

# The BY-LAWS of the DORPER SHEEP SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA INCORPORATED

According to the Constitution of the Dorper Sheep Society of Australia, By-Laws may be developed and amended by the Board of the Association.

By-Laws provide an operational framework for important functions of the Association. They complement, and must not contradict, the Constitution.

These By-Laws were originally ratified by the Board in October 2013, with amendments approved in February 2015, October 2015, October 2016, February 2017 and April 2017.

Click on the By-Law headings to take you to the relevant part of the document

<b>CONTENTS</b>		
<b>No.</b>	<b>BY-LAW</b>	<b>Page</b>
1.	<a href="#"><u>Membership Fees and Regional Finances</u></a>	2
2.	<a href="#"><u>Registration of Flocks and of Sheep</u></a>	4
3.	<a href="#"><u>Judges and Inspectors</u></a>	7
4.	<a href="#"><u>Shows and Sales of Dorper sheep</u></a>	9
5.	<a href="#"><u>General Governance Issues</u></a>	10
6.	<a href="#"><u>Code of Conduct for Members and Employees</u></a>	12
7.	<a href="#"><u>Breed Standard</u></a>	13
8.	<a href="#"><u>Terminology</u></a>	16

## 1.1 Categories of Membership

Membership fees are a significant source of finance for the Association. In accordance with the Constitution, there are 3 membership categories: Full Membership, Commercial Membership, and Junior Membership. The rights and responsibilities of these three Categories are described in the Constitution.

In summary:

- A **Full Member** may own a flock of sheep registered with the Association; has full voting rights; and may be elected to the Board of the Association.  
In addition, a Full Member may
  - register and transfer stud stock,
  - have access to the registrations data base,
  - receive all Association publications, newsletters and bulletins, and
  - hold multiple memberships and exercise the voting rights of each membership.
- A **Commercial Member** has an interest in the breed and/or is the owner of a commercial flock of Dorper sheep; has voting rights at the Regional level only; may serve on a Regional or other committee of the Association, but may not serve as a Board Member of the Association and may not register or transfer stock. A Commercial Member will receive all Association publications, newsletters and bulletins.
- A **Junior Member** is less than 18 years of age, may be a breeder of, or have an interest in the Dorper breed. A Junior member has all the rights of a Full Member except the right to vote or hold office.

## 1.2 Membership Fees

The following fees will apply (GST inclusive):

- 1.2.1 There will be an **Application Fee** of \$110 for each Full Membership, notwithstanding that this will apply only once, and in the case of Applicants with multiple Memberships to the first Membership only.
- 1.2.2 All Members will pay an **Annual Membership Fee**
- 1.2.3 There will be two tiers of **Annual Membership Fee** for **Full Members**:
  - Tier 1, or standard fee, which is \$350 per annum
  - Tier 2, which entitles the Member to a reduction in registration fees, and is an additional \$275 per annum above the standard fee.
- 1.2.4 The Annual Membership fee for Commercial Members will be \$100 per annum
- 1.2.5 The Annual Membership fee for Junior Members will be \$80 per annum
- 1.2.6 Any Member who opts to receive correspondence by email is entitled to a \$25.00 discount per annum on the relevant Annual Membership Fee
- 1.2.7 There will be reduced fees for new Members who join less than 6 months before the end of the financial year: the Membership Fee will be \$175 for Full Membership, \$50 for Commercial or \$40 for Junior Membership, and the corresponding email discount will be \$12.50.

### **1.3 Application form for Membership**

The Association office will provide an Application form for prospective Members containing full details of current application and membership fees payable.

### **1.4 Regional Finances**

- 1.4.1 A budget will be allocated to each region based on the following guidelines, and will be derived from membership fees associated with Members affiliated with the particular region.
- 1.4.2 \$50 per annum per full member at the end of the previous financial year.
- 1.4.3 Allocation of regional budgets may be altered by a decision of the Board of the Association.
- 1.4.4 The expenditure of a regional budget is generally at the discretion of the relevant Regional Committee, except that from time to time Regions may agree, or the Board may order, that each Region will contribute to a nationally relevant project.

**2.1 Membership identification**

- 2.1.1 Each Membership of the Association will be identified by a unique membership code consisting of a letter and a number.
- 2.1.2 For Full and Junior Members the unique membership code will commence with “D” to identify a Dorper flock or “WD” to identify a White Dorper flock and the code will be associated with the Prefix referred to in By-Law 2.2.
- 2.1.3 For Commercial Members, the unique membership code will commence with “C” and will not be associated with any Prefix.
- 2.1.4 In accordance with the Constitution of the Association, an Applicant may have more than one Membership, and in this case there will be a separate Membership code, and may also be a separate Stud Prefix, associated with each Membership.

**2.2 Registration of a Flock**

- 2.2.1 On application for Membership, a Full Member and a Junior Member shall identify a Stud Prefix to be used with a flock associated with that Membership.
- 2.2.2 A Stud Prefix will consist of up to 20 alpha numeric characters, will not use the words “dorper” or “white dorper” and will not contain hyphens or initials.
- 2.2.3 Once established, a Stud Prefix may not be altered.

**2.3 Registration of Sheep**

- 2.3.1 The Association shall maintain a Register for Dorper sheep owned by Members of the Association.
- 2.3.2 The Stud Register is for use only by Full Members and Junior Members and is a record of all details of Registered Full Blood Sheep including their Pedigree.
- 2.3.3 A sheep may only be registered in the Stud Register by the Breeder and only if it is Full Blood and complies with the Breed Standard with conformation 3 or better with no cull faults; except that in extraordinary cases the Board may permit the Registrar to accept a Registration which does not comply exactly with these conditions.
- 2.3.4 While the use of imported genetic material is permissible, any sheep registered by the Association shall have been born in Australia
- 2.3.5 The Percentage Register is a record of all details of Registered Percentage Sheep. From 1 June 2017 sheep can no longer be recorded to the Percentage Register.
- 2.3.6 Any application for registration in a register or for registration of a stud/flock prefix will be subject to rejection if:
  - (i) It is made by a person who is not a Member of the Association, or
  - (ii) The registrar is not satisfied that the particulars set out in the information are accurate, or
  - (iii) Such information as may be required is not supplied to the satisfaction of the registrar, or
  - (iv) The application has failed or neglected to observe and fulfil all requirements of these regulations, or
  - (v) The Member is not financial or has failed to pay a prescribed fee.

- 2.3.7 Every sheep for which registration is applied for must have a six figure identification number to denote the year of birth (2 numbers) and the identification within the flock of the individual animal (4 subsequent numbers); and sheep must also be permanently individually identified with this number, except that if an appropriately coloured NLIS approved ear tag is used, 4 numbers will be sufficient, with the first 2 numbers assumed from the colour of the eartag.
- 2.3.8 In addition to an identification number, a name may be recorded on the register for an individual sheep
- 2.3.9 Registration certificates, including duplicate or replacement certificates, are optional and will be issued on application and payment of the prescribed fee.
- 2.3.10 The registered name of a sheep shall not be changed except with the approval of the registrar upon written application from the owner, payment of the required fee, and the written consent of the breeder should they be different from the owner. Upon any such change the registrar shall make appropriate amendments to the register including any pedigree details on related sheep entries as may be required to avoid confusion.

## **2.4 Breeders records**

- 2.4.1 It is the duty of every Member owner of registered sheep to keep proper records of the breeding activities of their flock.
- 2.4.2 The Board may examine, copy and take extracts from such records.

## **2.5 The Transfer of Sheep and leasing**

- 2.5.1 Within 60 days of the sale, exchange, gift, lease or other disposition of a registered sheep or any interest therein, notification of such shall be lodged by the registered owner to the Association in the form of a completed, signed transfer application.
- 2.5.2 The date of transfer shall coincide with the date of disposition for all purposes of the Association.
- 2.5.3 In the case of the transfer of pregnant or joined females, the details of the sire and joining date(s) must be provided at transfer.
- 2.5.4 Upon the receipt of the transfer application, along with the prescribed fee, the application shall be endorsed and recorded on the computer files by the Association.
- 2.5.5 A pedigree registration certificate shall be forwarded to the new owner by the Association once the transfer is complete.
- 2.5.6 Both the transferor and the transferee shall be responsible for confirming that the identification of the sheep being transferred is in accordance with the details on the pedigree registration certificate prior to delivery or consignment to the transferee. In the event that identification cannot be substantiated, the vendor shall contact the registrar for direction.

## **2.6 Fees for registration and transfer of sheep**

- 2.6.1 Registration fees will be decided by the Board, included in the By-Laws, and any changes communicated to Members as soon as practicable. Unless altered by the Board in accordance with this clause, fees will be as listed in 2.6.2 – 2.6.6.
- 2.6.2 The standard registration fee for a ram or a ewe registered will be \$6.60 (including GST).
- 2.6.3 Tier 2 Members, as defined in By-Law 1.2.3, will receive a reduction in the standard registration fees.
- 2.6.4 Transfer fees will be \$6.60 per animal (including GST), and will include the issuing of a certificate at no additional cost.
- 2.6.5 The fee for issuing a certificate on registration, or re-issuing any certificates, will be \$1.50 (including GST).

**3.1 Registers of Judges and Inspectors**

- 3.1.1 The Association shall maintain a Register of Judges and an Inspectors Panel which list persons who are affiliated with the Association in such capacities.
- 3.1.2 The register and panel will be confirmed and/or amended at least once per annum and the current version will be made available on the Association's website as soon as practical after any changes are made.

**3.2 Appointment of Judges**

- 3.2.1 Persons considered to be qualified as Judges of Dorper sheep may be nominated by Members of the Association, either at the Association Annual General Meeting, at a Regional Annual General Meeting, or in writing to the Board at any time, and any determination made as soon as practical after the nomination is received.
- 3.2.2 The names of persons nominated in accordance with By-Law 3.2.1 will be added to the register as a Judge if approved by the Board, notwithstanding that the Board may delegate the responsibility of approval to a Regional Committee.

**3.3 Appointment of Inspectors**

- 3.3.1 An affiliated Inspector will be appointed by the Board after an application has been received from the applicant detailing their compliance with the educational requirements set down from time to time; the determination will be made as soon as practical after it is received.
- 3.3.2 Once appointed, affiliated Inspectors are authorised to class animals according to the Breed Standard.

**3.4 Qualifications for Judges and Inspectors**

- 3.4.1 A person chosen to be a Judge will have passed at a level deemed appropriate by the Association, the following courses conducted by the Association, or courses deemed equivalent by the Board: A Junior Course, Two Senior Courses (the candidate must obtain at least 70% in the second senior course), and One Judges Exams (the candidate must obtain at least 65% in the judges exam).
- 3.4.2 Affiliated Inspectors will be chosen from Judges deemed to have appropriate additional experience by the Board of the Association.
- 3.4.3 To qualify as an Inspector a candidate must complete: 1 Junior Course, 2 Senior Courses (the candidate must obtain at least 70% in the second senior course), 1 Judges Exams (the candidate must obtain at least 65% in the judges exam) and 3 On-Farm Classing Days, with 3 different Inspectors with a minimum of 50 sheep at each farm.
- 3.4.4 If a breeder has passed all requirements to be an Inspector BUT has not been a DSSA approved Inspector for:
  - (i) for less than 3 years then to be considered to be an approved DSSA Inspector he must complete 1 on farm inspection with an approved inspector;

(ii) for greater than 3 years then the same requirements as a new potential Inspector.

3.4.5 Qualifications gained in South Africa will be recognised by the Association.

### **3.5 Code of Conduct for Judges and Inspectors**

3.5.1 In carrying out any duties associated with their appointment as such, an affiliated Judge and/or Inspector will follow any guidelines set down by the Association including the Code of Conduct which is By-Law 6.

3.5.2 Inspectors will also follow the “Inspectors Code of Practice” which they will be provided with, and briefed on, once being appointed to be an Inspector.

3.5.3 An affiliated Judge or Inspector is disqualified from judging or inspecting any Dorper Sheep in which they have a financial interest.



**4.1 Endorsement of Shows and Sales**

From time to time the Association will endorse shows and/or sales of Dorper sheep, either as stand-alone events, or held in conjunction with other industry events.

**4.2 Guidelines to be followed with endorsed shows and sales**

- 4.2.1 The procedures to be followed at any endorsed show or sale will be approved by the Board of the Association, notwithstanding that this responsibility may be delegated to a Regional Committee.
- 4.2.2 Unless otherwise identified, sheep in sales or shows endorsed by the Association will be Full Blood Dorper sheep.
- 4.2.3 Unless the approved procedures for a particular show state otherwise, any Dorper sheep presented for show shall have been machine shorn and the covering shall not exceed one (1) centimetre in length on the day of judging.
- 4.2.4 Any animals entered in a show or offered for sale at an approved Association event shall be the bona fide property of the exhibitor.
- 4.2.5 All animals entered in an approved show shall be registered with the Association unless otherwise determined by the Board for a particular event.

### **5.1 Voting at Meetings in relation to proxies**

5.1.1 Voting procedures at any Association meeting will follow the guidelines set out in the Constitution.

5.1.2 The Constitution entitles each Full Member to appoint another Full Member as proxy for Association general meetings (refer Constitution rule 30.5), in which case the following guidelines will be followed:

i) In any particular situation the Board may determine the appropriate form of identification of proxy votes, with such format communicated with the agenda of the meeting within the appropriate timeframe specified in the Constitution;

ii) If no specific format is specified with the agenda then the following will apply in the appointment of a proxy:

a. The appointment may be in writing signed by the appointing Member and delivered to the presiding officer of the meeting prior to commencement of the meeting;

b. The appointment may be by email, from the registered email address of the Member, and delivered to the Secretary of the Association at least 2 business days prior to the meeting;

c. At the Chairman's discretion, under exceptional circumstances he or she may accept sms nominations prior to the meeting, providing the appointing Member is able to be accurately identified.

d. In the appointment of a Proxy the appointing Member may give absolute discretion to the Proxy with relation to the manner of voting, or may stipulate the way in which he or she wishes to vote on a particular matter, and these instructions must be clearly identified to the satisfaction of the presiding officer of the meeting.

e. In all cases the name of the appointing Member, their stud and membership number, must be clearly identified.

### **5.2 Advance notice of date of AGM to regions**

In accordance with Clause 24.4 of the Constitution any Regional AGM should be held 2-8 weeks before the Association AGM. However, depending on circumstances, the official notice required for the Association AGM is only 2 or 3 weeks. To avoid confusion, and allow Regions sufficient time to comply with the Constitution, the Board will set the date of the Association AGM well in advance, and will endeavour to inform all members of the date and place at least 3 months in advance.

### **5.3 Recognition of Special service**

5.3.1 Members, or others, who have distinguished themselves by provided exceptional service to the Association, will be recognised in the following ways:

(a) With the award of an Appreciation Certificate, nominated by any of the Regional Committees; or

(b) With the award of a Distinguished Service Award, to be awarded and presented by the Board.

5.3.2 Any awards awarded under previous rules will continue to be honoured.

In the context of this By-Law, “Employee” refers to anyone carrying out any duties under the auspices of the Association, including persons employed under a management contract entered into by the Association, affiliated Judges and Inspectors, or other persons deemed to be acting on behalf of the Association.

- 6.1 Members and employees should use their best endeavour to increase awareness of the Dorper sheep breed and encourage a realistic appreciation of its role in the commercial sheep meat industry.
- 6.2 Members and employees should advance the interests of the Society and maintain its integrity and status, including observing the highest standard of stud management, professional probity, business practice and fair and proper competition.
- 6.3 The business of the Association will be conducted in accordance with its Constitution and By-Laws.
- 6.4 Members and employees should present a professional appearance and demeanour when representing the Association or participating in its activities and must suppress dishonourable or unprofessional conduct or practice.
- 6.5 Members and employees should treat industry associates in a fair and equitable manner and should be willing to share their experience.
- 6.6 Prospective Members and other enquirers should be treated with courtesy. Requests for information, documentation, merchandise or advice should be satisfied in a prompt, professional and impartial manner. Bias of any kind should be avoided.
- 6.7 Members should be sensitive to conflict of interest and should immediately declare their interest and disqualify themselves from any activity that might be seen to suffer from that conflict. In this regard, no Member will judge or inspect an animal in which they hold ownership. Perceived conflicts of interest should also be avoided in order to protect and promote the standing of the Association.
- 6.8 Members and employees will avoid exaggeration, misrepresentation or concealment of pertinent facts. Members will accept with good grace the outcomes of activities conducted and decisions made under the auspices of the Society.
- 6.9 Office bearers of the Society, and its employees, are in a position of trust and will do nothing to abuse that trust. In addition they will observe good and fair business principles when acting on behalf of the Society.
- 6.10 Members and employees will strictly observe all statutory obligations associated with their Membership or employment and observe them not only in the letter but also in spirit.

## GENERAL

The purpose of the Breed Standard is to indicate the degree of excellence of the animal by means of a description and a score by points according to visual appearance and performance to aid stud-breeding selection and for the benefit of new breeders. These values are recorded to give a true reflection of the positive or negative traits of the sheep and are used for comparative analysis within a flock.

The society will approve inspectors from time to time to class Dorper sheep and enter the classing details on the registration record of the inspected animals. At the time of inspection the animals will be tagged with an approved tag by the inspector and the number recorded and forwarded to the Society. The inspection is a quality assessment on a voluntary basis.

The Dorper Sheep Society of Australia Inc. recognise that the breed is in the development stage in Australia and therefore present the following standards as guidelines to stud breeders and growers interested in the breed. The breed standard is adapted from the South African Standard of Excellence.

It is generally agreed that the main aim for the Dorper and White Dorper is to propagate the breed to a level of quality and critical mass to be able to provide sires for stud breeding, upgrading other breeds, and terminal prime lamb sires. The direction of the breed for the foreseeable future should be to increase numbers of pure stock primarily concentrating on conformation of the animal without losing the qualities of early growth weight and hardiness that have been inherent in the breed for 50 or more years.

The following score system is recommended for easy analysis:

Very good	5 points
Above average	4 points
Average	3 points
Poor or below average	2 points
Very poor with cull points	1 point

The following comprises the Breed Standard.

## 1. Conformation

**Head:** Strong and long, with large eyes, widely spaced and protectively placed. Strong nose, strong well-shaped mouth with well-fitted deep jaws. Undershot or overshot jaws must be culled. *Some deviation in jaw length is permitted in South Africa. It is considered a cull fault in Australia due to the high heritability of the problem.* The forehead must not be dished. The size of the ears must be in relation to the head. A developed horn base or small horns are the ideal. Heavy horns are undesirable but permissible. The head must be covered with short black hair in the Dorper and white hair in the White Dorper. The head must be dry i.e. without indications of fat localisation.

**Forequarter and neck:** The neck should be of medium length, well fleshed and broad and well coupled to the forequarters. Shoulders should be firm, broad and strong. A moderate protrusion of the brisket beyond the shoulders, moderate width and good depth are the ideal. Forelegs must be strong, straight and well placed with strong pasterns and hoofs not too widely split. Weak pasterns and bowed legs must be discriminated against according to degree. Shoulders that appear loose, a brisket that slants up too sharply with no projection beyond the shoulders, crooked legs and weak walking ability, are faulty.

**Barrel:** The ideal is a long, deep wide body, ribs well sprung, loin broad and full. The sheep must have a long straight back. A slight dip behind the shoulders is permissible.

**Hindquarter:** A long and wide rump is the ideal. The inner and outer twist to be well-fleshed and deep in adult animals. The hind legs must be strong and well-placed, with sturdy feet and strong pasterns. Faulty pasterns must be discriminated against according to degree. The hocks must be strong without a tendency to turn in or out. Sickie, bandy or perpendicular hocks are culling faults.

**Udder and sex organs:** A well-developed udder and sex organs are essential in the ewe. The scrotum of the ram should not be too long and the testicles should be of equal size and not too small. A split scrotum is undesirable.

**General appearance:** The sheep should be symmetrical and well proportioned. A calm temperament with a vigorous appearance is the ideal.

**2. Size or growth rate**

A sheep with a good weight for its age is the ideal. Discrimination against extremely small or extremely big animals must be exercised. *It is recognised that the larger animals are not as able to produce during extreme conditions due to the stress of maintaining body mass. The Dorper is a medium sized sheep and very productive for its size. In Australia the bigger style of animal may suit the higher rainfall area*

**3. Distribution of fat**

Too much localisation of fat on any part of the body is undesirable. An even distribution of a thin layer of fat over the carcass and between the muscle-fibres is the ideal. The sheep must be firm and muscular when handled.

**4. Colour pattern**

**Dorpers:** A white sheep with black confined to the head and neck is the ideal. Black spots, to a limited extent on the body and legs are permissible, but an entirely white sheep or a sheep predominantly black is undesirable. Brown hair around the eyes, white teats, white under the tail and white hoofs are undesirable. *Ewes carrying excess of colour or undesirable pigmentation can be used for breeding during the development phase of the breed but rams should be downgraded to flock status.*

**White Dorpers:** A white sheep, fully pigmented around the eyes, under the tail, on the udder and the teats is the ideal. A limited number of other coloured spots is permissible on the ears and underline. *The White Dorper can be born with yellow or grey patches that fade with time. Pale colouring that fades out can be tolerated in ewes during the development phase of the breed but rams should be downgraded to flock status.*

**5. Cover or Fleece**

The ideal is a short, loose, light covering of hair and wool with wool predominating on fore quarter and with a natural clean kemp underline. Too much wool or hair is undesirable. Exclusively wool or hair is a fault. Manes are a disqualifier. *Australian conditions indicate that a clean shedding sheep is the most desirable type for economical management and to prevent carcass downgrading due to grass seed penetration. Breeders are encouraged to select for maximum shedding of wool during Spring – Summer.*

**6. Type**

Type is judged according to the degree to which the sheep conforms to the general requirements of the breed. Emphasis is placed on conformation, size and fat distribution when determining type, while colour and covering are of secondary importance.

The following terminology is recognised by the Association:

“Dorper sheep” means a sheep showing the phenotype of the Dorper or White Dorper Sheep.

“Birth” means the birth of a Dorper lamb.

“Breeder” means the owner of the Sheep at birth.

“Breeding Year” means the calendar year from January to December

“Dam” means the genetic mother of the lamb

“Sire” means the genetic father of the lamb

“Embryo” means a fertilised ova

“Stud Prefix” means a name registered with the Association and used to identify a flock of sheep owned by a Full Member or Junior Member

“Full Blood” means a registered sheep imported from South Africa or Namibia or offspring of sheep whose predecessors were all imported from South Africa or Namibia

“Imported” means imported to Australia

“Legal Entity” means Public Company, Private Company, Partnership or Trust or other legal entity recognised by Australian law

“Owner” means the person or entity that has the legal proprietary interest in the animal and the person or entity who can, to the satisfaction of the Board, furnish proof that it is correct for the animal to be registered in that person or entity’s name.

“Percentage sheep” means a sheep of whom one or more of its predecessors, but not all were imported from South Africa or Namibia. These are expressed by the percentage of “Full Blood” they contain e.g. an F1 (first cross) is “50%” Full Blood dorper, an F2 (first backcross between F1 and a Full Blood dorper) is 75%, an F5 (fourth backcross) 96.875%.

“Register” means the Dorper Sheep register that belongs to the Dorper Sheep Society of Australia Inc. and contains records of individual animals.

“Stud Register” is a register that contains records only of Full Blood animals with full Pedigree.

“Pedigree” is the family tree of an individual animal denoting all parents for at least 3 generations.

“Registered” means the sheep has been registered with the Dorper Sheep Society of Australia Inc.

“Registrar” means the person appointed by the Association for the purposes of operating the register.

“Semen” means the semen of a Full Blood Dorper ram.