

**VBSSUK Rules: Shows and Sales**

**Conditions of Entry to VBSSUK Shows and Sales held under the auspices of the Society**

**Show & Sale Rules**

1. All adult sheep are to be shown in full fleece. Ideally, this will be approximately 6 months growth / 10 cm staple length.
2. All lambs are to be shown in full fleece.
3. All sheep to be from Maedi Visna accredited flocks and must be accompanied by the relevant documentation and clearly marked on the entry form (See MV and Non MV Rules on page 4. SAC documentation available here: http://valaisblacknosesheepsociety.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/MVRulesUpdateSAC01.04.16.pdf)
4. All sheep MUST BE FULLY REGISTERED with Grassroots SIX WEEKS PRIOR TO SHOW.
5. Substitute entries must be notified no later than 7 days before the show.
6. All sheep entries must clearly show whether the animal is single, twin, etc and this information to be clearly shown in the Sale Catalogue (appropriate for sale only).
7. All sheep entries must show ET and this information to be clearly shown in the Sale Catalogue (appropriate for sale only).
8. No dressing, trimming, clipping or excessive use of dips on the fleeces of sheep will be permitted. No artificial whitening on any part of the sheep is permitted. If an inspector is present at the sale they have the authority to disqualify any sheep, which in their opinion, are below a minimum standard with regard to breed type or are found to be contravening the Society Bye-laws, right up to the point of sale. The decision of the inspector shall be final and failure to accept the inspector’s decision will result in the entire consignment being rejected.
9. VBSSUK requires that all pedigree Blacknose sheep are ear tagged in accordance with current government regulations. Each clearly identifying the breeder’s unique UK flock number. Any animal with incorrect or indistinct identification will be rejected.

Swiss imports have one tag. UK born lambs will have two tags.

1. Any sheep which, in the opinion of the judge which are unhealthy or injured will be excluded from the show. No refund of entry fees will be made for sheep excluded from the show. Sheep which have been excluded shall be returned to their transport forthwith and not exhibited further.
2. Any interference with natural tooth growth is not permitted.
3. The use of artificial colouring, paint, sprays, chalk, etc. are not permitted. Any attempt to lessen, conceal, or obscure extra black or missing black marks will not be permitted.
4. Any members attempting to produce a more permanent change to the appearance of a sheep may be barred from Membership of the Society.
5. Trimming around the tail to remove excessive debris will be permitted.
6. Entries can be shown by named person on your behalf if not able to attend show in person.
7. Members exhibiting at shows must obey the rules of the Show Society and VBSSUK.
8. The categories of sheep offered for sale will be as defined on the entry form.
9. If any animal offered for sale has had semen or embryo’s collected from it, or sired by it, the vendor MUST declare this on the sales entry form (Online or Paper entry) and is solely responsible for checking the sales catalogue entry and substitution catalogue entry (if applicable) and reporting any omission or error to the Society greater than 72 hours prior to the Sale event for the sales catalogue to be amended and greater than 24 hours prior to the sale for the substitutions catalogue. Failure to do so will exclude the sheep from the sale. Whilst every effort is made to ensure accuracy of information contained within each catalogue, no responsibility can be accepted by the Society for any errors or omissions or any reliance on use of the information. Purchasers should satisfy their queries/concerns with each vendor, prior to purchase of sale lots.
10. VBSSUK reserves the right to blood sample, and /or archive DNA from any sheep and/or take wool samples for forensic testing.
11. Only rosettes/prizes awarded at the relevant show can be on display.
12. Once inspected, an animal must remain in the sale yard until allotted exit time.
13. All sheep will be sold in guineas. Auctioneers standard commission is 5%.
14. By submitting an entry, vendors therefore agree and abide by VBSSUK rules and conditions of entry for show and sale.
15. Rams and Ram Lambs:  
    All rams, including ram lambs, are warranted by the seller to be capable of natural and effective service within 100 days of the Sale. If at the expiration of the warranty period a ram is proven incapable of natural and effective service and within 14 days of the expiration of the warranty period a Veterinary Certificate is lodged with the Official Auctioneers confirming:  
    i) The ram is incapable of performing a natural effective service;  
    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 exchanged with a suitable replacement.
16. In-Lamb Ewe Sales:  
    All rams specified as being the ‘sire of’ or ‘having run with the ewe’ must be registered with GRASSROOTS in order for the progeny to be registered. Ewes running with unregistered rams shall be excluded from the sale.
17. Only sheep which have been shown will be permitted for sale.
18. Reserve prices will be set by the seller via discussion with Auctioneer prior to sale.
19. Bells can be worn for show – this is individual preference.
20. Show attire: White coat, society tie.
21. Score cards will be completed by the judge at the time of grading. Scorecard details will be recorded and uploaded to the member area of the VBSSUK website and submitted to Grassroots to be recorded in the flockbook register.

**Grading & Points Breakdown**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Category** | **Criteria** | **Breakdown** | **Growth** | **4 - 8 Months** | **8 - 12 Months** | **12 - 18 Months** | **18 - 24 Months** | **24 - 36 Months** | **36 Months +** |
| **Appearance** | Markings | •Nose black to head center •Black eye rims, both sides connected to the nose coloring •Black ears •Black, horizontal shackle coloring •Uniform, black spots on the hock and front knees •Females - tail spot is desirable but must not be too large and   there must be a white gap on the tail •Males - No tail spots •Females - the absence of a feature is considered depending   on the type and format equals a point deduction | Withers  (2YRS +): Female:  72 - 78 cm Male:  75 - 83 cm Weight  (2YRS +): Female:  70 - 90 kg Male:  80 - 125 kg | Maximum Rating per Catergory  4 points  = (4/4/4)  12 points total | Maximum Rating per Catergory  4 points  = (4/4/4)  12 points total | Maximum Rating  per Catergory  5 points  = (5/5/5)  15 points total | Maximum Rating per Category  5 points  = (5/5/5)  15 points total | Maximum Rating  per Category  6 points  = (6/6/6)  18 points total | No Grading Over 3 Years of Age |
| Head & Neck | •Short, dressed head •Broad mouth, broad forehead and roman nose •Ears medium •Pronounced head shape in males •Short well muscled neck |
| Horns | •Spiral, well separated in the horizontal direction of the jaws •Black striping is tolerated |
| Chest Shoulders  Withers | •Wide, deep chest •Shoulder snugly •Withers broad and closed •Good spring of rib |
| Back Loins | •Long, straight and broad back •Broad loin |
| Pelvis Abdomen Leg | •Medium sized belly with small appetitie pits •Wide and medium long pool •Thigh well muscled |
| **Body** | Limbs | •Strong and well placed •Not bowlegged •Wide legged position at front (not knock kneed) |
| Foundation | •Mean ankle angulation •Stocky and tough stance •Solid bone structure |
| Corridoor | •Roomy, sure footed •Do not wavering |
| **Wool** | | •Fineness 5 -4 •Staple length 10 cm (shorn twice annually) •Balanced and natural all over the body, including head and legs •Uniformly white (scattered black hair in neck area is tolerated -   in males to 18 months reason for exclusion) |

**MV and Non-MV Show Rules**

Maedi Visna (“MV”) also known as Ovine Progressive Pneumonia (OPP) is a chronic viral disease affecting the lungs and nervous system of sheep which can be transmitted between flocks.

**Test:** At present blood testing allows identification of infection.

**Cure:** At present, there is no vaccine, no cure and the disease is fatal.

A flock can become MV accredited when:

* All animals over 12 months of age passes two qualifying blood tests between 6 and 12 months apart.
* Has certification from a vet that the holding can comply with scheme rules and conditions.

While at any ‘temporary location’ such as a show or sale for short periods:

* MV Accredited and Non-MV Accredited Animals may share an airspace provided that they are separated by a solid barrier at least 2 metres high and 2 meters apart (no nose to nose contact).
* Separate penning will be available for the two sections.
* Sheep from either section will be shown in separate allocated rings.
* In circumstances where sheep share same ring, they must be halter led and a three-metre separation must be maintained between Accredited and Non Accredited Sheep at all times.

If you are unsure of the Animals’ status or not yet done the second blood sample you must be in the Non – Accredited area.

**\*\*\*All MV accredited stock should please bring certification of accreditation for checking on entry\*\*\***