

BRITISH *Boer Goat* SOCIETY

RULE BOOK 2023



Charity Number 1168793

Types of Membership

Full Member: Each member will pay a full membership subscription and will be allowed one-member vote, where voting is required. A full member will be entitled to all BBGS benefits.

Joint Member: Joint membership is allowed between business partners or family members.

An additional cost to subscription is required for this membership. Two member votes from nominated members will be allowed where voting is required.

Both partners will be entitled to all BBGS benefits.

Corporate Member: A corporate member may be an individual, a corporate body or a representative of an organization. A corporate member will be entitled to one-member vote where voting is required and will be entitled to all BBGS benefits.

Associate and Overseas Members: Cannot register any goats and will have no voting rights. They will receive all other benefits due to a full member.

Junior Member: Junior members must be under the age of 18 at the time of application. Junior members will receive all BBGS benefits except for any voting rights and will be limited to the registration of 8 goats.

Life Member: Life members will pay 15x full membership subscription and will receive all BBGS benefits and will be entitled one-member vote where voting is required.

Honorary Member: By invitation of the CIO and in accordance with the constitution.

Transfer of Membership: All memberships are NON transferable.

(1) Membership:

(a) It is the duty of every BBGS member to read and abide by the rules of the Society.

(b) Application for membership must be made on the appropriate official online form on the BBGS website and is deemed to be acceptance of the rules of the BBGS.

(c) Each member shall pay an annual subscription on a due date determined by the committee of the BBGS. The amount of the subscription shall be set by the BBGS committee and may be amended by the committee of the BBGS when necessary.

(d) Members who fail to pay subscriptions to the BBGS within the required time and in accordance with the constitution shall have all benefits to include Grassroots Registrations and voting rights withdrawn and be deemed NON-members.

(e) Applications for membership made after a lapsed period, will be required to pay a Re-joining fee in addition to the annual subscription.

(f) Any application for new memberships after the first of January of the subscription year will receive a 15-month membership for the first year.

(g) The payment of an annual subscription by a member is acceptance and agreement to abide by and act in accordance with the rules of the BBGS. The BBGS reserves the right to refuse membership to any applicant.

(2) Birth Notification

(a) Birth Notification is beneficial to the keeping of your records and those of the BBGS.

(b) Birth notifications can be made online using Grassroots.

(c) Notifying on Grassroots the birth of any kids born entitles the breeder to a BBGS meat provenance certificate. Only correctly birth notified, or registered animals will receive a BBGS meat provenance certificate.

(d) BBGS provenance certificates can only be issued to and used by fully compliant members.

(3) Requirements for Registration of Boer Goats

- (a) Registrations may only be made by a fully compliant current member of the BBGS.
- (i) Registrations can only be made by the breeder.
 - (ii) The breeder is the registered owner of the Dam at the time of the birth of the animal to be registered.
 - (iii) Where this is not possible the committee may at its discretion accept an application from a member other than the breeder. In such cases the owner's prefix will be used as a suffix. Administration costs may apply.
- (b) No two herds will be allowed to register the same prefix. (the registration secretary will advise if your prefix is available and suitable).
- (c) Registration applications shall be completed online using Grassroots database.
- (d) Colour of goats submitted for registration must be accurately described on the application form as either 'Traditional' 'Red' or 'Coloured'.
- (e) 'Traditional colour' is as described in the BBGS Breed Standard booklet.
- (f) 'Red colour' is as described in the Boer Goat Breed Standard booklet.
- (g) Boer Goats exhibiting colours not conforming to either 'Traditional' or 'Red' as described in the BBGS Breed Standard booklet must be described as 'Coloured', for example no black colouring or dapples as represented in the BBGS Breed Standard.
- (h) At the point of registration each goat will be allocated a letter to follow its registration number. This letter represents the colour of the goat i.e. (T) Traditional (R) Red (C) Coloured.
- (i) A certificate of service signed by the owner of the buck must accompany each application for registration, except where the servicing buck is in the registered ownership of the breeder.
- (j) All goats to be registered with the BBGS must be ear tagged with an individual tag number and herd number to comply with DEFRA. This number must cross-reference to the goat's registration number.

(k) Grades of Boer Goats are defined as follows:

Grade 0 – is 96.875% or over Boer genes
Grade 1 – is 93.75% Boer genes
Grade 2 – is 87.5% Boer genes
Grade 3 – is 75% Boer genes
Grade 4 – is 50% Boer genes

Goats with a higher % of Boer genes than a Grade 0 will be described as Purebred

- (l) The BBGS will class as purebred the offspring of those females with 96.875% (and over) Boer Genes.
- (m) All percentage female goats are eligible for registration except for 50% boer genes until 31.12.2023.
- (n) Only Bucks sired by Purebred Boer Goat Bucks and from Grade 0 or Purebred Boer Goat Dams can be registered.
- (o) On acceptance of a registration by the BBGS, owners will be issued with a registration certificate for each goat, displaying its registered number and other Information, the registration document will include Colour, Sex, Grade, and Pedigree.
- All certificates remain the property of the BBGS.
- (p) Any Boer Goat to be registered must as a minimum requirement be the produce of a registered Dam and Sire from a Bona Fide Boer Goat Society or Association in their country of birth. A female kid may be registered into the supplementary register as 50% or Grade 4 if the Dam is not registered with a Bona Fide Boer Goat Society. For imported animals the correct paperwork must accompany any registration application for the correct qualifying grade to be allocated. The correct paperwork must include information regarding the Breeder and a 3 generation Pedigree as a minimum.
- Incorrect or absence of paperwork will see the animal receive a maximum 50% grade. The discretion of the committee may be called upon to assess this grade.
- (q) If an application for registration is refused or withdrawn, the applicant shall have the right of appeal to the committee, which will then within financial and logistical reason, appoint three representatives of the BBGS to inspect the animal(s) and advise the committee of their findings.

Any decision then made will be the decision of the committee and will be final. Any cost related to any inspection is the responsibility of the applicant and must be paid in advance of any inspection.

(r) Registration fees will be displayed on the BBGS website. For goats not registered within one year of birth, the registration fee will be doubled.

No goat over the age of 3yrs will be eligible for registration.

(s) The Herd Book will be created annually and will be available online. Registrations received on or before 31st of December of that year will be included.

(t) Registration cards always remain the property of the BBGS. In the event of a transfer of ownership, the registration card will remain with the animal.

The animal's registration status will be held until the transfer is completed by the BBGS and the card is superseded by a newly issued registration card with the new owners' details.

It is the responsibility of the vendor to inform the BBGS of a transfer.

(u) It is forbidden to make any alteration to a registration certificate.

In the event of the death of a goat for any reason the registration card must be destroyed by the owner and Grassroots updated.

(4) Transfer of Ownership

(a) An application for transfer of ownership of a registered goat can only be made by a fully paid-up current member.

(b) Applications may be made using Grassroots database.

(c) Transfer of ownership must be completed within 28 days of purchase.

Failure to transfer within 30 days will see the cost of transfer increase as displayed on the BBGS website. Registered goats must be transferred into the new owner's name before any applications to register progeny is permitted.

(5) Artificial Insemination

All processes connected with AI to be performed by qualified persons and to be completed in accordance with current legislation.

(a) Persons to undertake insemination must provide the society with a copy of their certificate or other evidence of training in A.I. of goats. Or shall be a qualified veterinary surgeon.

(b) Any males used for artificial insemination shall be registered with this society and the society of origin for semen imported from abroad.

NOTE: In the case of imported semen the registration certificate for that male must be provided to the society with evidence that the supplier of the semen has the right to supply such in the UK.

(c) The inseminator is to provide a signed certificate of service to the owner of the doe with AI clearly marked upon it.

(d) Certificate of service is to accompany the registration forms for kids born by this method.

(e) Goats born by this method will have AI marked on their registration card and alongside their entry in the herd book.

(f) The society reserves the right to reject an application to register goats born by artificial insemination if the above rules are not met.

(6) Embryo Transplant (ET)

(a) All processes connected with embryo transplant (ET) to be performed by qualified persons and to be completed in accordance with current legislation.

(b) All donors and sires shall be registered with the BBGS or society of origin, if from abroad, prior to entering an embryo transplant program.

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NOTE: All does flushed as embryo donors must have the number of embryos collected marked and recorded by the operator at the time of collection so that future offspring may be assigned a number according to that collection.

(c) The ET technician is to provide a signed and dated certificate of implantation to the owner of the recipient doe with ET clearly marked upon it. Details must include those of the recipient doe and the number and parentage of the embryos implanted, as well as the contact details of technician.

(d) Certificate of implantation is to accompany the registration forms for kids born via this method.

(e) Goats born by this method will have ET marked on their registration card and alongside their entry in the herd book.

(f) Before entering an embryo, transplant programme ALL donors must have produced at least one live kid by NON-EMBRYO PROGRAMME.

(g) The society reserves the right to reject an application to register goats born by embryo transplantation if the above rules are not met.

(7) The Import of Frozen Embryos and Semen

(a) All rules regarding AI and ET above must be complied with.

(b) Donor goats must be registered with an appropriate Boer Goat breed society.

NOTE: It is advised that an importer of Boer goat embryos or semen seeks confirmation of the ability to register any resulting offspring with the registration secretary prior to the importation. THE RESPONSIBILITY IS SOLELY WITH THE IMPORTER TO SEEK THIS CONFIRMATION. The BBGS accepts no responsibility for the importation of genetic material.

(c) 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 including the certificates of percentage and pedigree of the donor goat. The pedigree must include at least parents and grandparents as per an imported live animal.

NOTE: Documentation showing the number of embryos imported from each doe must also be provided.

(d) The society reserves the right to reject an application to register goats born by artificial insemination or embryo transplantation if the above rules are not met.

(8) Payments

(a) Payments to the BBGS (unless specifically requested otherwise) are to be made in accordance with the instruction currently displayed on the BBGS website, i.e., BACS, PayPal, IBAN.

Payments made to the BBGS will only be deemed as received when the payment is cleared into the BBGS account. No action will be sanctioned until payments are received.

(9) AGM

Annual General Meetings will be held in accordance with the constitution.

(a) Candidates for the position of trustee must be nominated by one member of the BBGS and seconded by another member of the BBGS.

(b) Nominees for the position of trustee of the BBGS must be fully compliant members of the BBGS and be known to their nominator and seconder.

(c) Nominator and Secunder may only nominate or second one candidate per election.

(10) Disputes

(a) Any dispute not being a complaint under rule 14 between members regarding the breaking of BBGS rules will be dealt with within this rule. The committee will deal with any such dispute as it sees fit and proper.

(b) Mediation as a form of settlement of a dispute must be agreed by all parties before the committee consider such action.

(c) If the committee sees fit to Mediate between members, any successful outcome of that mediation will be final and binding.

(d) The BBGS will not enter into any form of consideration of a dispute if the judiciary are or have already been involved.

(e) The BBGS will not deal with personal or business matters.

(f) Personal attacks (public or otherwise) will be considered as bringing the Society's name into disrepute.

(11) Disgraceful Conduct

(a) The disciplinary provisions of the BBGS are in place to protect the Society and its members. As part of the disciplinary provisions the committee have the powers to terminate membership if they resolve that such action is in the best interest of the BBGS.

- (b) Any member who conducts himself/herself in a disgraceful manner or in a manner which may or might be deemed to bring the name of the society into disrepute shall be guilty of a breach of these rules. The committee have the right to suspend any member pending investigation into any suspected or reported breach.
- (c) If it appears to or is brought to the attention of the BBGS committee that any member or *connected person* may at any time within the previous 12 months have been guilty of a breach of these rules the committee may deal with the matter in accordance with the BBGS rules.
- (d) The BBGS will not condone any form of abusive behavior or conduct whatsoever; this includes intimidation, bullying, harassment including any form of communication that is deemed to be aggressive, damaging, inappropriate, or may cause distress.
- (e) It is the duty of every member to read the rule book of the BBGS. Ignorance of a rule will not be considered as defence of a breach of that rule.
- (f) Inappropriate mail or comments to the committee will not be tolerated and will be considered disgraceful conduct.

12 Disciplinary Hearings

- (a) The committee have the right to call or not to call a disciplinary hearing as they see fit.
- (b) Any such hearing should be considered by a panel of no less than 3 committee members who must have no conflict of interest, one of which will act as Chairperson. The member concerned shall be informed of the hearing a minimum of 21 days before the Date of the Hearing and shall have the right to be informed of the reason for the hearing. Any evidence to be used must be provided to all parties.
- (c) Only written representations from the member concerned will be considered and no personal appearance is necessary or allowed.
- (d) Any representations to be considered must be received by the committee no later than 48hrs before the informed date of the hearing, and the responsibility to deliver those representations to the BBGS lies with the member concerned.
- (e) The member concerned will be informed of the findings of the panel and any penalties to be imposed (if any) in a reasonable time and at the convenience of the committee.
- (f) The committee will consider all the above at specially convened Hearing and the result conveyed to the membership.
- (g) The decisions made by the committee at such a Hearing will be final.
- (h) The committee may escalate a hearing to a Tribunal if they see fit.
- (i) Following any hearing the committee can take no action or impose any of the following penalties:
- (i) A Reprimand.
 - (ii) Issue a warning with a fine.
 - (iii) Suspension of membership (for an undetermined period)
 - (iv) Termination of membership from the Society.

(13) Tribunals

- (a) The committee will always endeavor to resolve matters of discipline before calling a Disciplinary tribunal.
- (b) A tribunal can only be called by the BBGS committee.
- (c) A tribunal can be called by the BBGS committee for any breach or reported breach of BBGS rules and such a tribunal will be held at a venue of their choice.
- (d) A tribunal will consist of no less than 3 committee members. In the event of committee members being unavailable, an independent person or persons chosen by the committee may be appointed.
- (e) The object of a tribunal will be to determine whether a breach of the rules has occurred and to act upon the findings of that tribunal.
- (f) A person called to face a Tribunal will attend at his/her own expense.
- (g) The person(s) called to tribunal will be given no less than 28 days' notice of the time and venue of the tribunal.
- (h) The person called to tribunal will be furnished with any possible evidence of a breach of BBGS rules and will be allowed to make representations in person or may appoint a representative to act on his/her behalf. A statement from the person/member or their representative concerned must be submitted to the committee at least 7 days before the date of tribunal.

- (i) Failure to supply a statement at least 7 days before the date of the tribunal will give the committee the right to cancel the tribunal and make their decisions based on the evidence available to them.
- (j) Failure to attend a tribunal or to reply to the summons to a tribunal will see the committee take any action it sees fit and proper, and costs may be made against the non-attendee.
- (k) The committee will consider all representations and evidence before arriving at their conclusion.
- (l) The findings of the tribunal will be final.
- (m) The results of all tribunals will be conveyed to the membership.
- (n) Following any tribunal, the committee can impose any or all the following penalties.
 - (i) Take no action.
 - (ii) A Reprimand.
 - (iii) Issue a Warning with fine.
 - (iv) Suspension of membership
 - (v) Termination of membership from the Society.

(14) Complaints General

- (a) Should any person wish to register a complaint against a member or connected person of the BBGS they should do so within 14 days of the event or within 14 days of being made aware of the alleged transgression.
- (b) Any complaint must be made in writing on the appropriate complaints form signed and submitted to the BBGS Secretary by registered post. The BBGS have the right to refuse consideration of any complaint not submitted in the correct manner.
- (c) Any complaint unless made by an official of the society, having no personal interest in the matter, must be accompanied by a deposit of £250, which shall be liable to forfeiture should the charity trustees consider the complaint to be a frivolous one or one which should not have been made.
- (d) The committee's decision in the matter shall be final.

(15) Events Shows and Exhibitors

- (a) All exhibitors must be BBGS members in order to compete in Affiliated Shows.
- (b) Exhibitors are required to notify the show steward or judge if the judge has an interest in his/her exhibit. For the purpose of this rule, a judge has an interest in an exhibit if he/she has:
 - (i) Owned
 - (ii) Bred
 - (iii) Has or has had a financial interest or gain from it.
- (c) All members and or connected persons must conduct themselves in a reasonable and respectful manner when attending, visiting, or taking part in any activity organized, patronised, sponsored, or sanctioned by the BBGS.
- (d) No Member or connected person shall conduct themselves in a manner which is derogatory to the character or prejudicial to the interest of the BBGS.
- (e) No member or connected person shall behave in an offensive, abusive, or unpleasant manner towards any person attending, visiting, exhibiting, or officiating at any event patronised, supported, sponsored, sanctioned, or organized by the BBGS.
- (f) Members are responsible for the actions of any Non-Members employed by them or assisting or representing or otherwise acting on their behalf and any action or misconduct of such Non-Member which would be a breach of the rules, shall constitute a breach of the rules by the member responsible for them. For the benefit of all BBGS rules such a person is referred to as a *connected person*.
- (g) All exhibitors must comply with all the individual show rules.

(16) Disciplinary Steward

- (a) The organizers of every show may appoint a person to act as Steward at the show. In this situation that Steward will be the disciplinary Steward at the show.
If in the opinion of the Disciplinary Steward, any Member of the Society or connected person, Exhibitor or Other has been guilty of: -
 - Inappropriate conduct.
 - A breach of these rules.

He/she may impose all or any of the following actions.

- (i) Take no action.
- (ii) A reprimand.
- (iii) Disqualification of the Animal or Exhibitor from any class.
- (iv) Suspend the Exhibitor from taking further part in the Event.
- (v) Report the matter to the BBGS committee within 14 days.

(17) Social Media and Internet Policy

(a) The BBGS acknowledges the importance of the internet and social media sites and all other forms of electronic communication.

(b) This policy note is to remind Members that the rules of the BBGS apply to ALL members when using Social Media and the internet. Failure by a member or connected person to adhere to this policy note could lead to disciplinary action being taken against a member.

(c) Members are reminded that communication via email or any other electronic means is included in this policy.

Using Social Media:-

- (i) You should be aware the BBGS may from time to time carry out internet searches to identify postings which include references to the BBGS and its members or Committee or trustees.
- (ii) BBGS images are the subject of copyright and should not be used in Social Media save as provided in the BBGS website users terms and conditions.
- (iii) You should ensure that any material you transmit or post to Social Media is clearly stated to be your personal view and is not held out to be, or could be mistaken as, the view of the BBGS or the BBGS Committee.
- (iv) You must not post or transmit any material which could damage the name or reputation of the BBGS, its Members or former Members or which is derogatory to the character of or prejudicial to the interest of the BBGS.
- (v) You must not post or transmit any material relating to the BBGS, Members, former Members, or their goats which could otherwise be associated with or which may reasonably be attributed as coming from the BBGS, or
- (vi) That is threatening, defamatory, obscene, indecent, seditious, offensive, pornographic abusive liable to incite hatred, discriminatory, menacing, scandalous, inflammatory, blasphemous, in breach of confidence, in breach of privacy or which may cause annoyance, distress, or inconvenience, or
- (vii) Which constitutes or encourages conduct that would be in breach of the BBGS Rules, or constitutes a criminal offence, or which could give rise to civil liability, or otherwise be contrary to the laws of, or infringe the rights of any third party in the UK or any other country in the world.
- (viii) Any breach of this policy may constitute a breach of the BBGS Rules and could lead to civil and or criminal proceedings being brought against you.
- (ix) Members removed from or barred from BBGS Social media platforms may also be subject to disciplinary action.
- (x) Members removed or barred from BBGS Social media platforms will be required to make redress for their comments, before reinstatement to any BBGS platform.
- (xi) Comments or communication directed at any or all the committee members and considered by the committee to be offensive, harassing, derogatory, inappropriate, or which may cause distress will be dealt with via the disciplinary procedures laid down in these rules.

(18) Circumstances not covered.

Inevitably circumstances may arise which are not precisely covered within these rules. In such circumstances the spirit of the Constitution and Rules will be followed by the committee to produce the fairest result for all.

Connected person

For the benefit of these rules a * connected person* is a person related to, employee of, assisting, deemed to be representing or acting on the behalf of a member.

Disclosure Under Law or Regulation

You should be aware that the BBGS Committee will fully co-operate with any law enforcement authorities or court order requesting or directing the BBGS Committee to disclose the identity or locate anyone posting material in breach of this policy. If the BBGS Committee are requested by the police or any other regulatory or government authority investigating suspected illegal activities to provide your personal information, the BBGS committee is entitled to do so.

Disclaimer of Liability

Save from death or personal injury caused by the negligence of the organisers or anyone for whom they are in law responsible, neither the Organisers of any Show or Event or Activity to which these rules apply, nor the BBGS committee, nor any agent, employee or representative of these bodies accepts any liability for any accident, loss, damage, injury, or illness to Goats, Exhibitors, Members, Spectators, Land, or in any other person or property whatsoever, whether caused by negligence, breach of contract or in any other way whatsoever. Members are strongly advised to ensure that they have a minimum of third-party insurance cover.

Amendments Table Rule Book

Section	New Issue No	Date	Description of change
5(b) AI	---	13/08/2020	Edited: "...registered with this society and the society of origin for semen imported from abroad."
9 AGM	---	13/08/2020	Added 9(a) 9(b) 9(c)
3		19/10/2020	Added Rule 3(v) "The Society will enter into the breeding book, animals of the same breed, line or cross that are eligible for entry into the Society's breed criteria, without discrimination on account of their country of origin."