

Rules Guide

Revised 2024

The articles of Incorporation of the CONTINENTAL DORSET CLUB state that the purpose of our organization is "to collect, verify, preserve, and publish reliable facts pertaining to the history and breeding of Dorset Sheep, and to promote the interest of the breed by all honorable means."

Since the formation of this Club, it has issued a certificate of registry for every Dorset whose pedigree has been verified, checked and accepted for entry as a purebred Dorset.

We encourage our breeders to comply with the rules of registration to the best of their ability. Each entry sent to us is checked carefully in an attempt to keep and provide the best pedigree information possible for our breed.

This Rules Guide has been prepared to help you with any questions you might have regarding the rules as stated on the entry blanks. The Guide will attempt to give some background and in-depth explanation of the rules.

If you have further problems or questions, please write or phone the Continental Dorset Office.

PRIVILEGES OF REGISTRATION

Anyone is eligible to register Dorsets in the Continental Dorset Club; providing they furnish pedigree information that complies with the rules and checks with information in our files.

Cost of registration varies depending upon whether you are a Life Member, a Youth Member, or a non-member. These fees are explained further in this booklet.

ELIGIBILITY OF ANIMALS

The sire and dam of any domestically bred animal for which application is made, must be registered in the Continental Dorset Club.

Imported sheep must be registered in their native records. The Certificate of Registry, properly transferred to the new owner, is to be sent to this office for acceptance into our records.

The Standards of Excellence for our breed is printed in the Pocket Record Book, the Dorset Booklet and is available in letter form. This Standards of Excellence is a guide for selection and judging. The following defects are very undesirable and should be discriminated against in shows and sales. (After each defect the section(s) of the scorecard in which that defect is found and the total points assigned to that section are listed.)

1. Inverted eyelids (*Head 25 pts*)
2. Abnormally large tear ducts (*Head 25 pts*)
3. Absence of hair covering in typical areas (*Head 25 pts*)
4. Lack of muscling (*Back-Loin-Rump-Leg 30 pts*)
5. Weak pasterns (*Feet-Legs-Pasterns 20 pts*)
6. Post legged (*Feet-Legs-Pasterns 20 pts*)
7. Sickie hocked (*Feet-Legs-Pasterns 20 pts*)
8. Cow hocked (*Feet-Legs-Pasterns 20 pts*)
9. Splayed footed-badly turned out front feet (*Feet-Legs-Pasterns 20 pts*)

The following traits are highly objectionable as traits #1 thru #8 relate to the possible influence of outside genetics in the Dorset breed, and traits #9 thru #10 affect the basic functionality of the breeding animal. These traits will be vigorously discriminated against in shows and sales. In addition, the CDC Board of Directors strongly encourages you to display a high level of integrity when selecting animals in your flock for registry in the Continental Dorset Club displaying any of these traits. (***After each trait the section(s) of the scorecard in which that trait is found and the total points assigned to that section are listed.***)

1. Large ears and/or droopy ears (***Head 25 pts***)
 - A. Ears should be small to medium in length and in total size.
 - B. Ears should be at least 5 degrees above horizontal when alert.
 - C. Ears should relate to the size of the animal.
2. Fine textured silky hair covering (***Head 25 pts and Feet-Legs-Pasterns 20 pts***)

3. Dewlaps, excessive loose skin or large wrinkles and folds. (Dewlap is a pendulous fold of skin under the throat.) (*Neck-Shoulder-Chest 10 pts*)
4. Hooves with excessive black striping (*Feet-Legs-Pasterns 20 pts*)
5. Any color other than pink on the nose or mouth (*Head 25 pts*)
Exception: A black spot on the nose, septum or mouth equal to or smaller than the size of an eraser head on a standard sized pencil (0.25 inches) is acceptable.
6. Any dark colored spots in the haired portion of sheep (*Head 25 pts and Feet-Legs-Pasterns 20 pts*)
Exception: A black spot on an ear equal to or smaller than the size of an eraser head on a standard sized pencil (0.25 inches) is acceptable.
Highly objectionable dark color on the haired portion of two or more anatomical regions of the sheep (ie: on two or more legs OR on one leg or more legs and head) will result in a disqualification.
7. Height – Yearling ewes over 34 inches tall at the shoulder. Yearling rams over 37 inches tall at the shoulder. (*Frame 7 pts*)
8. Pure horned ewes with horns that curve backward, grow in a backward curve, or the tips of the horns grow inward and close to the neck. (*Head 25 pts*)
9. Incisor teeth slightly missing dental pads
10. Abnormal testes:
 - A. Scrotal circumferences less than 30 centimeters for one year and under and 32 centimeters for yearlings and older. (Reference: S.I.D. Sheep Production Handbook, pg. 936)
 - B. Testicles unequal in size.

Any animal having any of the following characteristics will be disqualified from shows and sales, and are ineligible for registry in the Continental Dorset Club.

1. Sheep with a completely black hoof. (A hoof is defined as both toes. Area to be examined is the outside wall that is visibly exposed, not between the toes.)
2. A completely black or dark colored lining of the mouth or nose.
3. The presence of highly objectionable color (as defined in High Objectionable Traits #6) on the haired portion of two or more anatomical regions. The head (nose, face and ears) is considered one anatomical region and each individual leg is considered an anatomical region.
4. Dark colored spots in the wool.
5. Solid black fleece animals, badger, or Hereford fleece (black body with white head or legs, and belly)
6. Holstein fleece pattern (black with white spots)
7. Spilt scrotum exceeding more than ½ inch in split length
8. Obvious parrot mouth (overbite) or monkey jaw (underbite)
9. Cryptorchidism (rams lacking two or one testicles)
10. Pure Horned sheep that have been dehorned.
11. Any signs of surgical alterations or any mechanical alterations (other than tail docking, and horn and/or scur care to protect the health of the animal or for management purposes) and/or use of substances to camouflage coloration as described in #1 thru #6 under disqualifications and #4 thru #6 under highly objectionable traits.*

**Violators will be subject to disciplinary action as outlined in the Continental Dorset Club Constitution and Bylaws.*

RULES FOR REGISTRATION

The green entry blank used for making application for registration has the rules of registration on the back. You will note that each column is numbered to correspond with the rules on the back. On-line registration applications are available at the CDC website at: www.continentaldorsetclub.com

1. NAME refers to the flock name that all the sheep you raise will carry. Use your surname or your farm or ranch name. Individual pet names are not acceptable.

We do have a policy of recording the special sheep names. To include your sheep in this special group, the fee is \$25. The names are kept on file so that there is no duplication of name. To enter your sheep in this group, send the registration paper to the Continental Dorset Club Office, along with the \$25 fee and the name you wish to give the sheep. We will record the name, issue a new paper for the sheep showing the new name, and this same name will appear on the certificate of all this sheep's subsequent offspring.

2. Each sheep offered for registration MUST carry a private identification number. These numbers can be either tags or tattoos. They can be purchased from most livestock supply companies, and from some veterinarian offices. We suggest that each breeder run his private tags consecutively. It is also suggested that you code these numbers with the year of birth.

3. All applications for sheep having polled breeding must indicate the degree of polledness for each animal. The code letters for this are: P - Polled, S Scurred, NH - Normal Horned. Pure Horned Dorsets, those with NO polled breeding have no prefix code letters. No scur or horn can be cut back for the purpose of misrepresenting the true condition of the animal. However, we do recommend that scurs be trimmed to avoid the possibility of their growing into the head of the animal. Trimming of scurs is

acceptable; but it is not recommended to attempt to "de-horn" the animal. The Certificate of any sheep registered, as Polled that subsequently develops scars or horns should be returned to the office for correction

4. The sex should be indicated using the code letters: M(male), F(female), or R(ram), E(ewe).

5. Birth Date requires month, day and year of birth.

6. Code for type of birth is S(single), TW(twin), TR (triplet), QD (quadruplet), QT(quintuplet).

7. Code for type of mating is AI (artificial insemination), ET (embryo transfer), NAT (natural mating). As of January 1, 2013, before E.T. registrations can be completed, the CDC Embryo Flush Form needs to be filled out and sent into the CDC Office. Any AI registrations that are out of a ram/semen not currently owned will also need a CDC Sale of Semen Declaration Form on file with the CDC office before registrations can be processed. Both forms are available on the CDC website: www.continentaldorsetclub.com or can be obtained by contacting the CDC office.

8. SIRE: Be sure to give the name, private identification, and C.D.C. registration number.

9. DAM: Be sure to give the name, private identification, and C.D.C. registration number. Two lines are provided for this information

10. Scrapie ID Number: At the time of registration if you list your flock premise number along with the individual scrapie number the CDC office will put this information directly onto the registration papers. Scrapie numbers are strongly encouraged to be placed on the registration papers where space is provided to assist you in accurate record keeping.

11. Lambplan ID Number: If the animal is enrolled in the NSIP/Lambplan program this number will be listed on their registration certificates so breeders can access the NSIP website to get the most recent performance data information on that animal.

12. If the animal has been sold, transfer information is required in the extreme right hand columns on the form. Give the date of delivery or the date the new owner took possession of the animal. Fees are required on these transfers of ownership.

13. List the complete name and address of the new owner in the manner in which he wants the sheep recorded. Transfer fees are due on the transactions.

As of July 1, 1988, the Continental Dorset Club Office ceased sending out corresponding metal ear tags along with the registration papers. Registration numbers are still assigned, but no tags are issued. In lieu of the tags, the C.D.C. is recommending that you double tag with your private ID tags, scrapie tags or tattoo the animal. Each animal MUST carry a private identification number either tag or tattoo.

If a private tag or scrapie tag is lost, it should be replaced with the same number if possible. If you re-tag with a different number, the C.D.C. Office MUST be notified.

BREEDER AND OWNER

The owner of the dam at the time she is bred is the breeder and owner of the lamb and must sign the entry blank as such. If the animal being registered has been sold, the transfer information should be listed in the extreme right hand columns of the entry blank. If the breeder sells a bred ewe, the person owning the ewe when she was bred, signs the entry blank as BREEDER, and the person owning the ewe when she lambs signs the form as the OWNER.

If the owner of the ewes leases or borrows a ram, a lease form must be signed. A lease form or certificate of service is provided on the entry blank or separate forms will be furnished upon request. They are also available at the CDC website at www.continentaldorsetclub.com. In this situation, the owner of the ram does NOT sign the entry blank as the breeder.

TRANSFERS

Transfers made after the certificates are issued are made by filling out one of the transfer spaces on the back of the animal's registration certificate. This requires the DATE OF SALE, name and address of purchaser or new owner, and signature and address of the seller. We require the month, day, and year on transfers.

MEMBERSHIP

LIFE Membership into the Dorset Club is \$20.00. Memberships are not transferable nor can additional names be added after a membership is issued, so it is very important that the Application of Membership be signed correctly. These forms are available upon request or on the CDC website at www.continentaldorsetclub.com. The form should be signed in the manner in which the membership is to read and in the way all papers concerning this member's sheep will be signed. .

Only sheep owned in the same manner as the membership reads are eligible for registry under the membership rates. Joint memberships and Farm memberships are acceptable. These joint memberships do not permit individuals within the joint membership to act as a member separately. Only animals jointly owned or owned under the Farm name are eligible for the membership rates in these situations. Ownership of the sheep and the membership must read the same.

Occasionally, a circumstance arises when the ownership of a flock within the same family wants or needs to be changed. These occasions include the inclusion of wife, children, brother, sister; or they can include the separation of a partnership or death of a partner. Our policy in cases such as this is: a new membership is required at \$20 and the entire flock will be transferred to the new name at half the price or \$5.00 each. We require that these transfers be done all at the same time.

It is a long standing policy of the Continental Dorset Club to require applicants for membership to get a signature of recommendation on their Membership Application. We prefer that this recommendation be given by a person who is already a member of the Dorset Club, however, if this is not convenient, we will accept the signature of your County Extension Director, or an officer at your bank. Either of these persons should list their position and address.

OWNERSHIP OF ANIMALS

Joint or partnership owners on stud rams is acceptable. There is only one official certificate for each animal. We will not make duplicate papers for jointly owned stud rams. However, a non-negotiable copy of the paper for each partner will be issued from the C.D.C. Office at no charge; or a photo-copy may be given to the partners. Duplicate certificates automatically make the original void.

We do not recommend joint ownership of ewes, unless the entire flock is a partnership operation. Offspring of a jointly owned ewe cannot be divided up between the partners. The lambs, too, are jointly owned, unless transfers are made.

Animals born as a result of AI (artificial insemination) or ET (embryo transfer) are acceptable for registry. When registering offspring from AI or ET matings it must be so noted on the application form.

SCHEDULE OF FEES

Full payment of fees must accompany all work. State Institutions may pay by requisition.

RUSH CHARGE -Double fees will be charged on all work requiring any kind of special handling-rush, urgent, etc. Fees must accompany the work. All work must be validated with proper signature.

1. Membership fee is \$20.00. This is a Lifetime Membership and memberships are not transferable. Youth memberships are also available, see #6.

2. There is an annual service fee of \$12.00 for all Lifetime members and non-members for doing business with the CDC which includes registrations, transfers and newsletter mailings. Youth members are excluded from this fee.

3. Registration Fees

A. Members:

\$6.00 - sheep 1 year & under. \$7.00 - sheep over 1 year.

B. Non-Members

\$8.00 - sheep 1 year & under. \$9.00 - sheep over 1 year.

4. Transfer fee is \$10.00 regardless of whether transfer is made at the time of registration or at a later date. Transfer fee for sheep not transferred within 60 days from the date of delivery \$15.00 each. Reduced group transfer fees are also available at \$7.50/\$12.50 per head if 15 or more transfers are processed in one job.

5. Miscellaneous Fees:

A. Duplicate registration -- \$2.00

B. Corrected registration -- \$2.00

6. Youth enrollment members are eligible to register sheep at regular membership rates. To become enrolled a completed youth enrollment card and \$5.00 payment must be sent to the CDC office. To be eligible for this program, individuals cannot be older than 21 as of January 1st of that current year. There is no lower limit. At some future point, the youth enrollment member can become a Life Member and the \$5.00 already paid will be applied toward the Life Membership. Youth's must be enrolled in this program to participate in the National and Regional Dorset Junior Shows sponsored by the CDC and the National Dorset Ewe Futurity Program. Youth enrollment cards can be obtained from the office at request or at the CDC website www.continentaldorsetclub.com.

7. We accept into our records imported sheep that are properly registered in their native records. The Certificate of Registry, properly transferred to the new owner, is to be sent to this office for acceptance into our records.

REGISTRATION FEES FOR IMPORTED SHEEP

Members of the Dorset Club:

\$6.00 for sheep presented for registration within
6 months of importation

\$7.00 for sheep presented for registration after
6 months of importation

Non-Members

\$8.00 for sheep presented for registration within
6 months of importation

\$9.00 for sheep presented for registration after
6 months of importation

Imported sheep are registered in the Continental Dorset Club-transfer is not required; if that has already been completed on the foreign paper before it is presented to us for acceptance in our records.

CORRECTIONS AND ALTERATIONS

Corrections and alterations needed on certificates already issued must be made only in the Club office. Return the paper along with a note of explanation. No other method of alteration is permitted.

If errors are found on your work, in either pedigree information or fees required, the work will be delayed and correction and/or additional fees requested before the work is completed.

State Institutions may pay by requisition. State Institutions are billed after the work is completed unless other arrangements are made.

DUPLICATE PAPERS

Our policy on duplication of papers is: the last recorded owner of the animal has to make the request for the duplicate. We issue duplicates to read exactly as our file copy shows, any additional transfers will have to be made after the duplicate is issued. Once a duplicate paper has been issued the original becomes void.

SPECIAL SHOWS & SALES

The Continental Dorset Club sponsors one National Sale per year. This sale is usually held in conjunction with one of the existing sales with the existing sales force hosting the event. We are placing our emphasis on the spring or early summer sales as location for the NATIONAL rather than holding it at a fall exposition. The CDC also sponsors a National Dorset Wether Type Breeding Sheep Sale and a Dorset Advantage Sheep Sale annually.

The Board annually allocates monies for Regional Junior Dorset Shows in the six Districts.

We are currently holding 6 Regional Junior Shows and one National Junior Show. The National Junior Show is held at the NAILE in Louisville, KY with divisions for both polled and horned Dorsets and Dorset Advantage. The C.D.C. provides additional premiums and trophies for these shows. The CDC also co-sponsors the All-American Junior Show.

Guidelines for these Junior Shows include:

- 1) Exhibitor must be a current member of the CDC whether in the youth enrollment program or as a lifetime member.
- 2) Exhibitor can not be older than 21 years old as of January 1st of that current year. There is no lower age limit but the exhibitor must be able to lead and/or control the head of his/her animal in the show ring.
- 3) Exhibitor must be present to show their own animals unless physically impaired. The junior owner will need to be at the head of the animal controlling it in the show ring, unless of course they have more than one entry in a class in which case another junior exhibitor showing their second animal is acceptable.
- 4) Sheep must be registered in the youth's name. Youth partnerships are acceptable except for futurity animals which must be in the individual youth owner's name ONLY. Farm names or "family" ownerships are not acceptable.
- 5) Exhibitor can show at more than one regional junior Dorset show per calendar year, CDC prefers they show at least at the regional show in the district in which they reside.

The CDC recommends that the animal's be in the young person's name at least 2 months prior to the show.

ORGANIZATION OF THE DORSET CLUB

The Continental Dorset Club is governed by a Board of Directors from which a President and Vice President are elected. The Secretary-Treasurer is an appointed office.

The United States is divided into 6 districts, each having one director. Districts are: New England, Eastern, Great Lakes, North Central, Great Plains, and Western.

Directors are elected for 3-year terms with the option being re-elected for another 3 years. After serving 6 years, the Director has to be out of office for at least 3 years before being eligible for election again.

All members in the districts have an opportunity to vote for their director. A Nominating Committee is appointed for each district and this committee selects the slate of persons running for this office. The Secretary of the Continental Dorset Club sends ballots to each member.

There is an open Annual Meeting held each year in various locations in order to give the membership the opportunity to attend a meeting in their vicinity and participate in the activities of the organization. The membership receives notice of the Annual Meeting at least 30 days prior to the meeting.

PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS

A variety of promotional items are available from the Dorset Club Office. The stock varies and changes from time to time.

Since the price of the promotional items varies from time to time, please inquire regarding the cost of items before ordering.

We feel it is *the* responsibility of state and regional Dorset groups to help promote the Breed. These groups can order materials for their displays or booths. It is not possible for the Secretary to attend all events each year. We appreciate the local groups doing their *share* to promote Dorsets. The CDC has three promotional booths available for event promotion. Contact the office for further details.

HISTORY BOOKS

A book is available that is a history of the Continental Dorset Club and Dorset Sheep. It is 186 pages and contains 300 photos of Dorsets and those who have led the breed through the 20th century. Cost of the book is \$15.00, which includes shipping and handling. Order through the Continental Dorset Club Office.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ADDED TO REGISTRATION CERTIFICATES

The Board of Directors feels that the Dorsets ability to lamb in the fall or out of season is a very important asset and is one of the major factors that have made our breed popular. Since the Board is stressing the fall lambing ability of our breed, we have added an "F" or "S" behind the Sire and Dam information on the registration certificate. The "F" indicates that the animal was born between 7-1 and 12-31. The "S" indicates that the animal was born between 1-1 and 6-30. Type of birth-TW, TR has also been added following the sire and dam information. The information does not involve any additional work by the breeders, but is compiled by the clerical workers. We hope you find this information interesting and helpful.

In 2000 the CDC went to a computerized registration system and additional information is now available on the registration papers. Five generation extended pedigrees, space for flock scrapie numbers and ewe production record keeping space has been added.

In 2014 the CDC went to their own computer system and gained the ability to put NSIP/Lambplan numbers onto the registration papers for breeders use.

REGISTRATION OF YOUR FLOCK PREFIX

The Board of Directors adopted a policy to make it possible for breeders to assure their exclusive usage of their prefix name or flock name. In order to register your name with the Dorset Club, there is a one time \$10.00 fee. This is not mandatory, however, if you want to be assured that no one else will use your selected name; we ask that you officially record your name with us. Established breeders have priority *on* existing names and new breeders will be asked to select alternative names. We will attempt to work out problems with duplications to the satisfaction of everyone. If you wish to record your flock name, send that name to us along with the \$10.00 fee and your complete name and address.

This Flock or Prefix name registration should not be confused with the Life Membership.

WEBSITE ADVERTISING

The CDC offers classified advertising and website links on the Continental Dorset Club website for CDC members. Further information and costs are available on the website www.continentaldorsetclub.com

DORSET HALL OF FAME

The CDC Board of Directors created a "Dorset Hall of Fame Program" to recognize the many individuals that have helped to make the Dorset breed great. A nomination form has been established and is available at the CDC website: www.continentaldorsetclub.com. Please take a minute to download, fill out and send in a form on one of the many deserving

individuals in the Dorset breed, past and present. People selected to the "Hall of Fame" will be recognized by the CDC with an appreciation plaque at the annual meeting and will be listed on the CDC website recognizing their contributions to the Dorset breed. Any person in the sheep industry may make nominations. Once a name is submitted it will remain nominated so no repeat nominations need to be made the following year. The Dorset breed has had many great individuals involved with it and it will be nice to recognize them for their dedication and accomplishments.

CDC SLICK SHORN POLICY

Slick shorn sheep are to carry a uniform length of wool growth that was shorn no more than 7 days prior to show, with the ONLY exception being on the poll, front legs below the knees and rear legs below the hocks.

YOUTH DORSET EWE PURCHASE GRANT

In 2012 the CDC in partnership with the National Junior Dorset Association started a youth Dorset ewe purchase grant to three winning applicants will each receive a \$500 grant to apply toward the purchase of a registered Dorset female with the following rules:

-Open to youth in the following age divisions:

Junior: 8 to 10 years of age

Intermediate: 11 to 14 years of age

Senior: 15 to 18 years of age

-Ages are as of January, 1 of the current year

-An individual may win each division only one time.

-The application is due December, 1 of the current year.

-The winning applicants will receive their grant money upon the completed transfer of the ewe(s) purchased into their individual name. The ewe must be purchased in the year the grant is awarded.

-Ewe(s) purchased may be any age or type of registered Dorset, but may not be purchased from a family member.

DORSET ADVANTAGE REGISTRY PROGRAM

-Premise: The Dorset Advantage percentage registry has been established to showcase the positive influence of purebred Dorset genetics when they are included in planned crossbreeding scenarios. And, help to provide producers with a label and genetic record of these hybrid sheep who are superior based on the genetic potency of their purebred Dorset ancestry.

-Privileges of Registration are the same as for purebred sheep.

-Eligibility:

-The sire OR dam must be a registered purebred within the Continental Dorset Club.

-The purebred parent may be horned or polled; male or female.

-A Dorset Advantage sheep may be 50% Dorset or higher (ex. a Dorset Advantage registered ewe bred back to a Dorset can also be registered as a Dorset Advantage, a two purebred registered Dorset parent mating that produces a lamb with non- white color patterns can be registered as a Dorset Advantage.))

-DORSET ADVANTAGE SHEEP CAN'T BE BRED UP TO PUREBRED STATUS, NO MATTER THE PERCENTAGE AND THEY MAY NOT COMPETE IN THE PUREBRED DORSET SHOWS EVER.

-Rules for Registration: Same as purebred sheep, EXCEPT, sire OR dam must have CDC purebred registration number along with flock name and private ID. Non-purebred parent will either be designated as "unregistered" with a private flock name and ID OR will include a CDC Dorset Advantage registration number (ex. DA-123456) with a private flock name and ID.

-Guidelines for Membership, Ownership, Transfers, and Fees are the same as for purebred sheep.

-Shows / Sales:

-The CDC will endeavor to include a Dorset Advantage division at the six sponsored Regional Junior Shows, the All-American Junior Show and the NAILE Junior Show.

-To be eligible to show the animal must carry a CDC Dorset Advantage paper showing 1/2 blood or higher Dorset percentage.

-Dorset Advantage sheep will show slick shorn.

-If a separate Dorset Advantage division is not offered at a show, then they are to be shown in the AOB Division. They are never to be shown with other purebred, registered Dorsets.

-Futurity Program: A separate division was incorporated into the futurity program for Dorset Advantage Ewe Lambs in 2014, and will expand to include yearling ewes in 2015 if enough Dorset Advantage ewes get re-nominated. If not they will compete in the general Yearling Ewe Division.. All the same futurity rules and regulations apply.