

Rules of Procedure of the Irish Dexter Cattle Society

The Irish Dexter Cattle Society has applied for recognition to the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine as a breed society in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2016/1012. On 16th December 2020 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 Irish Dexter Cattle Society the applicant shall be the owner of a Dexter registered with the IDCS or another recognised herdbok within the EU and kept on a holding in the Republic of Ireland. 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.

Where an IDCS herd prefix is associated with a DAFM herd number which is in multiple names, a partnership or a company name the IDCS prefix will be associated with an individual nominated to represent those named as the herd keepers in the DAFM herd number.

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) DAFM to ICBF data release permission form
2. Following receipt of application to the society office a list of applications for membership are presented to Council at the next meeting of Council.
3. As part of the application process, each member must register an approved herd name comprised of not more than fifteen letters. This herd 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. A herd name that has been used by one member may not contemporaneously be used by another member. Herd name transfers may be approved by the Council of the Society at their discretion.
4. Members joining the society may make all payments due to the society in the form of Direct Debit, On-Line payment or by cheque. Details of the bank account can be found on the society website.
5. Members 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.
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. 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.

Associate membership of the Irish Dexter Cattle Society is available to individuals who do not have any registered Dexters. Associate members will not have a herd name and will not be entitled to register or birth notify animals with the IDCS. Associate members will not be entitled to vote on matters which are decided by a vote of members. Associate members will be entitled to attend society meetings and events and to receive society communications.

Applications for associate membership will be considered if the following document is completed and submitted to the Society's office;

- Application form for associate membership with appropriate fee (See Appendix 1)
- Following receipt of application to the society office a list of applications for associate membership are presented to Council at the next meeting of Council.
- Associate members joining the society may make all payments due to the society in the form of Direct Debit, on-Line payment or by cheque. Details of the bank account can be found on the society website.
- The Society shall have the right to maintain a computerised record of associate member's transactions with the Society, and reserve the right to penalise associate members found to be in breach of procedures vital to the accurate maintenance and integrity of the breeding book of the Society.

Rights of breeders:

1. Breeders shall have the right to participate in the breeding programme of the IDCS where;
 - a) their animals are kept in the Republic of Ireland and
 - b) their breeding animals are covered by the Irish Dexter breeding programme.
2. Breeders participating in the Irish Dexter 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 Dexter Cattle Society breeding programme where applicable.
 - f) to become a member of the Irish Dexter Cattle Society
 - g) to participate in the defining and development of the breeding programme in accordance with these rules of procedure. Suggested changes should be submitted in writing or by email to the council of the IDCS for consideration.
3. Breeders participating in the Irish Dexter 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 Dexter 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 Dexter Cattle Society:

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

Non Discrimination:

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

Appeals Procedure of Irish Dexter Cattle 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 Council meeting, the Council 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 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 member(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 members to abide by the rules, regulations and standards established by this Society

Appendix 1 Schedule of fees

Membership

Annual membership renewal if paid by 31 st January	€60
Annual membership renewal if paid after 31 st January	€70
New member joining before 1 st September.	€60
New member joining on or after 1 st September. Joining years membership fee	€30
Lapsed member rejoining. Annual membership fee plus admin charge of	€20
Register a herd prefix. New members only.	€25
Associate membership annual fee	€30