



The Irish Cob Society

THE IRISH COB PART BRED STUDBOOK BREEDING PROGRAMME

1. Name of the breed and the establishment of the Irish Cob Part Bred Studbook

When in 2002, the Irish Cob Society established the first partbred breed studbook for the feathered cob created in Ireland by Irish Travellers, the Irish Cob Society named the studbook the Irish Cob Part Bred Studbook. In 2002, the Irish Cob Society was officially approved by the Irish authorities in accordance with Article 2(1) of Decision 92/353/EEC to maintain its Irish Cob Studbook as an EU-recognised studbook in respect of which the Irish Cob Society was therefore authorised to issue the identification document (passport) established in Decision 93/623/EEC and subsequently as amended in Decision 2000/68/EC, and subsequently to issue identification documents (passports) and the '*organisation or association officially approved by the Member State*' referred to in Article 4(1)(a) of Regulation (EC) 504/2008.

Because the Irish Cob Part Bred Studbook established by the Irish Cob Society was the first studbook in the EU for the partbred breed, the Irish authorities also notified the European Commission in 1998 that the Irish Cob Society was regarded as the body (organisation or association) which maintained the Irish Cob Part Bred Studbook as the studbook of the origin of the breed (aka the 'mother' Irish Cob Studbook)—as referred in 2(2)2nd indent of Decision 92/353/EEC.

2. Characteristics of the breed / The Irish Cob Part Bred Breed Standard

As there is no limit to the horse and pony breeds which can be used to cross with the Irish Cob, to produce an Irish Cob Part Bred, Irish Cob Part Breds can be of any type, colour (including the eyes) and height.

The Breed Standard requires:

(a) at least 25% Irish Cob blood (studbook pedigree),

OR,

(b) Score a minimum of 2 points or 1 point for 1. BREED TYPE on the Irish Cob Society (ICS) Supplementary Inspection Sheet.

3. Breeding objectives of the breeding programme

The breeding objectives of the Irish Cob Part Bred Studbook Breeding Programme are:

- (a) To assist Irish Cob stallion owners to keep their stallions by encouraging them to use their stallions not only to cover Irish Cob mares, but also to cover mares of other breeds (such as the Irish Draught Horse and Thoroughbred), and therefore to promote the Irish Cob as having a physical structure and temperament suitable for producing in-demand cross-breed leisure and performance horses.
- (b) To protect the Irish Cob Part Bred by the following means of selection and grading:
 - By selecting animals with one parent or no parent registered in the studbook, with a view to registering them in the supplementary section of the studbook, so that their progeny can be upgraded to the main section of the studbook.
 - By grading animals registered in the studbook as Main Section Class 2, Main Section Class 3 or Supplementary Section Class 4, with a view to upgrading their registration status in the studbook to Main Elite Class 1 or Supplementary Elite Class 1.

4. Division and conditions for entering the studbook

Main Section Class 2

Where an animal has both parents registered in the main section of the studbook, the animal will be registered in the main section as Main Section Class 2.

UPGRADING OF PROGENY OF ANIMALS REGISTERED IN THE SUPPLEMENTARY SECTION TO REGISTRATION IN THE MAIN SECTION

Main Section Class 3

Where an animal has one parent registered in the main section of the studbook and the other parent registered in the supplementary section of the studbook or, if the animal has both parents registered in the supplementary section of the studbook, then the animal will be registered in the main section of the studbook as Main Section Class 2.

Supplementary Section Class 4

Where an animal has one parent registered in the main section of the studbook, and the other parent is not registered in the studbook, then the animal will be registered in the supplementary section of the studbook as Supplementary Section Class 4 – provided that the animal has been approved by at least one qualified Irish Cob inspector/judge having scored less than 8 points for 'Breed Type' on the Irish Cob Society (ICS) Supplementary Section Registration Inspection Sheet.

Where an animal has one parent registered in the main section of the studbook, and the other parent is registered in the supplementary section of the studbook, then animal will be registered in the supplementary section of the studbook as Supplementary Section Class 4 – provided that the animal has been approved by at least one qualified Irish Cob Studbook inspector/judge having scored a minimum of 8 points for 'Breed Type' on the Irish Cob Society (ICS) Supplementary Section Registration Inspection Sheet.

UPGADING THE REGISTRATION STATUS OF ANIMALS REGISTERED IN MAIN OR SUPPLEMENTARY SECTION TO THE ELITE CLASS 1 REGISTRATION

Main Elite Class 1

Where an animal is registered in the main section of the studbook as Main Section Class 3 or Main Section Class 4, then the animal is eligible for grading with a view to upgrading its registration status in the main section of the studbook to Main Elite Class 1.

Supp Elite Class 1

Where an animal is registered in the supplementary section of the studbook as Supplementary Section Class 4, then the animal is eligible for grading with a view to upgrading its registration status in the supplementary section of the studbook to Supp Elite Class 1.

5. Grading rules

Stallions: All stallions graded by the Irish Cob Society must be registered in the main or supplementary section, must have reached three years of age, must be graded by at least two qualified Irish Cob inspectors/judges at a grading inspection using the Irish Cob Society (ICS) Stallion Grading Sheet, must pass an examination carried out by a qualified veterinary surgeon, and be PSSM/1 and FIS negative.

Mares & Geldings: All mares and geldings graded by ICSI must be registered in the main or supplementary section, must have reached three years of age, and must be graded by at least two qualified Irish Cob inspectors at a grading inspection using the Irish Cob Society (ICS) Mare Grading Sheet or the Irish Cob Society (ICS) Gelding Grading Sheet.

5. Geographical territory for the breeding programme

The geographical territory for the Breeding Programme covers Ireland and Northern Ireland and any other geographical territory where there is a demand for registering Irish Cobs in the studbook of origin of the breed in Ireland.

6. System for identifying animals

MAIN SECTION

A breeding animal that is qualified for registration in the main section of the studbook must be identified within 12 months of its date of birth and have a transponder implanted by a qualified veterinarian, and the covering certificate and DNA parentage verification (by hair sample) provided. If the breeding animal is not identified within 12 months of its date of birth, it must be issued a replacement passport in which it will be classified as not intended for slaughter for human consumption. The Irish Cob Society Zootechnical Certificate is also included in the studbook passports.

SUPPLEMENTARY SECTION

A breeding animal that has qualified for registration in the supplementary section of the studbook must be identified within 12 months of its date of birth and have a transponder implanted by a qualified veterinarian, and DNA parentage verification (by hair sample) provided if one parent is registered in the studbook. If the breeding animal is not identified within 12 months of its date of birth, it must be issued a replacement passport in which it will be classified as not intended for slaughter for human consumption. Zootechnical Certificates are included in the studbook passports.

7. System for recording pedigree

Where an animal that is being registered in the studbook has had its pedigree verified in accordance with 6 above, the animal shall have its verified pedigree recorded on the database and in its passport. Any verified recorded ascendants will also be shown in its passport.

8. Population of animals in the breeding programme

All entire males and all females registered in the studbook are breeding animals and are therefore included in the breeding programme.

9. Number of breeders in the breeding programme

All breeders who register breeding animals and/or their progeny in the studbook are included in the breeding programme.

10. Rights and obligations of breeders and the breed society

RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF BREEDERS

(a) Breeders' rights shall be respected; breeders shall not be discriminated against, and the right of breeders to ownership of their animals shall be recognised. All breeders who register animals in the breeding book (main section or supplementary sections) are involved in the breeding programme but have free choice in the selection and breeding of their breeding animals and the right to enter them in the breeding book.

(b) Breeders are obliged to identify their animals in accordance with S.I No. 254/2023.

Non-discriminatory treatment of breeders

The Irish Cob Society shall ensure that all breeders are treated equally, and that in the event of a breeder (or other ICSI customer) raising a dispute regarding a decision made by the Irish Cob Society, the aggrieved breeder (or breeders) can invoke the appeals procedure referred to in the Irish Cob Society dispute resolution procedure.

RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF THE BREED SOCIETY

(a) The breed society shall have the right to define and carry out the breeding programme autonomously in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2016/1012.

(b) By way of derogation to 1(a) above, the breed society shall have the right to exclude breeders from participating in the breeding programme where those breeders fail to comply with the rules of that breeding programme or with the obligations set out in the rules of procedure referred to in point B(1)(b) of Part 1 of Annex I of Regulation (EU) 2016/1012.

(c) The breed 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 referred to in point B(1)(b) of Part 1 of Annex I of Regulation (EU) 2016/1012.

(d) The breed 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 or breeding operation, in the process of carrying out breeding programmes approved in accordance with Article 8(3) of Regulation (EU) 2016/1012 (and where applicable Article 12) in accordance with the rules of procedure referred to in point B(1)(b) of Part 1 of Annex I of Regulation (EU) 2016/1012.

DISPUTE RESOLUTION PROCEDURE

Where a dispute arises regarding a decision made by ICSI in relation to an animal registered in the Irish Cob Studbook, or in relation to an animal in respect of which registration in the Irish Cob Studbook or in the Part Bred Irish Cob Studbook is sought, the owner or keeper of the animal shall have the right to have a considered written representation on the issue.

APPEALS PROCEDURE

STAGE I – An owner or keeper who feels aggrieved in relation to any matter pertaining to ICSI should, in the first instance, write to the ICSI CEO making it clear that Stage I of the Appeals Procedure is being invoked. The ICS CEO will issue a reply to the owner or keeper as soon as is reasonably practicable, but in any case, within 30 days from receipt of the letter from the owner or keeper.

STAGE II – If the grievance is not resolved at Stage I, or if a reply is not forthcoming from the ICSI CEO within 30 days, the owner or keeper may request in writing that they attend a meeting with ICSI. ICSI will allow the owner or keeper to attend the meeting during the period that the grievance is being considered. At the discretion of ICSI, the owner or keeper may be allowed to make an oral submission at the meeting on the grievance. If the oral submission is allowed at the meeting, ICSI will then reconsider the dispute issue and shall communicate its decision to the owner or keeper within 30 days.

STAGE III – If the dispute remains unresolved after Stage II, the owner or keeper may request an independent hearing, usually by an official of the Competent Authority. ICSI shall grant such a hearing. Appeals at Stage III 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 3 months. The person(s) hearing the case will decide on the apportionment of costs, as appropriate.

STAGE IV – Any dispute that remains unresolved after Stage III may be pursued by the owner or keeper or by the breed society according to the 1963 Companies Act.