Dutch Spotted Sheep Society (DSSS) – Rules and Objectives

4 November 2026

The charity trustees may from time to time make such reasonable and proper rules or bye laws as they may deem necessary or expedient for the proper conduct and management of the Society. Copies of any such rules or bye laws currently in force along with the breed standards must be made available to any member of the Society on request.

The DSSS breeding objectives are to maintain and develop the breed, as both a cross and terminal sire in the UK commercial sheep system.

1. **THE BREED STANDARD**

   The breed standard of DSS shall be as appended. The rules of the Society should be followed in conjunction with the breed standards.
   (https://www.dutchspottedsheep.co.uk/workspace/docs/breed-standard-august-2022.pdf)

2. **THE FLOCK BOOK**

   The purpose of the flock book is to record and register the pedigrees of male and female DSS owned by members of the DSSS in the UK. The DSSS flock book is comprised of a main section and one supplementary section. The Society will enter into the flock book, animals of the same breed, line or cross that are eligible for entry under the Society's breed criteria. A certificate of registration will be issued to the new owner for each animal accepted. All forms and certificates issued and received by, or on behalf of, the association shall remain the property of the Society. Registration fees will be decided by the Society trustees. The following will be admitted to the Flock Book: The registration grade of the sheep will be at the full discretion of the Society's trustees.
   The recording and registration of DSS is undertaken through the Grassroots System.

   a. DSS sired by a fully registered DSS ram out a fully registered DSS ewe which has been bred by a fully registered member of the Society. From the 1st of April 2022 animals from non-members will not be eligible for registration in the DSSS flock book.
   b. DSS with a pedigree certificate and/or pedigree history from the Nederlands Bonte Schaap (NLBS) or other similar organisation in the country of origin and after inspection by the Society trustees.
   c. DSS 'Grade 0' males and females after inspection by the Society trustees.
   d.
      i. For an imported animal, its parents as a minimum must be recorded by a bona-fide Dutch Spotted Sheep breeder and/or member of the NLBS (Nederlands Bonte Schaap) or association in their country of origin. (This may be more than 1 country). If the said paperwork carries the correct information, and the sheep is from a recognised breeder, the sheep shall be eligible for registration only after submission of satisfactory photographic evidence or inspection by the Society's trustees. If the said paperwork doesn't carry all the correct information, the sheep may only be eligible (after inspection) for registration up to and including at 75% or grade 3 at the trustee's discretion. Imported animals registered into the DSSS flock book will have "Import" and the year of importation marked on their registration and entry in the flock book.
      ii. Imported sheep should be registered within 60 days of date of import for a one-off fee depending on country of origin as follows:
         1. Sheep born in ROI, imported from ROI to UK, £72 (inc VAT)(PDF certificate) £74.40 (paper certificate) – registration fee doubles
         2. Sheep born in Europe (other than ROI), and imported, including through ROI, £300 (inc VAT)(PDF certificate), £302.40 (Paper certificate)
         3. Please note that if registered outside of 60 days of date of import, the relevant fee will be doubled.
         4. Please note that in Northern Ireland it is an offence to remove the original method of identification of an animal originating in another EU member state in contravention of Article 4(5) of the Council Regulations.

e. The breeder of an imported animal to be registered must consent or otherwise to our GDPR terms (that can be found on our website).

f. If an application for registration is refused or withdrawn, the owner of the said sheep shall have the right of appeal to the Society trustees, which will appoint three Society trustees to inspect the animal again and advise the remaining Society trustees. Any decision then made by the Society trustees will be final.

3. GRADING UP REGISTER

The Society will maintain a grading up register to record the grading of females. A certificate of registration will be issued along with a grade number and percentage for every female entered into the plan. See appendix for further details on grading up.

a. Grades of DSS are defined as follows:
Grade 0 – over 96.875% DSS genes
Grade 1 – over 93.75% DSS genes
Grade 2 – over 87.5% DSS genes
Grade 3 – over 75% DSS genes
Grade 4 – 50% DSS genes **(The last year for registering Grade 4's was 2023)**
The grade and percentage will be shown on the registration certificate

b. The Society may, at its discretion, upgrade to 100% those female Grade 0 DSS with over 96.875% DSS genes into the "Pure" flock book.
c. All percentage female DSS are eligible for registration within the register, naming of the animal is compulsory.
d. Only Male DSS that are 96.875% or over (grade "0") are eligible for registration and at the discretion of the Society, upgrade to 100% DSS and entry into the "Pure" flock book.
e. On acceptance of a registration by the Society, owners will be issued with a pedigree certificate for each DSS showing its registered number and indicating the grade and percentage.
f. All forms and certificates issued and received by, or on behalf of, the Society shall remain the property of the DSSS.
g. All Grade 0 DSS will be subject to inspection by a Society trustee on a random basis. If any sheep is found not to conform to the relevant breed standard on inspection its registration may be changed or withdrawn.
h. Where no paperwork or pedigree exists, and the breeder is not a member of the NLBS (Nederlands Bonte Schaap) or association in their country of origin – then the animal will not be registered.
i. The registration grade of the sheep will be at the full discretion of the Society trustees.
j. If an application for registration is refused or withdrawn, the owner of the said sheep shall have the right of appeal to the Society trustees, which will appoint three Society trustees to inspect the animal again and advise the remaining trustees. Any decision then made by the Society trustees will be final.

4. INSPECTION METHODS

The inspection methods for DSS shall be as appended.

5. REQUIREMENTS FOR REGISTRATION OF DSS

a. Registrations may only be made by a fully paid-up member of the Society with a registered prefix.
b. Applications should be made by the breeder – that is the owner of the dam at the time of the birth of the animals to be registered.

c. Where this is not possible the Society may at its discretion accept an application from an owner other than the breeder so long as the breeder is a fully paid member or the Society. In such cases the owner's prefix shall be used as a suffix and additional charges may be necessary.
d. No two flocks will be allowed to register the same prefix, (so check with the registration secretary that your chosen prefix is available).
e. Registration applications shall be made on the appropriate form obtainable from the registration secretary.
f. Registered sheep should comply with the breed standards.
g. All forms and certificates issued and received by, or on behalf of the Society shall remain the property of the Society.
h. All registered sheep may be subject to inspection by a Society trustee on a random basis. If any sheep is found not to conform to the relevant breed standard on inspection its registration may be withdrawn. DSSS reserves the right to undertake random DNA testing
i. Clauses 2 and 3 above will be followed for registrations to be viable.
j. Registration fees: MALES £24 (PDF Certificate) or £26.40 (Paper Certificate) and FEMALES – £7.20 (PDF Certificate) or £9.60 (Paper Certificate). Registration fees are doubled for lambs not registered by 30 November in the year of their birth.
   IMPORTED SHEEP £300 (PDF Certificate) or £302.40 (Paper Certificate) for males and females of any age from EU including those imported from EU through ROI to UK.
   IMPORTED SHEEP £72.00 (PDF Certificate) or £74.40 (Paper certificate) for males or females of any age born in ROI.
   Transfer of ownership £3.60 (PDF Certificate) or £6 (Paper Certificate). These sums are payable to Dutch Spotted Sheep Society at the time of application. No pedigree will be issued unless any payments due have been settled.
   Renewal £36.00, Associate Membership £36.00, Associate Membership Renewal, £36.00. To be included in the current year flock book all membership fees are to be received before 31st December of that year.
k. Transfers of sheep should align with movement dates provided to relevant regional movement licensing authorities (Scot EID/EID Cymru/NIFAIS/LIS). Transfers not completed within 60 days of sale will be subject to double transfer fees per animal.
l. Pedigree certificates (if in paper form) - Certificates should be preserved and if the sheep named thereon is sold the certificate must be returned to the Society, accompanied by a transfer form completed by the seller and the appropriate fee. No Alteration should be made to the certificate other than by the Society. The registration certificate for any registered dead animals must be returned to the registration's secretary.
m. Both MV & Non MV sheep may be registered.
n. Lambs should not be submitted for registration under the following circumstances: -
   i. Abnormalities including but not restricted to:
   ii. Over/Under shot jaws
   iii. Twisted feet
   iv. Poor conformation
   v. Blindness, blue, china or wall eyes, either total or partial.
   vi. Sexual defects - i.e., rams without two sufficiently developed testicles apparent in a single scrotum

The Society Trustees have the full discretion on the registration of any Pedigree or Graded animal.

6. UNPAID FEES

a. Any member with outstanding fee's will be put on hold until monies are received.
b. If any member defaults on paying fees, the society has the right to withhold all member privileges. Member privileges include but are not limited to, registration or birth notification of animals, transfer of animals into or out of the flock, newsletters and updates of information, the right to vote at or attend an AGM etc.

7. RULES REGARDING ARTIFICIAL INSEMINATION

a. All processes connected with AI to be performed by qualified persons and to be completed in accordance with current legislation.
b. Any males used for artificial insemination shall be registered with the Society.
c. Pedigree certificate of service is to accompany the registration forms for lambs born by this method.
d. Lambs born by this method will have AI marked on their registration card and alongside their entry in the flock book.
e. The Society reserves the right to reject an application to register lambs born by artificial insemination.

8. RULES REGARDING EMBRYO TRANSPLANT

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 Society prior to entering an embryo transplant program.
c. The ET technician is to provide a signed and dated certificate of implantation to the owner of the recipient ewe with ET clearly marked upon it. Details must include those of the recipient ewe and the number and parentage of the embryos implanted, and the contact details of technician.
d. Certificate of implantation is to accompany the registration forms for lambs born by this method.
e. Lambs born by this method will have (ET) marked on their registration card and alongside their entry in the flock book.
f. The Society reserve the right to reject an application.

9. RULES REGARDING THE IMPORT OF FROZEN EMBRYOS AND SEMEN

a. All rules regarding AI and ET above must be complied with.
b. Donor ewes must be registered with an appropriate breed society. (It is advised that an importer of DSS embryos or semen seeks confirmation of the ability to register any resulting offspring with the registrations secretary prior to the importation.)
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. The pedigree must include at least parents and grandparents as per an imported live animal.
d. Any animals/germinal products that are imported into the UK and to be registered with DSSS, must be accompanied by the correct documentation.
e. The Society reserved the right to reject an application.

10. IDENTIFICATION

The Society requires the following information on ear tags on pure and graded animals.
E.g.
UK Flock Number
UK EID Number
DSSS Flock Number
DSSS Year Letter
We recommend using a flag tag and a colour set by the Society each year.
Sheep put forward for registration must be uniquely identifiable as per the Society guidelines and by a method decided by DEFRA or equivalent Government organisation.
For information on tagging in the UK please see link below:
Sheep and goat keepers: how to identify your animals – GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
For Northern Ireland please see the link below:
Home I Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (daera-ni.gov.uk)
For Scotland, please see the link below:
https://www.gov.scot/publications/livestock-identification-and-traceability-guidance/pages/sheep-and-goats/

a. Electronic Identification or EID - All DSS will need to carry double ID tags, one of which must be electronic and must be the appropriate colour for your region. The UK number and individual ID are recorded on the chip and also printed on the tag. The secondary tag colour will be recommended by the Society each year, and a flag tag is recommended. The secondary tag will show the UK number and individual ID but will also contain management information, e.g., DSSS Flock number and DSSS year letter. All stock destined for breeding must be identified in this way and any animal that is kept longer than one year of age. It is not necessary to buy the equipment that reads the electronic tags. Missing and replacement tags can be replaced with an identical tag. If still on the holding of birth it will be acceptable to replace both tags with new ones and to record this in the holding register. If the animal loses both tags and cannot be identified, or if it is not on the holding of birth, the replacement tags must be red. (It is worth checking the Government organisation rules in your region on identification on a regular basis) Any replacement tag numbers must be recorded with the Society to ensure an accurate pedigree database.
b. Naming of Males is Compulsory
c. Rams can only be given a name if there is a Flock Name registered with the Society.
d. Rams can only have the Flock name of the "Breeding" Flock.
e. Pedigree certificates will not be changed retrospectively i.e., the Rams name will only appear on Pedigree certificates published after the date of naming.
f. A ram's name must include the Flock name and must start with the Year Letter. A name cannot be used with a number after its name.
g. Ram names cannot be used more than once within a Flock.
h. Ram names will not be issued by the Society if thought to be inappropriate.
i. The naming of full pedigree females is compulsory and by following the above rules 9 c) – h). The naming of Graded up females is optional but recommended, following the same rules.
j. Flocks will be issued with a DSSS number, e.g., 0001, 0002, 0003, etc. by the Society.
k. The Society requires all registered (Pedigree and Graded) sheep to be tagged with a Year Letter, Individual unique Number and Society Flock Number. All sheep must be tagged before an application is made for registration. Members should check with DEFRA, or their equivalent Government organisation, that they also comply with current government tagging regulations. The annual year letter is: 2017=A, 2018=B, 2019=C, 2020=D, 2021=E, 2022=F, 2023=G, 2024-H, 2025= I, 2026=J, 2027=K etc.
l. All sheep to be tagged with EID in the left ear (as viewed from behind) and second tag in right ear in accordance with Government legislation.
m. In the event of any sheep losing its tag it must be re-tagged with the original number, or a red tag if a purchased animal. (If using a red tag then this number should be recoded with the Society.)

11. SHOWS AND SALES

a. Trimming is freestyle but the use of artificial colouring, paint, sprays, chalk, etc. are not permitted.
b. Any members attempting to produce a more permanent change to the appearance of a sheep may be barred from membership of the Society.
c. Members exhibiting at shows must obey the rules of the Show Society and DSSS rules.
d. Both MV and Non MV sheep may be shown in their appropriate classes as per the Show Society rules. – Shows or pre-sale shows?
e. All sheep entered into DSSS classes at agricultural shows must be fully registered with the Society prior to entry.
f. Only sheep of compliance with the Society's breed standard may be shown or presented for Society sales.
g. All sheep forward at Breed Sales must be registered with the DSSS six weeks prior to sale.
h. All sheep forward will be the property of members of the Society. If the governing body of the sale accepts sheep from non-members, they shall be sold at the end of the Society's Members' run in their appropriate ring.
i. Excessive entries at sales: Society trustees reserve the right to govern the number of entries at Breed Sales. This will be adequately described in the appropriate Sale Schedule.

j. Substitute entries must be notified no later than 3 days before the sale. Substitute animals will be marked with a red dot on the shoulder. Any substitutes not notified to the registrations secretary at least 3 days prior to the sale will be treated as a rejection and removed from the sale.
k. All entries to be made available for inspection at the sale: sheep which, in the opinion of the Breed Inspectors, fail to meet the breed standards for characteristics and conformation or are unhealthy or injured will be excluded from the sale. No refund of entry fees will be made for sheep excluded from the Sale. Sheep which have been excluded shall be marked with a yellow dot and immediately removed from the sale pen forthwith and not further exhibited for sale. Rejected animals cannot be sold at another Society sale in the same calendar year.
l. Society trustees may set minimum reserve (upset) prices for sale entries.
m. At the Championship line-ups the sheep that were placed second to the Champions in their classes should be brought forward when judging of the Reserve Champion takes place.
n. Should the champion in any class not meet its reserve and therefore not be sold it will not be permitted to enter the show classes at other Official DSSS Sales in the same calendar year if shown by the same vendor.
o. Only rosettes awarded at the relevant sale can be displayed.
p. Rams and Ram Lambs: All rams, including ram lambs, are warranted by the seller to be capable of natural and effective service within the time period set by the Auction Market of the Sale. Any disputes should be lodged with the Official Auctioneers within the time of the warranty period along with a Veterinary Certificate confirming:
    i. The ram is incapable of performing a natural effective service (note viable semen collection for artificial insemination will not entitle a claim); and
    ii. The Veterinary Surgeon has inspected the Purchaser's ewes and found them to be in normal, responsible breeding condition; then the Purchaser may return the animal to the Seller and be fully reimbursed or be replaced with another ram of equal value.
q. In-Lamb Ewe Sales: All rams specified as being the 'sire of' or 'having run with the ewe' must be registered with the DSSS in order for the progeny to be registered. Ewes running with unregistered rams shall be excluded from the sale.
r. "Trotting up prices" is not permitted, members risk removal from the Society if found to be doing this.
s. Showing sheep not for sale is not permitted.
t. Realistic reserve price must be set.
u. Any interference with natural tooth growth is not permitted.
v. **FLOCK DISPERSAL** – In prior agreement with the society, a full flock dispersal can take place on the same day as a Society sale, but not as part of the main sale and must be catalogued in a separate publication;
    There can be one dispersal sale only per flock and no further sheep can be registered for the flock once a dispersal sale has taken place.
    Dispersal sheep will not be inspected, and will not be eligible for showing.
    If advertised alongside the society sale, then the levy fee applicable to the main sale will apply.

12. SHEARING

All adult sheep for showing to be shorn between 1st January to the date of the show at which they are to be shown.

13. LAMBING CALENDAR

Lambs may be born from the 1st January of the Calendar year

14. SOCIAL MEDIA

All members should be aware that the use of social media in a way that may be deemed as deliberate or inadvertent misuse may lead to disciplinary action, as above. Such Social Media breaches include anything that could be considered discriminatory against the Society, or bullying or harassment of, any individual, for example by:

a. Making offensive or derogatory comments relating to sex, gender reassignment, race (including nationality), disability, sexual orientation, religion or belief, age or to bully another individual or posting images that are discriminatory or offensive or links to such content.
b. Bringing the DSSS into disrepute by criticising or arguing with members, making defamatory comments about individuals or other organisations or groups or posting images that are inappropriate or links to inappropriate content.
c. Breaching of copyright by using someone else's images or written content without permission or failing to give acknowledgement where permission has been given to reproduce something.

15. DISPUTES

If a dispute arises between members of the DSSS about the validity or propriety of anything done by the members under this document the following process shall occur if the dispute cannot be resolved by agreement.

DSSS ensures the equal treatment of breeders participating in their breeding programme.

The parties relating to any dispute must firstly try in good faith to settle the dispute by mediation, before resorting to litigation.

The dispute should be advised in writing to the current Chairman or Secretary of the DSSS and sent to:
The Secretary DSSS, Birniehall Farm, Carluke, South Lanarkshire ML8 4QZ
or email secretary@dutchspottedsheep.co.uk

16. DISCLAIMER

The Society will not become involved in civil or contractual disputes between parties, including but not limited to disputes concerning ownership, sale, purchase, payment or the description of animals. Such matters remain the responsibility of the parties concerned, who should seek independent legal advice where necessary.

The Society accepts no responsibility for representations made by buyers or sellers in connection with private transactions. It is the responsibility of purchasers to satisfy themselves as to the ownership, identity, pedigree and registration status of animals prior to purchase.

The registration of an animal with the Society, or the recording of a person as its keeper or owner within the Society's records, shall not constitute proof of legal ownership. Nothing in this provision prevents the Society from investigating matters relating to the integrity of its pedigree records or potential breaches of its rules and regulations."