

ALL DAIRY BREEDS NATIONAL SHOW RING CODE OF ETHICS

Compiled by the All Dairy Breeds Show Ring Committee

Updated: 16th September 2025

All Dairy Breeds Show Ring Committee

Dairy House, AgriBio 5 Ring Rd Bundoora VIC 3083

Secretariat: AllBreedEthics@outlook.com

ALL DAIRY BREEDS NATIONAL SHOW RING CODE OF ETHICS

PREAMBLE, PURPOSE AND COMPLIANCE

The practice of showing dairy cattle stimulates, encourages and promotes interest in the breeding of registered dairy cattle. It is to the benefit of all breeders of registered cattle and the broader dairy industry that the reputation for integrity, good husbandry and animal welfare in dairy cattle shows is maintained.

The primary purpose of this National Show Ring Code of Ethics (COE) is to ensure that all animals presented for exhibition will be in their natural conformation and structure, free from any alteration or modification caused by unethical fitting practices.

The COE provides the standard for regulation of unacceptable practices and for maintaining exhibitor responsibility for animal preparation, presentation and exhibition. The COE covers animals registered or eligible for registration in the pedigree or appendix registers of all Australian dairy breed society herd books.

The application of this COE at all dairy breed shows provides for absolute responsibility for an animals' condition by an owner or lessee, exhibitor, fitter or participant (the "Exhibitor"). This responsibility occurs whether or not he or she was instrumental in or had actual knowledge of the treatment of the animal in contravention of this COE.

Compliance with this COE will be expected of all members of any Australian dairy breed societies and associations. The COE also applies to any other person or body corporate who utilises or associates themselves with the name of those associations or their logo, or who should in any way infer that an animal for exhibition is registered or is eligible for registration with those Australian dairy breed associations.

Any violation of this COE by an Exhibitor will be considered to be a breach of the Exhibitor's dairy breed association's applicable show ethics by-laws and will be subject to disciplinary action under those by-laws.

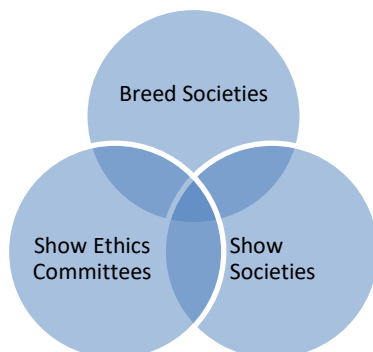
Exhibitors will at all times conduct themselves with honesty, good sportsmanship and maintain proper animal care so as to protect the health, safety and welfare of livestock and the food consuming public.

This COE aims to comply with relevant federal and state legislation that applies to livestock care, handling, exhibition and welfare.

The All Dairy Breeds Show Ring Committee (ADBSRC) has responsibility for the COE and consists of representatives from Australian dairy breeds including but not limited to Aussie Reds, Ayrshires, Brown Swiss, Guernsey, Holstein, Illawarra and Jersey (collectively "Breed Societies").

1 Show Ethics Structures

There are several related bodies that have an interest in ensuring the ethical showing of registered Dairy Cattle. The diagram below highlights these bodies.



Breed Societies

Breed Societies are responsible for maintaining their own rules and regulations regarding the code of conduct for showing Dairy Cattle. These rules and regulations generally include penalties and rights of appeal for their individual members.

International Dairy Week and Show Societies

There are various regular events such as International Dairy Week ("IDW"), local shows, state shows, Royal Shows and Exhibitions ("Shows") that have rules and regulations governing the showing of Dairy Cattle, generally including penalties and rights of appeal for exhibitors. This COE does not supersede but rather augments these existing rules and regulations. It is not the intention that this COE to take precedence over existing IDW or Show Societies rules and regulations however in the absence of such rules and regulations the COE applies.

Show Ethics Committee

This COE anticipates that each show should have a Show Ethics Committee (SEC). The make-up of this committee should include official breed representatives, representative(s) of show management (e.g. dairy cattle show superintendent, General Manager or event organiser), the official show veterinarian or other show or event official.

The SEC will be responsible for monitoring violations of the COE. The SEC will investigate the report of any violation and determine the accuracy of the allegation. The SEC will have the authority to inspect animals and related material to determine if violations have occurred. The SEC will have the authority to apply penalties at the level of the show where the violation occurred.

All Dairy Breeds Show Ring Committee

Breed Societies have jointly and severally agreed to establish a standing committee known as the All Dairy Breeds Show Ring Committee (ADBSRC) that has responsibility for the development, regulation and enforcement of this COE. The ADBSRC has developed this COE not to supersede but to augment existing Breed Societies rules and regulations. The ADBSRC has approved and endorsed this COE. The ADBSRC calls for the code to be enforced by all Breed Societies, show societies, event organisers and participating official show veterinarians at shows and exhibitions throughout Australia including all states and territories.

The ADBSRC shall be responsible for the co-ordination and review of the COE. The ADBSRC shall be responsible for the co-ordination and review of the COE. A review will occur annually and the ADBSRC may amend the COE as it deems necessary, subject to consultation with all interested parties and the review report made available for all Breed Societies in an electronic format by access to a website specific to the ADBSRC. The ADBSRC will have the authority to assign penalties for violations of a serious nature, which involve bans from multiple shows.

The Chair shall be appointed from the Committee for a maximum term of two years and is to be rotated across the respective breed representatives.

See section 3 for Enforcement Procedures

2 Exhibitor Responsibility

The act of entering an animal in a livestock show is the giving of consent by the owner or lessee, exhibitor, fitter and/or the absolutely responsible person ("Responsible Party") for the animal to the SEC to approach, investigate or enquire as to the preparation of the Dairy Cattle for exhibiting. This includes consent to inspect, examine or collect any specimens of urine, saliva, blood, milk, or other sample from the animal to be used for the purpose of testing. Information may also be collected by ultrasound and photographic methods and by direct examination of animal.

The act of entering Dairy Cattle in a livestock show is the giving of consent by the Responsible Party to disciplinary action for any violation or violations of this COE determined in the absolute discretion of the SEC, management and/or the appropriate Breed Societies and/or the ADBSRC.

The onus is on the Responsible Party to ensure all Show entry forms are completed without false or misleading information and by signing the Show entry form they agree to be bound by the declaration, warranty and waiver described in the Show entry form.

3 Practices and Procedures

This code of ethics includes:

- 3.1 Allowed practices
- 3.2 Proscribed practices
- 3.3 Testing and detection methods
- 3.4 Penalties
- 3.5 Enforcement Procedures

3.1 Allowed Practices

Dairy cattle exhibitions are conducted under standards for evaluating conformation established by various Breed Societies with specific breed characteristics taken into consideration by the show judge.

In this connection, animals will be groomed and prepared for the Judge's evaluation in order to display the animal's natural contour, conformation, performance and mobility.

Specifically:

- (a) External applications of cosmetics that affect only appearance may be used, including hoof polishes, hoof trimming, glitter, hair products on the top line and other areas of the animal.
- (b) Fake switches are permitted.
- (c) Teat sealing is permitted but the practice is not encouraged.
- (d) The use of udder treatments is allowed provided the product is registered for use on cattle within the Commonwealth of Australia excluding electrical appliances used for stimulating the teat and udder.
- (e) The following allowed practices require an Exhibitor Declaration (see appendix) to be completed and returned to the head Steward (or other show official as appointed by the SEC) BEFORE an animal is allowed to enter the ring.
 - (i) The use of intra-uterine and intra-vaginal controlled drug release devices is allowed but exhibitors must complete an Exhibitor Declaration declaring the use of such a device and including the name of the ET technician or vet involved in the case of an ET program. Only one such device is allowable, and Dairy Cattle are subject to examination.
 - (ii) The use of drugs before and during a show is allowed under certain conditions. All pharmaceuticals and nutraceuticals must be delivered according to label instructions, including dose rate, frequency of use, method of application and purpose.
 - A Drugs allowed that have been prescribed by a veterinarian based on a therapeutic need as part of an animal treatment plan and declared in the Exhibitor Declaration:

- I Anti-inflammatories (Flunixin meglumine, Meloxicam, Tolfenamic acid, Ketoprofen, Dexamethasone)
- II Anti-biotics, including intramammary anti-biotics
- III Diuretics (Furosemide (INN), Frusemide (BNN))
- IV Antihistamines (Tripeleminamine HCl, Chlorpheniramine maleate)
- V Sedatives (xylazine, acepromizine)
- VI Hormones (Oxytocin, Prostaglandin, Gonadotrophin (GnRH))
- B substances allowed without an exhibitor declaration:
 - I Vitamins and minerals
 - II Glucose

3.2 Proscribed Practices

The following are examples of procedures and practices that are considered to be fraudulent, unethical or detract from the proper showing and image of dairy cattle. Addition of foreign objects, including but not limited to cloth or fibre, to change the natural contour or appearance of the animal's body is prohibited. Proscribed practices fall into two categories: major violations and minor violations.

A Major violations

Major violations fall into two categories: those that are dealt with routinely by the SEC through testing and those that are dealt with through the COE enforcement procedures as detailed in Section 3.5 herein.

(i) Major violations that will be subject to SEC testing are as follows:

- (a) Treating an animal externally including the udder, with an irritant or other foreign substance not registered for use on cattle within the Commonwealth of Australia
- (b) The use and attachment of a stimulating device and/or electrical appliance to massage or modify the teat or udder is not permitted.
 - (c) Surgically or unethically inserting any prohibited chemical, drug, gas, liquid (including milk), matter or foreign substance into the udder to artificially enhance or change the natural shape or appearance of the udder. This includes, but is not limited to:
 - (i) Dextrose
 - (ii) Pure alcohol
 - (iii) Gas of any sort
 - (iv) Foam
 - (v) Silver protein
 - (vi) Silver nitrate
 - (vii) Transferring milk between quarters
- (d) Improper fitting practices, such as over filling and over bagging that causes animal pain, discomfort or walking difficulty and is validated by ultrasound scanning detecting unacceptable levels of oedema in the udder according to the following scores.

Oedema score:

Fore Udder

Level 0	Normal	acceptable
Level 1	1-2 lines of oedema	acceptable

Level 2	2-3 lines of oedema less than 1 cm thick in total	acceptable
Level 3	4-5 lines of oedema 1.5 cm thick in total	NOT acceptable
Level 4	6 or more lines of oedema and more than 1.5 cm thick	NOT acceptable

Rear Udder

Level 0	Normal	acceptable
Level 1	1-2 lines of oedema	acceptable
Level 2	3-4 lines of oedema and 4 cm wide	acceptable
Level 3	5-6 lines of oedema and more than 4 cm wide	NOT acceptable
Level 4	6 or more lines of oedema and more than 5cm wide	NOT acceptable

- (e) Using a device or product to artificially create or enhance the udder crease.
- (f) Administering an injected or applied anaesthetic to alter the carriage of the tail or other body parts.
- (g) Surgically or unethically inserting any matter or foreign substance under the skin or into any body cavity to change the natural contour or appearance of the animal's body. This includes the administration of fluids on day of show by stomach tube or other similar device unless performed under the direct supervision or advice of the show veterinarian or your normal veterinarian practitioner for medical treatment.
- (h) Manipulation of the teat by surgically or unethically inserting any object or foreign substance to alter its normal direction such as to unnaturally hold plumb or to alter its length Exhibitors have only one opportunity per show to check-in ringside and the animal will not be allowed in the ring for the duration of the show.
- (i) Use of the following drugs is NOT permitted under any circumstances before or during a show includes, but is not limited to:
 - (i) Any drug not registered for use on cattle in Australia
 - (ii) Anabolic steroids
 - (iii) Growth or milk promoting hormones other than those in 3.1.e (ii) A.
 - (iv) Diuretics and sedatives other than those in 3.1.e (ii) A.
 - (v) Amphetamines
 - (vi) Prescribed drugs without a veterinarian's label attached
 - (vii) Prescribed drugs with a veterinarian's label attached but used outside the normal time frame allowed for the use of that drug or drugs not used in accordance with the label instructions
 - (viii) Drugs used from an unmarked bottle, tube or container
 - (ix) Any drug that is illicit or illegal in Australia
- (ii) *Major violations regulated by the COE complaints procedure are as follows:*
 - (a) Mistreatment of an animal including the noncompliant or unacceptable use of a device used to control an animal (i.e. halter, leash, nose pliers or wire) while in the show ring, show ring approaches, shed or stalls or while the animal remains within the perimeter of the show and event grounds.
 - (b) Criticising or interfering with the judge, show management or other exhibitors while in the Show ring or other conduct detrimental to the breed or the show.

- (c) Challenging, threatening, criticising or interfering with a SEC member or volunteer appointed by show management to monitor the animals on exhibit on the show grounds.
- (d) Misrepresenting the age or lineage/breed for the class in which it is entered.
- (e) Failing to provide proper/accurate animal identification when asked by show ethics personnel or Show Management.
- (f) Tampering with another exhibitor's animal.

Penalty: Major violations will be reported to the SEC and/or Show Management and can result in animals and/or exhibitors, owners, lessees, fitters or representatives being barred from future participation at shows.

B *Minor violations.*

These include but are not limited to:

- (a) Unsportsmanlike conduct on the part of show handlers, exhibitors or fitters while in the show ring, shed, stalls or show and event grounds.
- (b) Excessively manipulating top line and/or tail head hair beyond 3.80 centimetres (1.5 inches). Exhibitors have only one opportunity per show to check-in ringside and the animal will not be allowed in the ring for the duration of the show.
- (c) The top line or tail head shall only consist of naturally growing hair. The use of foreign material, imitation or artificial hair including attaching or fastening natural hair to the top line or tail head is not permitted.
- (d) Manipulation of the teat by applying any foreign substance, liquid or glue to alter its normal direction such as to unnaturally hold plum or alter its length (i.e. teat setting)
- (e) Misrepresenting the number of lactations and/or milking status of the animal for the class in which it is entered.

Penalty: Minor violations will be given slight to moderate discrimination by the judge in placing animals within the class.

Any unethical practice or procedure not listed above but reported as unethical will be reviewed by the ADBSRC, the SEC of the show involved, the Dairy Cattle Show Superintendent and the Show or Event Manager. At least two of these four will make the initial determination as to whether the conduct is unethical and if any disciplinary action is necessary.

3.3 Testing and detection methods

The primary principle of testing is that the animals placed first and second in each class plus two randomly selected animals will be scanned and tested in accordance with this section of the COE.

The secondary principle is that the animal should be tested after its last appearance in the ring.

This means that the animals placed first and second can be tested after their champion class *with the exception of Champion and Reserve which are tested after the Supreme class.*

3.3.1 Random testing

Random selection of animals for testing should be conducted at all shows. All in-milk animals entered in the show or event are eligible to be randomly selected for testing.

The principle to be used for random testing shall be that two random animals are selected for each in-milk class. These random animals can be selected by one of two ways:

- (a) Animals can be drawn from the entry numbers issued to all exhibiting animals by class; or
- (b) For each class, a placing can be drawn, not including 1st and 2nd which are tested in any case.

In all cases, the animal's entry numbers should be randomly chosen by show management in accordance with section 3.3.1 herein by a method determined by the ADBSRC prior to the show commencing and kept confidential in a sealed envelope; one for each class. The envelopes shall remain in a secure place as determined by the SEC or a steward nominated by the SEC.

3.3.2 Judges call for testing

Judges shall have the option to call for an animal to be tested if they suspect the animal has been prepared and presented in a manner that contravenes this COE. The judge shall make the request confidentially to a member of the SEC or a steward nominated by the SEC and not directly to the exhibitor. If the SEC agrees with the judge that a violation may have occurred, the animal shall be tested.

Ultrasound

That it is preferred that each Royal, IDW and State show that it is encouraged to use the services of an ultrasound machine and trained technician to detect the unethical manipulation of the udder prior to the animal being exhibited in its designated class. Exhibits required for scanning are to be presented preferably in-milk and not milked out.

Exhibitors wishing to ultrasound their animals prior to exhibition may do so at their own expense before entering the show ring. Exhibitors should proceed to the Ultrasound site to arrange a time that is suitable to the ultrasound testing team. Results of the ultrasound will be kept confidential and will not affect exhibition status.

Milk and blood tests

Each Royal and State show is encouraged to test both blood and milk samples of the first two placegetters in each class plus each animal in a spot (to be decided with each judge). The procedures for blood and milk sample taking and testing including the chain of custody can be found in Appendix 2.

3.4 Penalties

If a violation of the COE has been proven to have occurred and the proper enforcement procedure has been followed, penalties against the exhibitor can be enforced and may include anyone, or combination, of the following:

- (a) Minor violations:
 - (i) 1st and 2nd violation: written letter of reprimand to the principal, owner or lessee, exhibitor, fitter and/or absolutely responsible person
 - (ii) 3rd violation: disqualification of the exhibitor and/or fitter from exhibiting livestock from future local, state and national shows and competitions for 12 months from date of 3rd violation
- (b) Major violations:
 - (i) forfeiture or return of awards, prizes, premiums or proceeds
 - (ii) disqualification of the exhibiting livestock from further competition

- (iii) disqualification of the exhibitor from the show
 - (iv) disqualification of the fitter from the show
 - (v) disqualification of the exhibitor and/or fitter from exhibiting livestock from future local, state and national shows and competitions for a minimum 12 months to a maximum 24 months from date of violation.
- (c) A breed society may impose penalties on its members in accordance with their own relevant rules and regulations.

NOTE: Disqualification may be in accordance with provisions of show management and the relevant Breed Society.

3.5 Enforcement procedures

- (a) A SEC should include no less than three (3) individuals including an official breed representative, a representative of show management and the official show veterinarian or, if there is no official show veterinarian, one other nomination from show management.
- (b) The SEC will be responsible for monitoring violations of the applicable Show's Code of Ethics and the COE by Exhibitors and/or their representatives.
- (c) Complaints of alleged minor or major violations must be in writing and can be presented by any interested party to official breed representatives, representatives of the show management, the official show veterinarian or to the SEC.
- (d) All complaints of alleged violations received by the above individuals will be presented to the SEC to determine investigative requirements.
- (e) The SEC has the authority to inspect all animals to determine if violations of the applicable Show's Code of Ethics or the COE have occurred.

To help in this regard, the SEC has the authority to perform the following:

- (i) measure the top line and/or tail head hair
 - (ii) pull hair samples
 - (iii) draw blood samples
 - (iv) perform an ultrasound examination of the udder, prior to milk out
 - (v) perform a milk out of any individual cow or cows
 - (vi) collect and test any of the animal's bodily fluids, including milk, blood and urine
 - (vii) use any technology that may be useful in determining if a violation has occurred in any animal based on placement, random selection or suspect characteristics
 - (viii) require delivery to the SEC of hypodermic syringe, needle or other devices, swabs, cloths, or other material, or samples or any medicine, preparation, or substance, whether in liquid or other form, in the possession or control of the exhibitor, the fitter, agents or persons acting on behalf of the exhibitor for the purpose of laboratory analysis.
- (f) An individual or body corporate who is a member of an Australian Dairy Cattle Society or Association but not necessarily an owner or Exhibitor who commits a violation of the COE will be subject to the same ethics enforcement procedures and sanctions as the owner or exhibitor.
- (g) If a minor or major violation has been determined by a member of the SEC it will inform an official breed representative and the judge of the violation of the COE or the applicable show's code of ethics.

- (h) The judge may determine if a minor violation has occurred in the show ring. The judge may consider the minor violation in the placing of the class. The minor violation will be reported by the judge to the SEC.
- (i) If a two out of three members of the SEC determine that a minor or major violation of the COE will occur if an Exhibitor shows an animal the exhibitor will be informed that the showing of the animal will be in violation of the COE and will result in a major violation of the Show's Code of Ethics and/or the COE. If the exhibitor decides not to show the animal, no violation will have occurred, except in cases where the Exhibitor will breach section 3.2 (ii) subclauses (a) – (f) herein relating to the mistreatment of animals and unacceptable Exhibitor behaviour where an investigation will occur regardless of whether an animal enters the ring or not.
- (j) Following the judging of the milking cow classes, the SEC or representatives will ultrasound the udders and take fluid samples from the animals placed first and second in each class plus at least one random animal in each in-milk class. Exhibitors who are selected to have fluid samples taken from their animals will be directed to the test sampling area. Animals may also be selected by the SEC in their absolute discretion to have samples collected.
- (k) Following the completion of the Show and the evaluation of the hair measurements, ultrasound readings and upon the receipt of the fluid sample analysis (if samples have been taken) or other lab reports, the SEC will submit a report to a representative of Show management if any violations have occurred. This reporting will happen as soon as reasonably possible after the end of the show.
- (l) If evidence suggests that a violation occurred, the SEC will promptly notify the official breed representative and the accused individual(s) of the alleged violation. Copies of the supporting evidence to the extent reasonably possible will be provided to both the official breed representative and the accused individual(s). The anonymity of the accused individual(s) and/or animal will be maintained by the SEC and Show management throughout the enforcement process until any appeal has been heard.
- (m) If a major violation has been found to have occurred and breached existing Show Society or Event's rules of showing or this COE then the accused individual(s) may be subject to disciplinary proceedings, including penalties that can be imposed by the SEC in accordance with those rules. Any penalty imposed upon an exhibitor must be in writing.
- (n) If a penalty is imposed and applies only to the current show or event where the violation occurred, the accused individual(s) has the right of appeal against the decision and can apply in writing to the Show Committee or if none, to ADBSRC. An application to appeal must be made within 7 days from the date of notification that the violation has occurred. An accused individual(s) must be notified in writing, and the notice is to be sent by registered post to the accused individual(s) last known address.
- (o) If the SEC determines that the penalty should apply beyond the current show or event, the matter must be referred to ADBSRC. A full report of the charges and findings, including the SEC recommendation accompanied by supporting evidence shall be sent to ADBSRC for a ruling/determination.
- (p) If a penalty is imposed by the ADBSRC that applies beyond the current show or event where the violation occurred; the accused individual(s) has the right of appeal against the determination of the ADBSRC and can apply to the ADBSRC Appeals Panel. The panel will consist of the Presidents (or Vice Presidents) of the breed societies represented on ADBSRC. Application should be made in writing to the Chair of the ADBSRC Appeals Panel within 7 days of accused person being notified of the penalty imposed. ADBSRC will notify the accused individual(s) of its ruling within 7 days as well as notify the Royal Agricultural Show Societies Dairy Cattle Committee Chair in each state, the Dairy Breed Societies represented on ADBSRC and the management of International Dairy Week of its ruling. The accused individual(s) will be notified by registered post sent to the last known address of the accused individual(s).
- (q) At the completion of the show the SEC will formally notify ADBSRC of the violation and penalty if imposed. ADBSRC shall in turn notify the Royal Agricultural Show Societies Dairy

Cattle Committee Chair in each state, the Presidents of the Dairy Breed Societies represented on ADBSRC and the management of International Dairy Week of the violation.

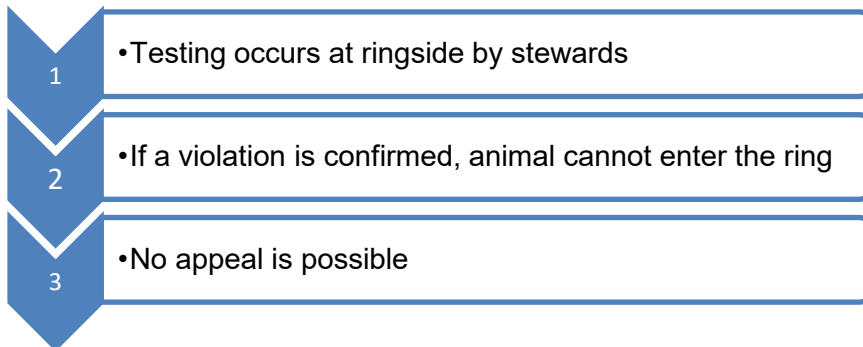
- (r) As a result of receiving notification from ADBSRC that an Exhibitor has been found to have committed a major violation of this COE, the Royal Agricultural Show Societies Dairy Cattle Committees, the relevant Dairy Breed Society and the management of International Dairy Week may impose their own penalties on the Exhibitor in accordance with their own rules and regulations.

3.5.1 Enforcement Procedures – Decision Chain

The enforcement procedure decision chain applies only if a violation has occurred.

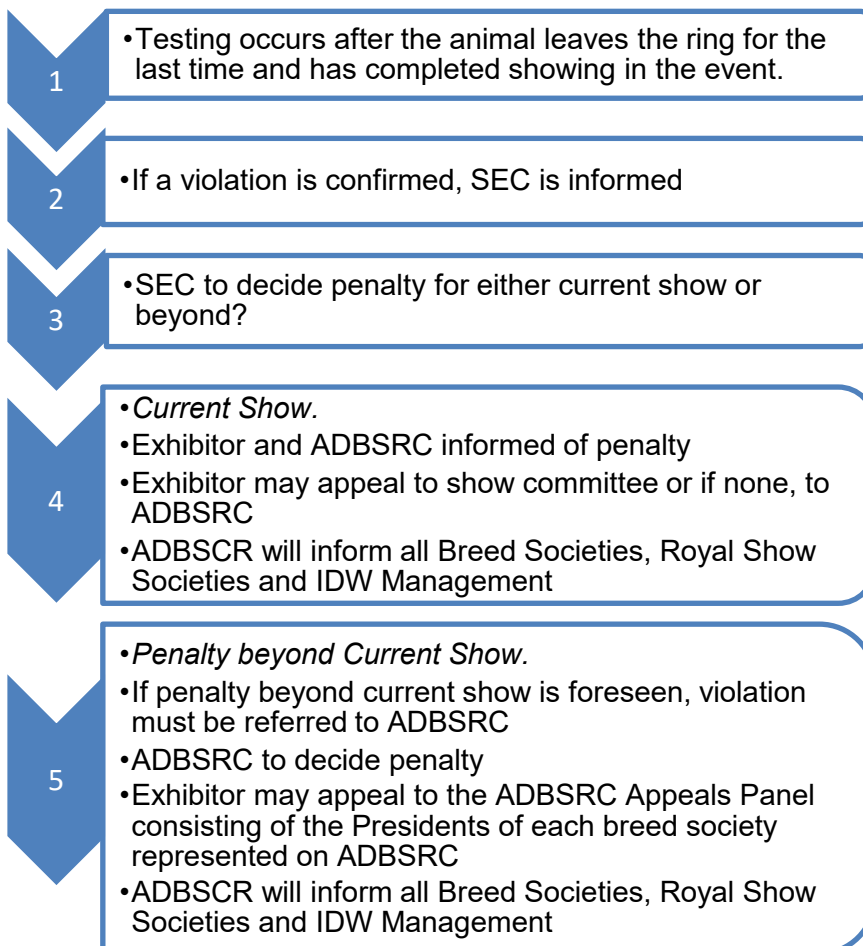
(a) Major violation arising from SEC testing at ringside.

Applies only to examination of top line and teat setting

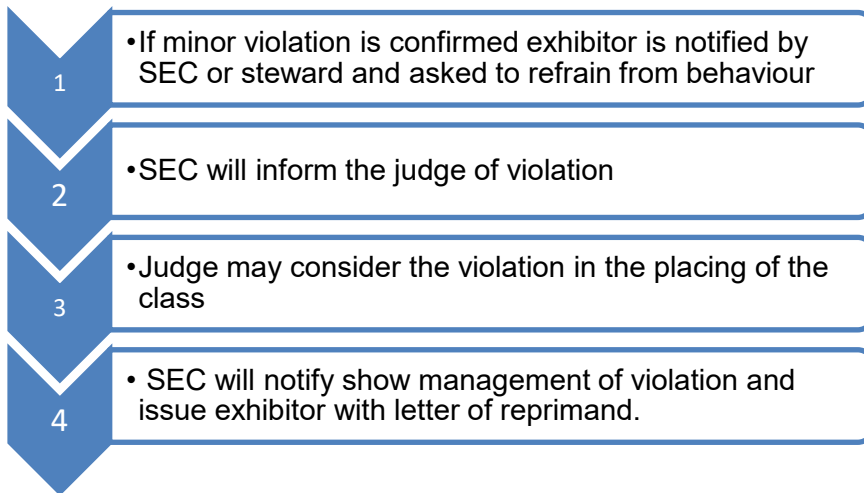


(b) Major violation arising from SEC testing AFTER showing for the last time.

Includes examination of udder by ultrasound and/or blood, urine or milk sample test



(c) Minor violation arising from unacceptable behaviour or misconduct PRIOR to and DURING judging

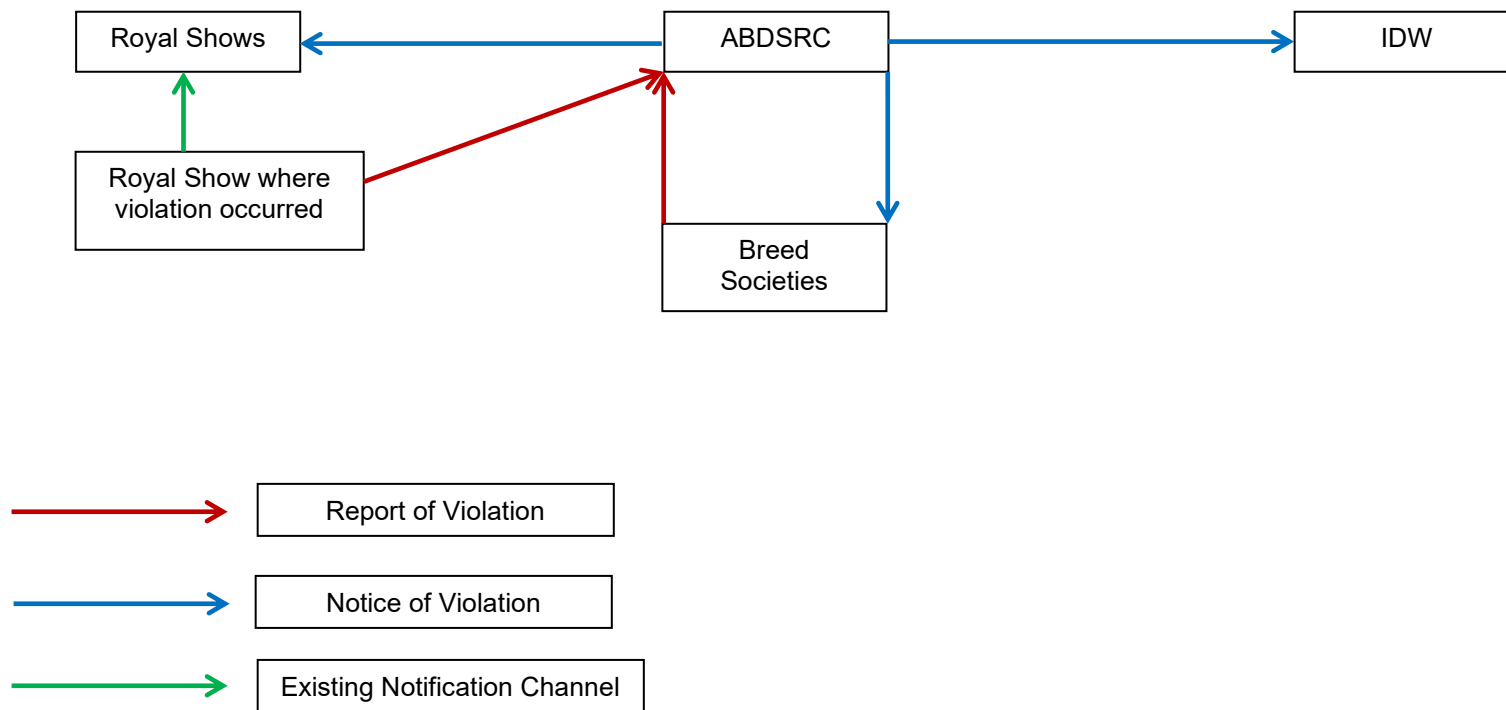


Appendix 1.

EXHIBITOR DECLARATION TREATMENT SHEET

		CIDR USAGE		DRUGS ADMINISTERED									
Animal ID	Animal Entry Number	Used? Yes/No	ET Tech/Vet Name	Drug Name (common or shelf name)	Time / Date Administered	Name of Prescribing Vet	Dose	Method/location e.g. "injected into muscle"	Purpose of treatment	Administering Person	Signature	Chief or Show Vet initials	

Flow Chart A: Reporting and Notification of Violation.
Where Violation Occurs at a Royal or Breed Society Show



Flow Chart B: Penalty Request and Notification of Violation.

Where Violation Occurs at IDW or a National Penalty is requested from a Breed Society or Royal Show

