that both the Auctioneer and the Sale organiser are advised not later than 7 days prior to the Show and Sale. Any substitute sheep must be identified with WHITE TAPE around its RIGHT-HAND horn.

- (iv) All sheep entered for any Show and Sale must be onsite and penned by 8.30 a.m. on the day of the Show and Sale or earlier as described in the schedule. Late arrivals will be excluded from the Show and Sale.
- (v) No sheep may be sold as registered at any Show and Sale unless the sheep has been registered by Grassroots by the closing date for entries.
- (vi) Foundation ewes registered in Appendix "B" and ewes or lambs registered in Appendix "A" are **NOT** eligible to enter the show classes of any Show & Sale. However, such animals are eligible to be sold in the special Appendix sheep section of any sale provided the special conditions that apply to these sheep are listed in the sale catalogue and read out in the sale ring by the auctioneer.
- (vii) The vendor must ensure that their sheep's ear tag numbers tally with the catalogued lot number before they are inspected. All registered sheep entered and forward at any Show and Sale must be inspected to ensure that they comply with the Society's breed standard and inspection rules. Any sheep failed by the Inspectors will be removed and penned away from the registered sale section and identified by having red tape around one horn. Blue tape for a minor fault to be announced by the auctioneer, white tape for a substitution. No rejected sheep may be sold at an official show and sale. Should there be any slight faults with older sheep that the Inspectors wish to pass, the vendor will be informed and told that the Auctioneer will announce the fault before the sheep is sold. Should the vendor refuse permission for this announcement, the sheep will fail its inspection. The Inspectors' decision will be final.
- (viii) The vendor must lodge a Society Pedigree Certificate, marked with the lot number, with the Auctioneer for any registered sheep offered for sale.
- (ix) Ewes that have run or are running with a ram will be accepted at Society Approved Shows and Sales that take place AFTER 15th AUGUST in any year. However this will only be allowed on the condition that the ram used is registered in the Society Flock Book and its details are fully stated in the Sale catalogue.
- (x) Only rosettes that have been won on the day of the Show and Sale may be displayed at the sheep pens. NO OTHER ROSETTES MAY BE DISPLAYED although details of previous successes may be displayed.
- (xi) No sheep shall be sold at a Show and Sale that has not been entered in the sale catalogue or in the Auctioneer's late entry list. No other sheep may be brought to any Show and Sale unless the Sale Organiser and the Auctioneer has been notified and permission given.
- (xii) All sheep sold, must be sold in the sale ring or through the Auctioneers Office.

(xiii) Any sheep which is unsaleable, i.e. not tagged correctly or rejected for welfare issues, should be removed from the market at which point the matter is deemed to be out of the Society's hands.

(xiv) The description in the catalogue of Flock Dispersal will mean that the whole of the pedigree flock of that member is sold and that the flock will no longer exist. Any dispersal sale of sheep will be held at the end of the Sale, and they will not be inspected.

(xv) Only one handler per sheep to be allowed in the show ring at official Shows and Sales.

(xvi) The Jacob Sheep Society, its officers, trustees and servants, shall not be held responsible for any accident, damage or loss however caused. Anyone attending a sale or other event held by or on behalf of the Jacob Sheep Society shall indemnify the Society from and against all actions, suits, expenses and claims on account of or in respect of any such damage or injury which may be so caused.

10. DISPUTES PROCEDURE

(i) The objective of this procedure is to provide a member who has a grievance with the Society, or another member of the Society, an opportunity to have the grievance examined and resolved at the earliest practical moment and at the most local level possible.

(ii) While the matter is being considered under the Appeals Procedure, the operation of the Society cannot be interrupted. The person(s) raising this matter shall continue to comply with the rules of the Society during the course of the examination of the matter in question. By so doing, no precedent will be created, nor will their membership of the Society be prejudiced in any way in relation to the matter being considered.

(iii) Stage 1

- A member who feels aggrieved in relation to any matter pertaining to Society business should, in the first instance, write to the Chairman of The Board of the Society making it clear that Stage 1 of the appeals procedure is being invoked.
- The Chairman will reply as soon as is reasonably practicable, but, in any case, within thirty days from the receipt of the letter from the appellant.
- In the event that the grievance involves the Chairman, the member should write to the Vice Chairman.
- The Chairman or Vice Chairman will contact any other members involved to ascertain whether there could be an agreed settlement of the grievance.

(iv) Stage 2

- If the grievance is not resolved at Stage 1, or a reply is not forthcoming from The Board, Chairman or Vice Chairman within thirty days, the member(s) may request in writing that,

at their next Board meeting, the Board should consider the grievance and that the member be allowed to attend the meeting during the period that the grievance is being considered.

- The member will be allowed to make an oral submission on the grievance.
- The Board will then reconsider the issue and must communicate its decision to the appellant within thirty days.

(v) Stage 3

- If the issue remains unresolved after Stage 2, the member(s) may request an independent hearing. The Board shall grant such a hearing.
- Appeals at Stage 3 will be heard by an individual or group of individuals with appropriate expertise, agreed by all parties to the dispute.
- From the date of appointment of the person(s) hearing the appeal, the case will be heard, and the decision taken will be communicated to both parties within three months.

(vi) In joining the Society, members agree to abide by the rules and procedures set out in the Articles and Byelaws. Following the above dispute procedure does not limit the member(s) rights to pursue legal action.

11. NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY

The Society shall, at all times, operate in a non-discriminatory fashion towards its members.

This will include ensuring that, whereas the primary means of communication is by email, those members with no email address registered with the Society, will receive the same communications by post. This applies to all communications whether to the whole membership or by region or other category for example, the Judges Panel.

12. CHANGE LOG

Version	Change Date	Details Of Change	Approval Details
5.3	May 2023	Originally Approved Document	Approved by the Board on 23 May 2023
5.4	12/9/2024	Section 5 revised for non-member registration and the word 'secretary' changed to 'Grassroots' in 5 (a)	
5.5	6/2/2025	2 (d) Wording changed from 'at the direction of the Field Officer' to 'at the discretion of the Field Officer'	Nov 2024 Board Meeting
5.6	04/06/2026	Update to Judges Panel wording in section 2	Nov 2025 Board Meeting, approved May 2026