

TERMS OF REFERENCE



EHRC European Showing

Purpose

European Showing encompasses several elements, all which need to be clearly set out in Terms of Reference. This document provides these Terms of Reference.

The mission statement is that healthy animals should not be treated and sick animals should not be showed.

The guiding principle is that the animal is presented as naturally as possible.

This Terms of Reference is divided into sections as follows:

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1. EHRC Terms Of Reference for Showing Cattle

Purpose

The objective of this TOR is to create standardised uniformity and transparency for each show, the participants, audience and other stakeholders. Therefore this TOR focuses in particular on

- Animal Welfare
- A fair competition
- The image of the Cattle Breeding and the Dairy sector

It guarantees that animal welfare should be considered to be of paramount importance and that the use of bovine medicine should be restricted to the level that is strictly necessary.

A transparent and uniform set of rules and regulations is an important basis for an equitable competition for both the participant and animal. Lastly but most importantly, all stakeholders (participants, organising committee, etc) must be aware of the impact a show has on the image of the whole Cattle Breeding and the Dairy sector.

Health regulation is the responsibility of the hosting country as this is a very country specific area. All participants of shows (like any citizen) must be aware of the national laws on Animal Health and Wellbeing: To know them and to abide by them.

These rules are adopted for the EHRC European Championship Show. References to the EHRC Committee are therefore particular to the European Championship Show and are only recommendations for national shows.

The Show Organising Committee is the people named by the host organisation, and who are locally responsible for the show.

The mission statement is that healthy animals should not be treated and sick animals should not be showed.

1. General

- By participating in the show the participant agrees to abide by these Terms of References and agrees to take part in any inspections if so requested.
- The participant shall comply with any pre-selection of the animals for the event concerned if so requested.

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- iii. The participant agrees to follow the instructions of the organisers (including the ringmaster(s), the Welfare and Patrolling groups) at all times on the show grounds and in the show ring in particular.
- iv. Any dispute will be referred to a member of the Show Organising Committee or EHRC Committee. The decision of the Show Organising Committee or EHRC Committee is binding and each participant must accept and respect this decision.
- v. At the European Championship Show the Team Manager for each country is the contact person for each country. The Team manager has overall authority for the representing country. All inquiries go through the Team Manager, both from the Show and from the team, so that all contact with veterinarian personal should always go through the Team manager.
- vi. After the animals have arrived in the stalls, they are not permitted to leave the stalling area until the time indicated to leave for the ring or grand show ring, or until after the event has ended. (Except under the supervision of the Veterinary Surgeon or for washing, clipping and training).
- vii. There should be a designated area for washing and clipping and preparation of animals. There may also be a practice ring for training. Animals should remain within the designated area.
- viii. The participant shall cooperate with the requests/instructions of the organisers and allow the animal(s) to be photographed.
- ix. Instructions concerning the veterinary requirements, arrival and departure times, transport of the animals and other specific matters, will be provided by the Show Organising Committee separately at each event.
- x. The Official veterinarian will give all details of animal treatments to the patrol and welfare group.
- xi. A list of all personnel in the Team must be declared and sent to the organisers prior to the Show.
- xii. Before entering the show-ground the owners / exhibitors, Team Managers, fitters / leaders and herdsmen must all sign one document with the following confirmation:
"I have read and fully understand the European Holstein and Red Holstein Confederation Terms of Reference for Showing Cattle and I agree to comply with all the requirements contained therein".
The document has to be delivered to the show organiser during the meeting with the official team leaders, prior to the beginning of the Show.
Violation of the regulation means disqualification of the participant and all of her /his animals.
- xiii. The audience will be informed that a Welfare Group is active during the show, and the importance of the code of ethics and animal welfare should be explained.

2. Preparing cattle for showing

- i. When animals are prepared/groomed to compete in individual judging, or group presentations or judging, the rules and regulations specified in this TOR apply.

The guiding principle is that the animal is presented as naturally as possible.

- ii. In order to present the animal as naturally as possible all procedures and/or practices, both cosmetic and technical, are prohibited, with the exception of:
 - a. Washing/clipping the animal;
 - b. Straightening the top line with hair that is naturally attached to its own hair follicle and does not exceed 4 cm in length;
 - c. The use of a false tail or switch;
 - d. Treating the animal, excluding the udder, with a non-irritating substance, in order to enhance the colour or shine of the coat
 - e. The natural filling of an animals' udder with the animals own milk production for as long as it is deemed necessary for its welfare;
 - f. Treating the teats in order to avoid milk leaking; for sealing teats only the use of Collodium is allowed.
 - g. The trimming of feet.

Appendix A contains some examples of procedures and/or practices, which are unacceptable.

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- iii. Fitters at the European Championship Show should ideally be from the participants' country and if this is not possible, then from Europe. Fitters from outside of Europe are not allowed.

3. Use of Veterinary Medicines

During the Show only the Official Veterinarian on duty has the authority to decide whether an animal should be treated or not; if so what the appropriate medicine is; and to administer the appropriate bovine medicine.

- i. The use and/or being in the possession of (veterinary) drugs or medicines during the entire event or show is prohibited for all participants, cow-fitters, visitors or anyone else at the showground.
- ii. The Show Organising Committee will define an exclusive area for treatment of animals at the show. However, treatment may be administered by the Official Veterinarian, at his absolute discretion, at any venue within the show ground.
- iii. Exhibitors must send details of drugs required, 2 weeks before the event to the Show Organising Committee, to enable the Official Veterinarian to dispense said drugs.
- iv. When cows are ultra sounded, a blood sample may be taken and which may be tested on certain anti-inflammatory, analgesic drugs. Drugs that may be tested include – BST, irritant solutions (eg silver proteinate), gas, epinephrine, salt, hypertonic solution (glucose). If a cow is found to be over the limit, the cow will be disqualified.
- v. Where a blood test shows a problem, the EHRC Committee will react within six months.
- vi. The deadline to treat sick cows by the official vet is to be 9.00 a.m. on both show days. Cows treated later will be excluded from the show.

4. Compliance/Sanctions/Penalties

Show organisers in conjunction with the EHRC Committee and their representatives, are responsible for the application of rules and regulations for showing cattle and for overseeing compliance. In the event of a violation being established, and not being resolved satisfactorily, the complainant must send a written report to the organising committee and copied to the EHRC Committee.

- i. By participating in the show the participant agrees to abide by these rules and regulations and agrees to take part in any inspections if so requested. Refusal to take part in an inspection will result in the immediate disqualification of the participant and all his/her animals. A report will be sent to the EHRC Committee.
- ii. Person(s) authorised for this purpose by the Show Organising Committee and EHRC Committee will perform inspections. Violations of the rules and regulations will be reported orally and in writing to the Show Organising Committee and then submitted as a written complaint to the EHRC Committee for consideration.
- iii. If a violation or breach of the rules and regulations is deemed to have taken place, the animal and/or the participant can be immediately disqualified from competing by the organisers. Disqualification can take place up to a maximum of two months, depending upon the lab tests required, after the show. Whereby the animal in question will be removed from the list of results, and the prizes and any titles awarded will be forfeited.
- iv. If an owner or exhibitor does not accept the request to investigate his animal in accordance with these rules, it will lead to the disqualification of his/her animals.
- v. Any further penalties and consequences for the participation of the participant concerned at shows organised in the future shall be determined at the discretion of the EHRC Committee.
- vi. These Terms of Reference apply to the conduct of all participants as well as to how the animal is prepared/groomed. Any misconduct by a participant, owner or exhibitor in the form of intimidation or insulting members of the organisation, the jury and fellow participants, will be sanctioned by the organisation. A report will be sent to the EHRC committee for consideration. The responsibility will rest with the owner, exhibitor or employer of the participant.

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- vii. The owner or exhibitor of an animal is responsible for the preparation of the animal before the show and the kind of presentation in the ring. He has to ensure that his fitters, agents or other persons acting on his behalf prepare the animals in accordance with the EHRC TOR for Showing Cattle.
- viii. The entry of an animal in the show is considered consent by the exhibitor to allow specimens to be obtained. Hence, the Show Organising Committee and EHRC Committee and the Welfare and Patrolling Groups have the authority to collect and test at any time any of the animals' body fluids for analysis.

Appendix A - Examples of procedures and practices that are unacceptable.

These examples are given as clarification, the acceptable procedures and practices are stated in the rules and regulations.

The following practices are not permitted:

- i. Balancing the udder by any other means than leaving naturally produced milk in any or all quarters;
- ii. To overfill the udder.
 - a. Entrance to the show-ring can be refused for animals with overfilled udders.
 - b. If a small amount of milk is taken out of the udder, then at the discretion of the welfare group the animal may be allowed into the show-ring.
 - c. In the pre-ring, all cows will be subjected to a physical and ultra sound check
- iii. The use of glue or any instrument outside and inside the teats to change the teats positioning, is not permitted.
- iv. Introducing any foreign materials/substances under the skin with the aim of changing the natural contours or appearance of the animal's body or hair.
- v. Inserting a nose-ring, rope, cable binder, wire or other material through the nasal septum of female animals.
- vi. Roping udders with a fine rope, ice-bags or other material to physically improve the definition of the central suspensory ligament.
- vii. Treating the udders and/or teats with any substance procedures, etc that makes it look unnatural.
- viii. Using devices designed to stimulate the blood circulation in the udder.
- ix. Administering any substances (orally, or via the rectum or vagina) to alter the natural contours of the animal.
- x. Close embedding of hocks, unless authorised by the official veterinary surgeon.
- xi. Other inducements, physical changes or measurements which according to the opinion of any member of the Welfare Group, leads to the unnatural presentation of an animal or provides an advantage to the animal.
- xii. Use of cyanoacrylate (commonly known as superglue) is prohibited to close the teat ends.
- xiii. Shaving or cutting the hair on the ribs, using the very fine blades of the trimming machines or cutters, such that the ribs appear scratched or bald, is forbidden. Hair on the ribs should have the same length as the rest of the body of the animal.
- xiv. The preventive use of vitamin preparations as well as analgesic drugs, ie pain killers, is forbidden.
- xv. Administering a large oral dose of liquid or medicine to an animal, ie drenching, is only allowed after prescription by the official vet.

Appendix B: Examples of possible Inspections

- i. An ultrasound examination of the udder;
- ii. Taking blood samples, manure samples, urine samples and milk samples;
- iii. Physical inspection of aspects including the natural position of the teats and the top line;
- iv. Inspections to determine whether the participant has any veterinary medicine in his/her possession.

Appendix C: Example of Administering Show Regulations

The Welfare or Patrol Group, through the EHRC Committee, can impose one or more of the following measures:

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- a. Warning
 - b. The participant is (conditionally) disqualified from taking part in one or more cattle shows organised by EHRC and / or National organisations for a period of time established by the EHRC committee.
 - c. The animal will be removed from the list of results and the prizes and any titles awarded will be forfeited.
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1. In the case of b. and c. above, the other party will be notified in writing of the motivation behind the decision to impose a measure.
 2. The participant will be notified within a reasonable time of the EHRC Committees decision.

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WORKING GROUP: European Championship & Chairman

Purpose

Together with the host country organising committee, to produce a European Championship Show to the standards of EHRC.

1. Working Group Focus
- 2.

The group will concentrate its activities on the following issues:

- i. Monitor and update the European Showing Terms of Reference.
- ii. To ensure that the European Championship Show is conducted fairly and without prejudice
- iii. To consider potential disease outbreaks and monitor surveillance areas
- iv. To aid the host country
- v. To be responsible for final decision regarding show cancellation and breeder penalising

2. Composition of the Working Group

The working group should consist of around 5 people in total

- i. Members are nominated by the EHRC Committee
- ii. The chairman to be an EHRC committee member and act as an administrator.
- iii. The permanent working group member structure to be operated on a rotational basis with new members being elected, replacing retiring members.
- iv. The term of office is four years with re-election.
- v. A member of the Show Organising Committee for the next European Championship Show is invited onto the Working Group for the period a year before until the Working Group meeting after the Show. This allows for continuity between Shows.

3. Chairman of Working Group

- i. The chairman must be an EHRC committee member.
- ii. The chairman to be or has been involved in Holstein Shows.
- iii. The chairman may have secretarial support from their Herd Book.
- iv. The will have a four year term of office with re-election.
- v. The EHRC committee approve the Chairman of the Working Group.
- vi. If the chairman of the working group resigns before his term of office terminates, the EHRC Committee will appoint a new Chairman.

Procedure

The Chairman of the Working Group should arrange an annual meeting of the group. After the first meeting, it could be possible and is strongly recommended to communicate by email or by video conference.

1. Time Schedule

- i. Annual Working Group meeting.
- ii. European Championship Show every three years. If the show cannot be held due to exceptional circumstances, it may be postponed or cancelled. The EHRC Committee are responsible for this decision.

2. Budget

- i. If required a budget can be requested from the EHRC committee.
- ii. Travel expenses of the Working Group -members are to be paid for by their individual employers.

3. Final Result

The Working Group reports and European Championship Show documentation will be promoted and available on the EHRC website.

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European Championship Show Welfare Group

Purpose

The purpose of the Welfare Group is to ensure that every animal entering the Show Ring is healthy and is presented to the Judge as naturally as possible.

1. The EHRC Committee will appoint designated persons to act as a Welfare Group for the European Championship Show. Members of the Welfare Group for the Show will be responsible for overseeing compliance with the European Show Regulations at the show. They will monitor all cows entering the ring. It is recommended that the organisers of National Shows also appoint a Welfare Group or similar.
2. It is recommended that the Welfare Group should comprise of an EHRC Committee member, a member of the European Judging Panel and a veterinarian in the role of animal welfare officer.
3. In the event that a dispute relates in any way whatsoever to the personal interests of a member of the Group, the member in question must withdraw from the Group for such time as the complaint is being considered.
4. A member of the Welfare Group can disqualify himself/herself by reason of facts or circumstances that may influence the member's impartiality while a dispute is being considered.
5. Members of the Welfare Group are responsible for monitoring violations as the cows enter the Show ring. They will have the authority to inspect animals and related materials to determine if violations have occurred. Instructions of the Welfare Group have to be obeyed during the entire Show. If violations have occurred, this Group may prevent the cow, or the cows, from entering the ring.
6. The Welfare Group has the authority to request an ultrasound examination of the udder of any cows prior to or after the judging of the class in which the animal is entered or to take a milk sample for analysis.
7. At the EHRC Championship Show, all cows will be checked by ultrasound before entering the ring. The ultrasound examination must be performed by a veterinarian or by a group of veterinarians; in any case the veterinarians involved have to be qualified technicians as far as this specific ultrasound examination is concerned.
8. The Welfare Group can, in case of any violation, check all entries and personal property of the owner, exhibitor, fitter, agent or other persons on behalf of the owner, which they use for the preparation of the animals. Any refusal of a request by the owner or other person acting on behalf of the owner is not in accordance with these rules and will result in the disqualification of the owner's animals.
9. The Welfare Group decision and recommendation is final. They may refer complaints to the higher authority of the EHRC Committee if necessary.
10. The EHRC Committee reserves its right to impose further sanctions on the owner or exhibitor. Other relevant show committees or herd-book associations should be notified.

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European Championship Show Patrol Group

Purpose

The purpose of the Patrol Group is to ensure that every animal at the Show ring is healthy and is presented as naturally as possible.

1. The EHRC Committee will agree designated persons to act as a Patrol Group for the European Championship. Members of the Patrol Group for the Show will be responsible for overseeing compliance with the Code of Ethics for the show. They will monitor all cows in the Show, up until they enter the holding ring. It is recommended that the organisers of National Shows also appoint a Patrol Group or similar.
2. The persons acting as Patrol Group will wear vests clearly showing the exhibitors that they are members of the Patrol Group?
3. It is recommended that the patrol operates between early evening the day before the European Championship Show begins and late afternoon of the final day.
4. Each participating country should provide one member of the Patrol Group. The Patrol Group will divide into teams to enable cover as required.
5. The Patrol group has to be operative before, during and after the show; if violations have occurred, this Group may prevent the cow, or the cows, from entering the ring. Members of the Patrol Group are responsible for monitoring violations throughout the whole area of the show ground. The Patrol Group will have the authority to inspect animals and related materials to determine if violations have occurred. Instructions of the Patrol group have to be obeyed during the entire Show.
6. The Patrol group has the authority to request an ultrasound examination of the udder of any cows prior to or after the judging of the class in which the animal is entered or to take a milk sample for analysis.
7. The Patrol Group can in case of any violation check all entries and personal property of the owner, exhibitor, fitter, agent or other persons on behalf of the owner, which they use for the preparation of the animals. Any refusal of a request by the owner or other person acting on behalf of the owner is not in accordance with these rules and will result in the disqualification of the owner's animals.
8. The Patrol Group decision and recommendation is final. They may refer complaints to the higher authority of the EHRC Committee if necessary.
9. The EHRC Committee reserves its right to impose further sanctions on the owner or exhibitor. Other relevant show committees or herd-book associations should be notified.