

**VBSSUK Rules**

1. Membership & Subscriptions

Levels of VBSSUK memberships are as follows:

**Gold Membership: Adult Breeders Annual Membership - £100/£30 joining fee**

* Advertise contact details in Breeders section on society website
* Communicate events, updates or news via the Society Calendar or News section on the society website
* Access to member area on society website
* Access to other Breeders
* Access to availability and sale of stock, semen and embryos from fellow members
* Advertisement via social media
* Advertise stock, semen and embryos for sale via the society website
* Annual shows
* Sheep Grading
* Workshops
* Society vote
* Membership pack (welcome letter, tie, pin badge, car sticker, society leaflet)

**Silver Membership: Adult Non Breeder Annual Membership - £60/£20 joining fee**

* Access to other Breeders
* Communicate events, updates or news via the Society Calendar or News
* Access to availability and sale of stock, semen and embryos from fellow members
* Access to member area on society website
* Annual shows
* Sheep Grading
* Workshops
* Society vote
* Membership pack (welcome letter, tie, pin badge, car sticker, society leaflet)

**Bronze Membership: Junior (Under 18) Annual Membership - £30/No joining fee**

* Access to other Breeders
* Access to breeders with stock, semen and embryos for sale
* Access to member area on society website
* Annual shows
* Sheep Grading
* Workshops
* Society vote
* Membership pack (welcome letter, tie, pin badge, car sticker, society leaflet)

Subscriptions are due annually on 31st January

Subscriptions are subject to payment in full regardless of when the membership is purchased within the year (i.e. Where a membership is purchased in November full subscription fee will be charged)

Memberships can be purchased via the society website using PayPal. Other payment methods available upon request.

 2. Membership Application

The following information is required as part of a membership application:

* Name
* Address
* Contact Number
* Flock name
* Flock Number
* CPH Number
* MV Accredited Y/N
* Allow for contact details to be shared with other members Y/N

(Name, Location, Email, Contact Number)

* Number of sheep registered (All stock should be registered with GrassRoots which is visible those registered with GrassRoots)
* 5) Upon payment of membership to join VBSSUK every Member must supply their national flock number.

 3. Flock Book Register: GrassRoots

1) Members must register a Flock Name that will appear on the Pedigree Certificate of all lambs subsequently registered as being bred by that Member.

Registration of a Flock Name is conditional upon:

1. Payment of the Flock Registration Fee to Grassroots
2. The name not being already registered by another Blacknose owner

2) Only sheep from fully registered Blacknose parents are eligible for registration.

3) All applications for registration must include two generations of registered parents (where possible), Date of Birth and Mode (i.e. single/twin/triplet – 1/2/3)

4) Imported sheep must be registered in order for their progeny to be eligible for registration.

6) All sheep to be tagged in accordance with UK law.

7) Members must ensure all sheep are registered in the Grassroots flock book.

8) Only the importer or the breeder (ie the registered owner of the dam on the day the lamb is born) can register a sheep. c) Lambing year starts from the 1st January.

9) All pure-bred lambs born in the season to be registered with GrassRoots by 5 months of age. After this date double registration fees apply.

10) Upon sale, all vendors should transfer the sheep into the new ownership via the on line registry or by post or email with the appropriate fee.

11) Registration fees are governed by Grassroots and are payable to Grassroots direct.

 4. Imported Sheep

1) After 1st January 2016, imported sheep should be notified to the registry within three months of importation. A copy of the original pedigree certificate should be sent to the registry, accompanied by the relevant registration fees. UK born offspring cannot be registered until their imported parents have been registered with Grassroots.

2) A photocopy of the ram registration certificate to accompany requests for registration of progeny from imported in-lamb ewes.

5. Entitlement to Membership

VBSSUK welcomes all blacknose owners and offers subscriptions to suit various levels of membership.

Membership is also open also to those who do not own blacknose sheep but hold an interest, wish to be involved in the society or plan to own blacknose in the future.

Where a member fails to comply with the Rules of the Society or, it is felt that a fellow member has acted in a manner that is detrimental to the standing of the Society they should report to the Management Committee. At the discretion of the Directors a member may be barred from membership of the Society with the agreement of the Management Committee.

 6. Breed Standard

The Valais Blacknose Sheep owe their name to their beautiful black Roman noses.

The black colouring extends up the face to the eyes and surrounds them.

The ears are totally black and there are black markings on the fronts of the knees and on the hocks.

The lower legs are short black booted. The ewes have a black patch directly below their tails.

Typically both rams and ewes of the Blacknose Sheep have spiral-shaped horns; the rams’ are massive and curved, the ewes’ horns tend to be straighter.

An important feature is the wool, which should be of similar length and thickness all over the animal’s body, head and legs.

Overall appearance

The Valais Blacknose Sheep is a mountain sheep breed which has equal wool distribution all over its body.  The impressive horns and distinct markings give it its unique appearance.  The Valais Blacknose Sheep has a harmonious, robust and large-framed body.

Colour Features

Nose to the centre of the head is black

Black eye rims, both sides connected to the Nose

Black ears to the head

Ankles black with black spots on front and back of the knees

Ewes have black spot under their tail but it must not be too large and must be interrupted by the white tail.

The rams have no tail spots.

Head and Neck

Short, dressed head

Wide mouth, broad forehead and Roman nose

Ears Medium

Short, well-muscled neck

Rams pronounced head shape

 Horns

Spiral forming in the horizontal direction of the back equal gap

Occasional black stripes are tolerated

Width chest, shoulder

Wide and deep chest

Shoulder close fitting

Good spring of ribs

Back

Long straight and well developed loin

Height within two years

Ewes 72-78cm

Rams 75-83 cm

Weight within two years

Ewes 70- 90kg

Rams 80 -125kg

Legs

Short well placed

Straight between the joints with plenty of bone

Well wooled

Wide-legged position of the front legs

Spacious surefooted

Average ankle angulations

Solid bone structure

Wool

Fineness 5-4 (Swiss grading)

Staple length 10cm with a good crimp (5-6 months growth – sheep should be shorn twice yearly)

Balanced fleece

Sheep should be evenly covered with a coat of long curly wool, of good quality and free from kemp or hair.

\*Docked tails must be in line with the top of the black markings on hocks.

The breed standards above have been provided by the Valais Blacknose Sheep Society, Switzerland (OBERWALLISER SCHWARZNASEN SCHAFZUCHTVERBAND).