

**Rules of Procedure**  
**of the**  
**Irish Belgian Blue Cattle Society Ltd (IBBCS)**  
**(approved by Council on ) TBC**

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The Irish Belgian Blue Cattle Society Ltd. (IBBCS) 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 ‘Consolidated Rules’ of the Society which are advised by the Irish Co-operative Organisation Society Limited and approved by the Council of the Irish Belgian Blue 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.

**Participation in IBBCS Breeding Program**

To participate in the Irish Belgian Blue Cattle Society Breeding Program , the applicant shall be the owner in the Republic of Ireland of a “*purebred*” Belgian Blue animal entered in a herdbook recognised or listed by the EU for the Belgian Blue breed. Application to participate is also accepted from the owner in the Republic of Ireland of a Belgian Blue male or female born as the result of embryo transfer for the intention of purebred breeding. The animal(s) must be listed in a herd that is registered with a Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine herd number. 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. Participation is also open to registered partnerships and companies however person must be nominated as the point of contact for the Society

## Rules of Procedure of the Irish Belgian Blue Cattle Breeding Society Ltd

1. Breeders can apply to participate in the Breeding Program or for membership of the Society.

### Advantages of Membership:-

- i. Involvement in the organisation of the Society.
- ii. Opportunity to run for election to Council
- iii. Enter animals in Society sponsored Shows.
- iv. Enter animals in Society sponsored Sales.

Applications for both will be considered if the following documents are completed and submitted to the Society's office

- a. Application form with appropriate membership fee (See Appendix 1)
- b. ICBF Consent Form

Following receipt of applications to the society office a list of applications to participate in the Breeding Program or to become member are presented to Council at the next meeting of Council.

2. As part of the application process, each breeder must register an approved herd name. This herd name shall not have been allocated to another breeder in the Society, either in the past or at present. This shall be applicable to all animals bred and notified by that member, either alone or jointly with any partner/s or other persons in any one herd. A herd name that has been used by one breeder may not contemporaneously be used by another breeder. Herd name transfers may be approved by the Council of the Society at their discretion.

3. Breeders must permit that data relating to the genealogy and performance of their cattle may be communicated to and examined and processed by competent authorities in the field of livestock breeding, subject to Council approval, and that the Society be free to disseminate the results of this analysis as the Council see fit from time to time.

4. The Society shall have the right to maintain a computerised record of breeder's transactions with the Society, and reserve the right to penalise breeders found to be in breach of procedures vital to the accurate maintenance and integrity of the breeding book of the Society.

5. The Society shall if they so desire, provide for Associate, Overseas or Commercial memberships but these shall not enjoy the voting rights of Full members as under the Articles of the Society. Associate, Overseas and Commercial membership is open to people who don't meet the criteria of a full member but who would like to receive Society annual publications to keep up to date with information on the breed.

6. It is a condition of membership of the Society that all members undertake to partake in those elements of the Society's breed improvement programme that the Council from time to time deem compulsory.

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**Rights of breeders:**

1. Breeders shall have the right to participate in the breeding programme of the IBBCS where
  - (a) their animals are kept in the Republic of Ireland and
  - (b) their breeding animals belong to the Belgian Blue breed and are covered by the Irish Belgian Blue breeding programme.
2. Breeders participating in the Irish Belgian Blue breeding programme shall have the right
  - (a) to have their purebred breeding animals entered in the main section of the breeding book 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 Irish Belgian Blue Cattle Society breeding programme where applicable.
  - (f) to become a member of the Irish Belgian Blue Cattle Society
  - (g) to participate in the defining and development of the breeding programme in accordance with these rules of procedure
    - i Breeder will have Genetics studies available to allow them to select animal on merit that best define the Belgian Blue Breed, i.e traits
3. Breeders participating in the Irish Belgian Blue Cattle Society 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 Irish Belgian Blue Cattle Society breeding book in accordance with the rules of the breeding programme,
  - (c) have ownership of their breeding animals

**Rights and obligations of the Irish Belgian Blue Cattle Society:**

1. As regards their breeding programme, the Irish Belgian Blue Cattle Society has the right to define and carry out such breeding programme autonomously for the Irish Belgian Blue breed provided that they comply with Commission Regulation 2016/1012 and any conditions of their approval.

2. The Irish Belgian Blue 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 procedures.

3. The Irish Belgian Blue 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 procedure.

4. The Irish Belgian Blue Cattle Society shall, without prejudice to the role of the courts, have a responsibility to settle disputes that may arise between breeders, and between breeders and the breed society in the process of carrying out the Irish Belgian Blue breeding programme (See Appeals Procedures).

#### **Non Discrimination:**

The Society will ensure that equal treatment is afforded to all breeders participating in their breeding programme.

#### **Appeals Procedure of Irish Belgian Blue Cattle Society Ltd:**

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 so doing he/she will not create any precedent nor will his/her 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 of the Society, making it clear that Stage 1 of the Appeals 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 if a reply is not forthcoming from the Secretary within thirty days, the breeder(s) may request in writing that at their next Council meeting,

the Council allow the member(s) to attend the meeting during the period that the grievance is being considered. The breeder(s) 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 apportionment of costs, as appropriate.

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 to abide by the rules, regulations and standards established by this Society**