



**Rules of Procedure of the
South of Ireland Branch Suffolk Sheep Society Limited**

Adopted on 6th July 2021

The South of Ireland Branch Suffolk Sheep Society (the Society) is recognised by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine as a breed society in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2016/1012. 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.

Membership:

To become a member of the South of Ireland Branch Suffolk Sheep Society, the applicant shall be the owner in the Republic of Ireland of a “*purebred*” Suffolk animal entered in a flockbook recognised or listed by the EU for the Suffolk breed. Application for membership is also accepted from the owner in the Republic of Ireland of a Suffolk male or female born as the result of embryo transfer for the intention of purebred breeding. The animal(s) must be listed in a flock that is registered with a Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine flock number. Where the flock number is not in the applicant’s name or the applicant is not the designated flock keeper, the applicant must have the consent of the flock owner. Joint membership is accepted and one person must be nominated as the point of contact for the Society

1. Applications for membership will be considered if the following documents are completed and submitted to the Society’s office
 - (i) Application for membership with appropriate membership fee (See Appendix 1)
 - (ii) Zootechnical Certificate(s)
 - (iii) CMMS data release permission form
 - (iv) Direct Debit form
2. Following receipt of application to the society office a list of applications for membership are presented to Management Committee at the next meeting of the Management Committee.
3. As part of the application process, each member must register an approved flock name comprised of not more than fifteen letters. This flock name shall not have been allocated to another member of 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 flock. A flock name that has been used by one member may not contemporaneously be used by another member. Flock name transfers may be approved by the Management Committee of the Society at their discretion.

4. Members joining the Society after 1st January 2021 must make all payments due to the society in the form of Direct Debit.
5. Members must permit that data relating to the genealogy and performance of their sheep may be communicated to and examined and processed by competent authorities in the field of livestock breeding, subject to Management Committee approval, and that the Society be free to disseminate the results of this analysis as the Management Committee see fit from time to time.
6. The Society shall have the right to maintain a computerised record of member's transactions with the Society, and reserve the right to penalise members found to be in breach of procedures vital to the accurate maintenance and integrity of the breeding book of the Society.
7. The Society shall if they so desire, provide for Associate, Overseas or Corporate memberships but these shall not enjoy the voting rights of Full members as under the Articles of the Society. Associate, Overseas and Corporate 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.
8. 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.

Rights of breeders:

1. Breeders shall have the right to participate in the breeding programme of the Society where
 - (a) their animals are kept in the Republic of Ireland and
 - (b) their breeding animals are covered by the South of Ireland Branch Suffolk Sheep Society breeding programme.
2. Breeders participating in the South of Ireland Branch Suffolk Sheep Society breeding programme shall have the right
 - (a) to have their purebred breeding animals entered in the flock 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 South of Ireland Branch Suffolk Sheep Society breeding programme where applicable.

(f) to become a member of the South of Ireland Branch Suffolk Sheep Society

(g) to participate in the defining and development of the breeding programme in accordance with these rules of procedure by submitting in writing any proposed amendments to the breeding programme to the Management Committee where the submission will be considered at the next Management Committee meeting and the breeder will be responded to in writing within 14 days of the Management Committee meeting.

3. Breeders participating in the South of Ireland Branch Suffolk Sheep 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 South of Ireland Branch Suffolk Sheep Society flock book in accordance with the rules of the breeding programme,

(c) have ownership of their breeding animals

Rights and obligations of the South of Ireland Branch Suffolk Sheep Society:

1. As regards their breeding programme, the South of Ireland Branch Suffolk Sheep Society has the right to define and carry out such breeding programme autonomously for the Suffolk breed provided that they comply with Commission Regulation 2016/1012 and any conditions of their approval.

2. The South of Ireland Branch Suffolk Sheep 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 South of Ireland Branch Suffolk Sheep Society shall have the right to exclude breeders from membership where those breeders fail to comply with their obligations set out in these rules procedure.

4. The South of Ireland Branch Suffolk Sheep 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 Society in the process of carrying out the Suffolk breeding programme.

Non Discrimination:

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

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

Appeals Procedure of South of Ireland Branch Suffolk Sheep Society:

The objective of this procedure is to provide a member 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 member 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 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 member(s) may request in writing that at their next Management Committee meeting, the Management Committee allow the member(s) to attend the meeting during the period that the grievance is being considered. The member(s) will be allowed to make an oral submission on the grievance. The Management Committee 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 member(s) may request an independent hearing. The Management Committee 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 members to abide by the rules, regulations and standards established by this Society

Appendix 1

Schedule of Membership fees

Membership

Adult Membership, Annual Subscription (Annual Subscription not on Direct Debit)	€99 (if on Direct Debit) €112.20
Prefix Registration (on joining the Society)	€26.40
Associate, Overseas, Corporate Annual Subscription	€39.60