



**THE AYRSHIRE CATTLE SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND**  
**RULES AND CODES OF CONDUCT FOR SHOWS AND EXHIBITIONS**  
**(Council adoption March 2024)**

**INTRODUCTION**

N.B. The Rules of individual Shows will always take precedence over these Rules and Codes.

The following Rules and Codes govern the showing of dairy cattle at cattle shows or exhibitions. The purpose of these Rules and Codes is to ensure the fair presentation of animals at shows or exhibitions and that no unfair advantage is obtained by any exhibitor of an animal by improper means and to protect the health and welfare of animals presented at shows and exhibitions.

The Rules and Codes seek to maintain high standards of showmanship of animals with the aim of the promotion of dairy cattle and the interests of the ACS and its membership.

The Rules and Codes include certain general principles, and the Rules and Codes are to be applied in accordance with their spirit to achieve their purpose.

These Rules and Codes shall apply to all animals being shown or exhibited in classes for animals registered with the Ayrshire Cattle Society of Great Britain and Ireland (ACS).

These Rules and Codes may be varied, extended, or replaced from time to time by decision of the ACS Rules and Disciplinary committee, and all such amendments or replacements shall be published by notice in the Society Journal, on the official website, or otherwise by general notice to the members.

Should a judge believe that an animal presented before them is being shown in contravention of these Rules and Codes, they shall refer the matter to the Class Steward on the day who will then proceed according to the relevant Show Society's Rules. Whether or not the case is proven, the judge shall file a report to the Ayrshire Cattle Society, via the President.

The Society has adopted the following Code of Practice for Show Ring Preparations: -

**1. DEFINITIONS**

For the purposes of these Rules and Codes, the following definitions shall apply:

**Joint Ownership**

ACS pedigree certificates designate a principal owner for animals which are under 'Joint Ownership', while recording the fact that the animal is owned by more than one person or business.

A jointly owned animal may only be exhibited at any Show under the name of one of the joint owners, entered in the Ayrshire Cattle Society breed classes at the Show. The animal is not eligible for entry in a group or team classes or specials under the name of any of its other joint owners. This shall apply to entries made prior to the show or on the day of competition.

At subsequent Shows, it is perfectly acceptable for the animal to be entered by one of its other joint owners in the Ayrshire or Red & White classes, although the principle of any animal only being entered at any Show by only one Exhibitor remains.

### **Exhibitor Bred**

An animal is defined as exhibitor-bred when it was born to a dam in the ownership of the exhibitor, or in the case of an embryo transfer to the recipient dam, and in the herd with the same herd prefix as registered in the ACS Herd book in the name of the owner/exhibitor.

Where progeny is registered as jointly owned, coming from a dam that is jointly owned, they can be exhibited as Exhibitor-Bred by any of the joint owners, subject to the rule above which requires that only one owner in any joint ownership arrangement may exhibit an animal in question at a Show.

### **Uniform**

ACS uniform is white trousers, blue shirt with the Society logo, blue Society tie, practical boots, or shoes (brown or black). At outside Shows, in bad weather conditions - blue Society jacket or fleece may also be worn.

## **2. ELIGIBILITY FOR ENTRY INTO SHOW CLASSES**

### **Ayrshire Classes**

Animals entered must be registered in the Ayrshire Cattle Society Herd Book and be a minimum of 51% Ayrshire to be eligible for entry into Ayrshire classes. If Black and white in colour, animals must be registered in the Herd Books FULL PEDIGREE Ayrshire section at 100% Ayrshire.

### **British Red and White Classes**

Any animal registered in the Ayrshire Cattle Society Herd Book but not eligible for the Ayrshire classes and under 51% Ayrshire blood. All animals MUST be red and white in colour.

## **3. PERMITTED PRACTISES**

The following practises ARE PERMITTED for the purpose of the preparation of an animal for presentation at a show or exhibition: -

The trimming of feet, clipping of hair, the washing of animals, chalking, oiling of feet and the setting of an animals topline.

The permitting of an animals udder to fill naturally with the animals own milk production for as long as it is deemed necessary to show the udder in its best form, but not to cause stress and discomfort.

The enabling of a veterinary surgeon to treat an animal as may be necessary for its welfare. The treatment of an animal with prescribed medications as may be necessary for its welfare, under the supervision of a veterinary surgeon or appointed show steward.

#### **4. PRACTISES THAT ARE NOT PERMITTED**

The following practices are not permitted for the purpose of the preparation of an animal for presentation at a show or exhibition: -

The infusion or injection of any drugs or any other substance or the insertion of any object into the teats, udder, blood vessels, muscles or under the skin of any animal or otherwise into an animal to restrict the flow of milk, unless instructed and administered by the show's Veterinary surgeon.

The setting of the teats of an animal with any form of glue or other setting substance or any other action which alters the natural teat placement of an animal.

The sealing of an animal's teats with any form of glue or other substance which prevents a cow reducing pressure on her udder through natural leakage.

Any surgery to the mammary system of an animal at any time during the life of the animal, which is designed to alter its physical attributes, except the removal of supernumerary teats.

Performing surgery of any kind to change the natural contour or appearance of the animal's body, hide or hair. (Not included is the removal of warts, teats, and horns, clipping and dressing of hair and trimming of hooves).

Roping udders and the use of objects to improve definition of the suspensory centre ligament physically or balancing the udder by any means other than by leaving naturally produced milk in any or all quarters.

Filling an animal's rumen unnaturally with liquid (tubing).

The attachment of any appliance, electrical or otherwise, to the animal other than for milking.

Administering epidural anaesthesia (blocking tails) and/or applying any irritant either externally or internally to the perineal (rectum and vagina) area.

Inserting foreign material/articles under the skin, into the topline (including hair not attached to its own hair follicle) or on the feet. (Administration of prescribed medicines, and false switches and tails are permitted).

Wrapping hocks or draining fluid from hocks unless authorized by a veterinarian at the show.

Any other inducement, physical interference or other action which would cause an animal to be presented in an unnatural condition and, which in the opinion of the Society or its authorised representatives, might give the exhibitor of the animal an unfair or improper advantage or cause the animal unreasonable distress.

Misrepresenting the age, number of calvings, or ownership of the animal to the show or the Judge and stewards.

Shaving or cutting the hair on the ribs, using very fine blades of the trimming machines or cutters, such that the ribs appear scratched or bald, is forbidden.

## **5. ENFORCEMENT OF THE RULES**

The owner or owners or exhibitors (as the case may be) of an animal shall, on request, allow any qualified representative of the Society or the Show to inspect and take samples for DNA/Genomic testing from the animal at any time prior to, during, or following any cattle show or other exhibition at which the animal is to be or has been presented. The Society or Show's representative may require an animal to be submitted to a rigorous inspection following the animal's last appearance in the show ring or other exhibition on the day. Any animal presented at a show or exhibition in contravention of these Rules shall be withdrawn by the exhibitor or owner(s) upon the request in this behalf of the authorised representatives of the Show or the Society.

The owner or owners or exhibitors (as the case may be) of an animal shall be responsible for the way in which the animal is presented in the show ring or exhibition and should ensure that all the owner's or exhibitor's employees and/or other assistants prepare the animal in accordance with the practices permitted by these Rules.

Any refusal by an owner or owners or exhibitors (as the case may be) of a request to examine an animal pursuant to section 5 of these rules shall constitute an infringement of these Rules.

Any evidence of an infringement of these Codes and Rules must be reported to a member of the ACS Presidents Committee or Show Steward within two hours of the incident being discovered by direct conversation, answerphone message, text, or email. The complaint must be followed-up in writing within 30 days of the incident to the Society for consideration as hereafter provided.

If any member is charged with an infringement of these Rules, the Rules & Disciplinary Committee of the Society, or such authorised representatives of the Society as may be determined by the Rules & Disciplinary Committee, shall examine into the subject of the charge and if the Rules & Disciplinary Committee be of the opinion that an infringement of these rules has been sufficiently established, the same shall constitute conduct of the owner or owners or exhibitors which is deemed to be derogatory to the character or prejudicial to the interests of the Society and accordingly, conduct to which the provisions of the Constitution and Rules of the Society shall apply. The Rules & Disciplinary Committee shall, therefore, have power to recommend to Council to expel from membership, suspend the membership of, penalise or censure any member of the Society guilty of a contravention of these Rules in like manner as provided in the Constitution and Rules.

## **GENERAL**

In any question as to the interpretation or application of these Rules, the decision of the Rules & Disciplinary Committee shall be final and binding.

If the Rules & Disciplinary Committee decide a violation of the Showing Rules and Codes of Conduct has been made the following guidelines have been recommended by Council with respect to

appropriate suspensions as part of disciplinary measures to be imposed in the event of violations of the Rules and Regulations for Showing, these procedures or other applicable Show Rules and Regulations.

Any owner and exhibitor (if different) in breach of these rules on showing (on the report of the Show's Stewards or appointed Veterinary Surgeon, or the Society's Rules & Disciplinary Committee) shall be barred for two years from entering any shows (including acting as a judge), national herd competitions, or competitive Society events run under Ayrshire Society Rules and will also receive on

1st Offence	a written warning and fine
2nd Offence	expulsion from the Ayrshire Cattle Society

**Members having paid the annual membership fee to the Ayrshire Cattle Society are deemed to have read, understood, and agreed to abide by the above Rules and Codes.**



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