

Rules of Procedure of the Irish Charolais Cattle Society Ltd

Adopted by the Council of the Irish Charolais Cattle Society on the 11th April 2024

The Irish Charolais Cattle Society Ltd (ICCS) is recognised by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine as a Breed Society in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2016/1012. In addition to the Rules of the Society which are advised by the Irish Co-operative Organisation Society Limited and approved by the Council of the Irish Charolais Cattle Society Ltd, the Society has adopted the following Rules of Procedures which include membership, the rights of breeders, the rights of the breed society and an appeals procedure.

Breeder Participation in the ICCS Breeding Programme and Membership

Breeders have a right to participate in the breeding programme provided that each such person or their representative/s are at the time of admission the registered owner of a purebred Charolais animal, entered in a recognized herd book for the breed, and the breeding animal is kept on a holding within the geographical territory of the breeding programme. Where the herd number is not in the applicant's name or the applicant is not the designated herd keeper, the applicant must have the consent of the herd owner. Joint breeders are accepted, and one person must be nominated as the point of contact for the Society.

To participate in the breeding programme, breeders must complete and submit the following documents to the Society's office:

1. Application form for participation in the breeding programme
2. CMMS data release permission form

Breeders participating in the ICCS breeding programme may also become members of the Society. The benefits for a member are as follows:

- Reduced fees for certain services
- Full access to Semen available from the Society
- Entry into Society Shows and Sales
- Entry into all Society run events
- Receive newsletters from the Society
- Receive breeding advice from the Society
- Attend and vote at Annual/Special General Meetings of the Society
- Run for election to Council
- Advertise their cattle on the Society's website and social media pages
- Choose their own herd prefix and animal name
- Judge at Society Shows and Sales
- Take part in Society Youth Development events
- Advertise in the Society's yearbook and other publications

- Have their herd listed on the 'Breeder Locator' on the Society's website
- To participate in the defining and development of the breeding programme by submitting proposals in writing to Council for consideration

To apply for membership, breeders must complete a membership application form, and submit it along with the membership fee, a completed CMMS form, and a Direct Debit form to the Society Office. Following receipt of an application form and the relevant documents to the society office, a list of breeders will be presented to Council. See Appendix 1 for fees.

As part of the application process, all new members are entitled to register an approved herd prefix comprised of not more than thirteen letters. This herd prefix shall not have been allocated to another breeder of the Society, either in the past or at present. This shall be applicable to all animals bred and notified by that breeder, either alone or jointly with any partner/s or other persons in any one herd. A herd prefix that has been used by one breeder may not contemporaneously be used by another breeder. Herd prefix transfers may be approved by the Council of the Society at their discretion.

Breeders who opt not to be a member are not entitled to select a herd prefix. They will be allocated a generic herd prefix 'CHIRL'.

Rights of breeders

1. Breeders shall have the right to participate in the breeding programme of the ICCS where
 - (a) their animals are kept in the Republic of Ireland
 - (b) their breeding animals are covered by the ICCS breeding programme

2. Breeders participating in the ICCS breeding programme shall have the right
 - (a) to have their purebred breeding animals entered in the main section of the breeding programme in accordance with the rules of the breeding programme
 - (b) to participate in performance testing and genetic evaluation in accordance with the rules of the breeding programme
 - (c) to be provided with a zootechnical certificate
 - (d) on request, to be provided with up-to-date results of the performance testing and genetic evaluation for their breeding animals, where those results are available
 - (e) to have access to all the other services provided in relation to the ICCS breeding programme where applicable
 - (f) to become a member of the Irish Charolais Cattle Society

3. Breeders participating in the ICCS breeding programme shall
 - (a) have the free choice in the selection and breeding of their breeding animals
 - (b) have offspring descended from those breeding animals entered in the ICCS breeding book in accordance with the rules of the breeding programme
 - (c) have ownership of their breeding animals

Rights and obligations of the Irish Charolais Cattle Society

1. The Irish Charolais Cattle Society has the right to define and carry out such breeding programmes as they wish for the Irish Charolais breed, provided they comply with Commission Regulation 2016/1012 and any conditions of their approval.
2. The Irish Charolais Cattle Society shall have the right to exclude breeders from participating in a breeding programme where those breeders fail to comply with the rules of that breeding programme or with the obligations set out in these rules of procedure.
3. The Irish Charolais Cattle Society shall have the right to exclude breeders from membership where those breeders fail to comply with their obligations set out in the rules of procedure.
4. The Irish Charolais Cattle Society shall have, without prejudice to the role of the courts, a responsibility to settle disputes that may arise between breeders, and between breeders and the breed society in the process of carrying out the Society's breeding programme (see section on Appeals Procedure)

Appeals procedure of the Irish Charolais Cattle Society

The objective of this procedure is to provide a breeder who has a grievance with the Society an opportunity to have the grievance examined and resolved at the earliest practical moment and at the most local level possible. While the matter is being considered under the Appeals Procedure, the operation of the Society cannot be interrupted. The person(s) raising the matter shall continue to comply with the rules of the Society during the course of the examination of the matter in question. By doing so he/she will not create any precedent nor will his/her participation in the breeding programme and/or membership of the Society be prejudiced in any way in relation to the matter being processed.

The procedure to apply shall be as follows:

Stage 1

A breeder who feels aggrieved in relation to any matter pertaining to Society business should, in the first instance, write to the Secretary of the Society, making it clear, that stage 1 of the appeal procedure is being invoked. The Secretary will reply as soon as is reasonably practicable, but in any case, within thirty days from receipt of the letter from the appellant.

Stage 2

If the grievance is not resolved at Stage 1, or a reply is not forthcoming from the Secretary within 30 days, the breeder(s) may request in writing, that at their next Council meeting, the Council allow the breeder(s) to attend the meeting during the period that the grievance is being considered. The breeder will be allowed to make an oral submission on the grievance. The Council will then reconsider the issue and must communicate its decision to the appellant within thirty days.

Stage 3

If the issue remains unresolved after stage 2, the breeder(s) may request an independent hearing. The Council shall grant such a hearing. Appeals at stage 3 will be heard by an individual or group of individuals with appropriate expertise, agreed by both 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. The person(s) hearing the case will decide on the appointment of costs, as appropriate.

Stage 4

Any dispute that remains unresolved after stage 3 may be pursued by invoking provisions under the legal personality of the Society which are defined under the ICOS Rules or the 1963 Companies Act. Details of these provisions can be obtained by contacting the Society Secretary.

The Society expects all its breeders and members to abide by the rules, regulations and standards established by the Society.

Non-Discrimination

The Society shall always operate in a non-discriminatory manner towards its breeders and members.

Breeding animals entered in breeding books by breeding bodies and the offspring produced from germinal products of such breeding animals, are entered or eligible for entry without discrimination on account of their country of origin, in the case of purebred breeding animals, in the breeding book of the same breed maintained by that breed society.

Appendix 1

Membership

New membership entrance fee - €75

Herd prefix fee - €1

Share fee - €1

Annual membership - €50

Life membership - €635

April 2024