



NSA Articles of Association

Articles of Association for a Charitable Company / a Company not having a Share Capital.

Memorandum and Articles of Association dated 21st December 1892 and most recently amended at the 2015 AGM to allow for current governance and further amended at the 2025 AGM.

1. The Company's name is National Sheep Association (and in this document it is called the 'charity').

Interpretation

2. In these Articles:

'address' means a postal address or, for the purposes of electronic communication, an email or postal address or a telephone number for receiving text messages in each case registered with the charity;

'the articles' means the charity's articles of association;

'charitable' means charitable in accordance with the law of England and Wales provided that it will not include any purpose which is not in accordance of section 7 of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and/or section 2 of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008. For the avoidance of doubt the system of law governing the constitution of the charity is the law of England of England and Wales;

'clear days' in relation to the period of a notice means a period excluding:

- the day when the notice is given or deemed to be given; and
- the day for which it is given or on which it is to take effect;

'the Commission' means the Charity Commission for England and Wales;

'Committee members' means the members of the regional committees, each a 'committee member';

'Companies Act' means the Companies Act (as defined in section 2 of the Companies Act 2006) in so far as they apply to the charity;

'the directors' means the directors of the charity. The directors are charity trustees as defined by section 97 of the Charities Act 1993;

'document' includes, unless otherwise specified, any document sent or supplied in electronic form;

'electronic form' has the meaning given in section 1168 of the Companies Act 2006;

'the memorandum' means the charity's memorandum of association;



Chief Executive: Phil Stocker
A company limited by Guarantee. Registered in England. Registration No. 37818.
Registered charity in England and Wales (249255) and in Scotland (SC042853)



National Sheep Association is an organisation which represents the views and interests of sheep producers throughout the UK.
NSA is funded by its membership of sheep farmers and its activities involve it in every aspect of the sheep industry.

your business your future

'NSA regions' means each of the regions of the charity, each a 'region';

'NSA ram sales' means ram sales set up separately to regions of the charity, each a 'ram sale';

'officers' includes the directors and the secretary (if any);

'the seal' means the common seal of the charity if it has one;

'regional committee' means the committees of the NSA regions, each a 'regional committee';

'secretary' means any person appointed to perform the duties of the secretary of the charity;

'the United Kingdom' means Great Britain and Northern Ireland; and

words importing one gender shall include all genders; and the singular includes the plural and vice versa.

Unless the context otherwise requires words or expressions contained in the articles have the same meaning as in the Companies Act but excluding any statutory modification not in force when this constitution becomes binding on the charity.

Apart from the exception mentioned in the previous paragraph a reference to an Act of Parliament includes any statutory modification or re-enactment of it for the time being in force.

3. **Liability of Members**

The liability of members is limited to £1 being the amount that each member undertakes to contribute to the assets of the charity in the event of its being wound up while they are a member or within one year after they cease to be a member, for:

- 3.1. payment of the charity's debts and liabilities incurred before they cease to be a member;
- 3.2. payment of the costs, charges and expenses of winding up; and
- 3.3. adjustment of the rights of the contributories among themselves.

4. **Objects**

The charity's objects ('Objects') are specifically restricted to the following charitable object:

- 4.1. To encourage and improve breeding, management and promotion of sheep as a species and as an activity in the United Kingdom and elsewhere in pursuit of advancing education, health, heritage, science, environmental protection and improvement and animal welfare for the public benefit.

5. **Powers**

The charity has power to do anything which is calculated to further its object(s) or is conducive or incidental to doing so including:

- 5.1. To compile and publish such general information with reference to the breeding and management of sheep and sheep farming as the charity thinks fit, to make a charge for such information;
- 5.2. To disseminate information with reference to sheep breeding, management and diseases of sheep by lectures, discussions, books, correspondence, or otherwise and for that purpose, to co-operate with any university, college or other authorities;
- 5.3. To consider legislation affecting sheep, sheep breeding and sheep farming;
- 5.4. To provide rooms and other facilities for the holding and conducting of meetings and to hold or take part in exhibitions, lectures, conferences and shows for the objects or work of the charity;
- 5.5. To apply for, acquire and deal with trade marks (including certification trade marks), patents and designs and to grant license to use them;
- 5.6. To procure the charity to be registered or recognised for any purpose or purposes consistent with its objects in any part of the Commonwealth or in any foreign country or place;
- 5.7. To raise funds. In doing so, the charity must not undertake any taxable permanent trading activity which is not charitable and must comply with any relevant statutory regulations;
- 5.8. To buy, take on lease or exchange, hire or otherwise acquire property and to maintain and equip it for use;
- 5.9. To sell, lease or otherwise dispose of all or any part of the property belonging to the charity. In exercising this power, the charity must comply as appropriate with sections 36 and 37 of the Charities Act 1993, as amended by the Charities Act 2006;
- 5.10. To borrow money and to charge the whole or any part of the property belonging to the charity as security for repayment of the money borrowed or as security for a grant or the discharge of an obligation. The charity must also comply as appropriate with sections 38 and 39 of the Charities Act 1993, as amended by the Charities Act 2006, if it wishes to mortgage land;
- 5.11. To co-operate with other charities, voluntary bodies and statutory authorities and to exchange information and advice with them;
- 5.12. To establish or support any charitable trusts, associations or institutions formed for any of the charitable purposes included in the Objects;
- 5.13. To acquire, merge with or enter into any partnership or joint venture arrangement with any other charity;
- 5.14. To set aside income as a reserve against future expenditure but only in accordance with a written policy about reserves;
- 5.15. To employ and remunerate such staff as are necessary for carrying out the work of the charity. The charity may employ or remunerate a director only to the extent it is permitted to do so by article 6 and provided it complies with the conditions in that article;

- 5.16. To:
 - 5.16.1. deposit or invest funds;
 - 5.16.2. employ a professional fund manager; and
 - 5.16.3. arrange for the investments or other property of the charity to be held in the name of a nominee in the same manner and subject to the same conditions as the trustee of a trust are permitted to do so by the Trustee Act 2000;
- 5.17. To provide indemnity insurance for the directors in accordance with, and subject to the conditions in, section 73F of the Charities Act 1993;
- 5.18. To pay out of the funds of the charity the costs of forming and registering the charity both as a company and as a charity.

6. **Application of income and property – universal clauses**

- 6.1. The income and property of the charity shall be applied solely towards the promotion of the Objects.
- 6.2. A director:
 - 6.2.1. is entitled to be reimbursed from the property of the charity or may pay out of such property reasonable expenses properly incurred by them when acting on behalf of the charity;
 - 6.2.2. may benefit from trustee indemnity insurance cover purchased at the charity's expense in accordance with, and subject to the conditions in, section 73F of the Charities Act 1993;
 - 6.2.3. may receive an indemnity from the charity in the circumstances specified in article 55;
 - 6.2.4. may not receive any other payment or benefit unless it is authorised by article 6.
- 6.3. None of the income or property of the charity may be paid or transferred directly or indirectly by way of dividend bonus or otherwise by way of profit to any member of the charity. This does not prevent a member who is not also a director receiving:
 - 6.3.1. a benefit from the charity in the capacity of a beneficiary of the charity;
 - 6.3.2. reasonable and proper remuneration for any goods or services supplied to the charity.
- 6.4. **Directors' benefits. Provision of goods and services, employment, other remuneration/financial benefits – directors/connected persons**

No director or connected person may:

- 6.4.1. buy any goods or services from the charity on terms preferential to those applicable to members of the public;
- 6.4.2. sell goods, services, or any interest in land to the charity;

- 6.4.3. be employed by, or receive any remuneration from, the charity;
- 6.4.4. receive any other financial benefit from the charity unless: the payment is permitted by article 6.5 and/or 6.6.1 or authorised by the board or by the Charity Commission.

In this article a 'financial benefit' means a benefit, direct or indirect, which is either money or has a monetary value.

6.5. **Scope and powers permitting directors'/connected persons' benefits**

- 6.5.1. A director or connected person may receive a benefit from the charity in the capacity of a beneficiary of the charity provided that a majority of the directors do not benefit in this way;
- 6.5.2. a director or connected person may enter into a contract for the supply of services, or of goods that are supplied in connection with the provision of services, to the charity where that is permitted in accordance with, and subject to the conditions in, section 73A to 73C of the Charities Act 1993 and sections 67 and 68 of the Charities and Trustees Investment (Scotland) Act 2005;
- 6.5.3. subject to article 6.6.1 a director or connected person may provide the charity with goods that are not supplied in connection with services provided to the charity by the director or connected person;
- 6.5.4. a director or connected person may receive interest on money lent to the charity at a reasonable and proper rate which must be 2% (or more) per annum below the base rate of a clearing bank to be selected by the directors or 0.1% if the base rate is 2.1% or less and on repayment and security terms which are no less onerous than might reasonably be expected;
- 6.5.5. the directors may arrange for the purchase, out of the funds of the charity, of insurance designed to indemnify the directors in accordance with the terms of, and subject to the conditions in, section 73F of the Charities Act 1993.
- 6.5.6. a director or connected person may take part in the normal trading and fundraising activities of the charity on the same terms as members of the public.

6.6. **Payment for supply of goods only – controls**

- 6.6.1. The charity and its directors may only rely upon the authority provided by article 6.5.3 if each of the following conditions is satisfied:
 - 6.6.1.1. The amount or maximum amount of the payment for the goods is set out in an agreement in writing between:
 - 6.6.1.1.1. the charity or its directors (as the case may be); and
 - 6.6.1.1.2. the director or connected person supplying the goods ("the supplier") under which the supplier is to supply the goods in question to or on behalf of the charity;
 - 6.6.1.2. the amount or maximum amount of the payment for the goods does not exceed what is reasonable in the circumstances for the supply of the goods in question;

6.6.1.3. the other directors are satisfied that it is in the best interests of the charity to contract with the supplier rather than with someone who is not a director or connected person. In reaching that decision the directors must balance the advantage of contracting with a director or connected person against the disadvantages of doing so;

6.6.1.4. the supplier is absent from the part of any meeting at which there is discussion of the proposal to enter into a contract or arrangement with them with regard to the supply of goods to the charity.

6.6.1.5. the supplier does not vote on any such matter and is not to be counted with calculating whether a quorum of directors is present at the meeting;

6.6.1.6. the reason for their decision is recorded by the directors in the minute book;

6.6.1.7. a majority of the directors then in office are not in receipt of remuneration of payments authorised by article 6.5.

6.6.2. In sub-clauses this article 6 “charity” shall include any company in which the charity:

6.6.2.1. holds more than 50% of the shares; or

6.6.2.2. controls more than 50% of the voting rights attached to the shares; or

6.6.2.3. has the right to appoint one or more directors to the board of the company.

6.6.3. In articles 6.2 to 6.4 “connected person” means:

6.6.3.1. a child, parent, grandchild, grandparent, brother or sister of the director;

6.6.3.2. the spouse or civil partner of the director or of any person falling within paragraph 6.6.3.1 above;

6.6.3.3. a person carrying on business in partnership with the director or with any person falling within paragraph 6.6.3.1 or 6.6.3.2 above;

6.6.3.4. an institution which is controlled –

6.6.3.4.1. by the director or any connected person falling within paragraph 6.6.3.1, 6.6.3.2 or 6.6.3.3 above; or

6.6.3.4.2. by two or more persons falling within sub-paragraph 6.6.3.1, when taken together a body corporate in which –

6.6.3.4.2.1. the director or any connected person falling within paragraphs 6.6.3.1 to 6.6.3.3 has a substantial interest; or

6.6.3.4.2.2. two or more persons falling within sub-paragraph 6.6.3.1 who, when taken together, have a substantial interest.

Paragraphs 2 to 4 of Schedule 5 to the Charities Act 1993 apply for the purposes of interpreting the terms used in this sub-clause.

7. **Members**

- 7.1. Membership is open to individuals or breed societies specified in article 9.5 below who:
 - 7.1.1. apply to the charity in the form required by the directors; and
 - 7.1.2. are approved by the directors.
- 7.2. The directors may only refuse an application for membership if, acting reasonably and properly, they consider it to be within the best interests of the charity and its Objects to refuse the application;
 - 7.2.1. The directors must inform the applicant in writing of the reasons for the refusal within 21 days' of the decision;
 - 7.2.2. The directors must consider any written representations the applicant may make about the decision. The directors' decision following any written representations must be notified to the applicant in writing but shall be final.
- 7.3. The directors must keep a register of names and addresses of the members.

8. **Transmission of Membership**

- 8.1. A member may not transfer their membership to another person during that member's lifetime.
- 8.2. When a member dies the membership shall, at the charity's sole discretion and on application from the personal representatives, pass to the personal representatives who may transfer such membership by signing an instrument of transfer in any usual form or in any form approved by the Directors and depositing such document at the registered office of the charity.
- 8.3. No fee shall be charged for registering the transferee in the register of members (being the NSA membership database).

9. **Classes of membership**

- 9.1. The directors may establish classes of membership with different rights and obligations and, where not set out in these articles, shall record the rights and obligations in the register of members.
- 9.2. The directors may not directly or indirectly alter the rights or obligations attached to a class of membership.
- 9.3. The rights attached to a class of membership may only be varied if:
 - 9.3.1. three-quarters of the members of that class consent in writing to the variation; or
 - 9.3.2. a special resolution is passed at a separate general meeting of the members of that class agreeing to the variation.

- 9.4. The provisions in the articles about general meetings shall apply to any meeting relating to the variation of the rights of any class of members.
- 9.5. Subject to the provisions of these articles the following shall be eligible to apply for membership of the charity.

Full members. Full members shall be a class of membership open to all individuals. They have full voting rights, including the right to vote at their allocated regional meetings.

Breed society members. Breed society members shall be a class of membership open to organisations that are breed societies. They have full voting rights, including the right to vote at regional meetings. The breed society's representative shall only get one vote, whether at a regional meeting or a general meeting and the breed society may nominate a different representative for each meeting if it chooses.

10. **Termination of membership**

Membership is terminated if:

- 10.1. the member dies and the charity has refused to transmit membership in accordance with article 8;
- 10.2. if it is a breed society member and it ceases to exist;
- 10.3. the member resigns by written notice to the charity, unless after the resignation, there would be less than 30 members;
- 10.4. any sum due from the member to the charity is not paid in full within 1 month of it falling due;
- 10.5. the member is removed from membership by a resolution of the directors that it is in the best interests of the charity and its Objects that their membership is terminated. A resolution to remove a member from membership may only be passed if:
 - 10.5.1. the member has been given at least 21 days' notice in writing of the meeting of the directors at which the resolution will be proposed and the reasons why it is to be proposed;
 - 10.5.2. the member or, at the option of the member, the member's representative (who need not be a member of the charity) has been allowed to make representations to the meeting.

11. **General meetings**

- 11.1. An annual general meeting must be held every year and not more than 15 months may elapse between successive annual general meetings. The annual general meeting shall be held at such time and place as the directors shall appoint.
- 11.2. The directors may call a general meeting at any time.

12. **Notice of general meetings**

- 12.1. The minimum period of notice required to hold a general meeting of the charity are:

- 12.1.1. 21 clear days for an annual general meeting or a general meeting for the passing of a special resolution; or
- 12.1.2. 14 clear days for all other general meetings.
- 12.2. A general meeting may be called by shorter notice if it is so agreed by a majority in number of members having a right to attend and vote at the meeting, being a majority who together hold not less than 90% of the total voting rights.
- 12.3. The notice must specify the date, time and place of the meeting and the general nature of the business to be transacted. If the meeting is to be an annual general meeting, the notice must say so. The notice must also contain a statement setting out the right of members to appoint a proxy under section 324 of the Companies Act 2006 and article 18.
- 12.4. The notice must be given to all the members and to the directors and auditors.
- 12.5. The proceedings at a meeting shall not be invalidated because a person who was entitled to receive notice of the meeting did not receive it because of an accidental omission by the charity.

13. **Proceedings at general meetings**

- 13.1. No business shall be transacted at any general meeting unless a quorum is present.
- 13.2. A quorum is 30 members present in person or by proxy and entitled to vote upon the business to be conducted at the meeting.
- 13.3. The authorised representative of a breed society member shall be counted in the quorum.

14.

14.1. If:

- 14.1.1. a quorum is not present within half an hour from the time appointed for the meeting; or
- 14.1.2. during the meeting a quorum ceases to be present;

The meeting shall be adjourned to such time and place as the directors shall determine.

- 14.2. The directors must reconvene the meeting and must give at least 7 clear days' notice of the reconvened meeting stating the date, time and place of the meeting.
- 14.3. If no quorum is present at the reconvened meeting within 15 minutes of the time specified for the start of the meeting the members present in person or by proxy at that time shall constitute the quorum for that meeting.

15.

- 15.1. The annual general meeting and general meetings shall be chaired by the person who has been appointed to chair meetings of the directors, or the president of the charity if requested by the chair in advance of the meeting.
- 15.2. If there is no such person or they are not present within 15 minutes of the time appointed for the meeting, a director nominated by the directors shall chair the meeting.
- 15.3. If there is only one director present and willing to act, they shall chair the meeting.
- 15.4. If no director is present and willing to chair the meeting within 15 minutes after the time appointed for holding it, the members present in person or by proxy and entitled to vote must choose one of their number to chair the meeting.
- 16.
- 16.1. The members present in person or by proxy at a meeting may resolve by ordinary resolution that the meeting shall be adjourned.
- 16.2. The person who is chairing the meeting must decide the date, time and place at which the meeting is to be reconvened unless those details are specified in the resolution.
- 16.3. No business shall be conducted at a reconvened meeting unless it could properly have been conducted at the meeting had the adjournment not taken place.
- 16.4. If a meeting is adjourned by a resolution of the members for more than 7 days, at least 7 clear days' notice shall be given of the reconvened meeting stating the date, time and place of the meeting.
- 17.
- 17.1. Any vote at a meeting shall be decided by a show of hands unless before, or on the declaration of the result of, the show of hands a poll is demanded:
 - 17.1.1. by the person chairing the meeting; or
 - 17.1.2. by at least 50% of members present in person or by proxy and having the right to vote at the meeting; or
 - 17.1.3. by a member or members present in person or by proxy representing not less than one-tenth of the total voting rights of all the members having the right to vote at the meeting.
- 17.2.
 - 17.2.1. The declaration by the person who is chairing the meeting of the result of a vote shall be conclusive unless a poll is demanded.
 - 17.2.2. The result of the vote must be recorded in the minutes of the charity but the number or proportion of votes cast need not be recorded.
- 17.3.

- 17.3.1. A demand for a poll may be withdrawn, before the poll is taken, but only with the consent of the person who is chairing the meeting;
- 17.3.2. if the demand for a poll is withdrawn the demand shall not invalidate the result of a show of hands declared before the demand was made.
- 17.4.
 - 17.4.1. A poll must be taken as the person who is chairing the meeting directs, who may appoint scrutineers (who need not be members) and who may fix a time and place for declaring the results of the poll;
 - 17.4.2. the results of the poll shall be deemed to be the resolution of the meeting at which the poll is demanded.
- 17.5.
 - 17.5.1. A poll demanded on the election of a person to chair a meeting or on a question of adjournment must be taken immediately;
 - 17.5.2. a poll demanded on any other question must be taken either immediately or at such time and place as the person who is chairing the meeting directs;
 - 17.5.3. the poll must be taken within 30 days after it has been demanded;
 - 17.5.4. if the poll is not taken immediately at least 7 clear days' notice shall be given specifying the time and place at which the poll is to be taken;
 - 17.5.5. if a poll is demanded the meeting may continue to deal with any other business that may be conducted at the meeting.
18. **Content of proxy notices**
 - 18.1. Proxies may only validly be appointed by a notice in writing (a "proxy notice") which:
 - 18.1.1. states the name and address of the member appointing the proxy;
 - 18.1.2. identifies the person appointed to be that member's proxy and the general meeting in relation to which that person is appointed;
 - 18.1.3. is signed by or on behalf of the member appointing the proxy, or is authenticated in such manner as the directors may determine; and
 - 18.1.4. is delivered to the charity in accordance with the articles and any instructions contained in the notice of the general meeting to which they relate.
 - 18.2. The charity may require proxy notices to be delivered in a particular form, and may specify different forms for different purposes.
 - 18.3. Proxy notices may specify how the proxy appointed under them is to vote (or that the proxy is to abstain from voting) on one or more resolutions.

- 18.4. Unless a proxy notice indicates otherwise, it must be treated as:
- 18.4.1. allowing the person appointed under it as a proxy discretion as to how to vote on any ancillary or procedural resolutions put to the meeting; and
 - 18.4.2. appointing that person as a proxy in relation to any adjournment of the general meeting to which it relates as well as the meeting itself.

19. **Delivery of proxy notices**

- 19.1. A person who is entitled to attend, speak or vote (either on a show of hands or on a poll) at a general meeting remains so entitled in respect of that meeting or any adjournment of it, even though a valid proxy notice has been delivered to the charity by or on behalf of that person.
- 19.2. An appointment under a proxy notice may be revoked by delivering to the charity a notice in writing given by or on behalf of the person by whom or on whose behalf the proxy notice was given.
- 19.3. A notice revoking a proxy appointment only takes effect if it is delivered before the start of the meeting or adjourned meeting to which it relates.
- 19.4. If a proxy is not executed by the person appointing the proxy, it must be accompanied by written evidence of the authority of the person who executed it to execute it on the appointor's behalf.

20. **Written resolutions**

- 20.1. A resolution in writing agreed by a simple majority (or in the case of a special resolution by a majority of not less than 75%) of the members who would have been entitled to have voted upon it had it been proposed at a general meeting shall be effective provided that:
 - 20.1.1. a copy of the proposed resolution has been sent to every eligible member;
 - 20.1.2. a simple majority (or in the case of a special resolution a majority of not less than 75%) of members has signified its agreement to the resolution; and
 - 20.1.3. it is contained in an authenticated document which has been received at the registered office within the period of 28 days beginning with the circulation date.
- 20.2. A resolution in writing may comprise several copies to which one or more members have signified their agreement.
- 20.3. In the case of a breed society member, its authorised representative may signify its agreement.

21. **Votes of members**

- 21.1. Subject to article 9, every member, whether an individual or a breed society, shall have one vote.

- 21.2. Any objection to the qualification of any voter must be raised at the meeting at which the vote is tendered and the decision of the person who is chairing the meeting shall be final.
- 21.3.
- 21.3.1. Any member that is not a sole natural person (i.e. a breed society member) may nominate any person to act as its representative at any meeting of the charity that it is entitled to attend and vote at.
- 21.3.2. The breed society member must give written notice, at least one week prior to a general meeting, to the charity of the name of its representative. The representative shall not be entitled to represent the breed society member at any meeting unless the notice has been received by the charity, or the chair of the meeting is comfortable that the breed society member is validly represented. The representative may continue to represent the breed society member until written notice to the contrary is received by the charity.
- 21.3.3. If the breed society member appoints a representative in accordance with article 21.3.2, and that representative is no longer able to attend the meeting, the breed society member may appoint another representative, providing the charity with reasonable notice (and in any event, at least one week prior to the meeting) of any proposed change prior to the meeting. For the avoidance of doubt, a representative who is also a full member can vote in their capacity as a full member and separately as a breed society representative.
- 21.3.4. Any notice given to the charity will be conclusive evidence that the representative is entitled to represent the breed society member or that their authority has been revoked. The charity shall not be required to consider whether the representative has been properly appointed by the breed society member.

22. **Directors**

- 22.1. A director must be a natural person aged 16 years or older.
- 22.2. No one may be appointed a director if they would be disqualified from acting under the provisions of article 30.
23. The number of directors shall not be less than three but shall not exceed 14.
24. A director may appoint an alternate director or anyone to act on their behalf at meetings of the directors under the conditions below:
- 24.1. Any director (appointor) may appoint as an alternate any other director (appointee), or any other person approved by resolution of the directors, to:
- 24.1.1. exercise that director's powers but this shall not extend to the appointee acting as chair; and
- 24.1.2. carry out that director's responsibilities in relation to the taking of decisions by the directors, in the absence of the alternate's appointor.
- 24.2. Any appointment or removal of an alternate must be effected by notice in writing to the charity signed by the appointor, or in any other manner approved by the directors.

24.3. The notice must:

24.3.1. identify the proposed alternate; and

24.3.2. in the case of a notice of appointment, contain a statement signed by the proposed alternate that the proposed alternate is willing to act as the alternate of the director giving the notice.

25. **Rights and responsibilities of alternate directors**

25.1. An alternate director may act as alternate director to more than one director and has the same rights in relation to any decision of the directors as the alternate's appointor.

25.2. Except as the articles specify otherwise, alternate directors:

25.2.1. are deemed for all purposes to be directors;

25.2.2. are liable for their own acts and omissions;

25.2.3. are subject to the same restrictions as their appointors; and

25.2.4. are not deemed to be agents of or for their appointors and, in particular (without limitation), each alternate director shall be entitled to receive notice of all meetings of directors and of all meetings of committees of directors of which their appointor is a member.

25.3. A person who is an alternate director but not a director:

25.3.1. may be counted as participating for the purposes of determining whether a quorum is present (but only if that person's appointor is not participating);

25.3.2. may participate in a unanimous decision of the directors (but only if their appointor is an eligible director in relation to that decision, but does not participate); and

25.3.3. shall not be counted as more than one director for the purposes of articles 25.3.1 and 25.3.2.

25.4. A director who is also an alternate director is entitled, in the absence of their appointor, to a separate vote on behalf of their appointor, in addition to their own vote on any decision of the directors (provided that their appointor is an eligible director in relation to that decision) but shall not count as more than one director for the purposes of determining whether a quorum is present).

25.5. An alternate director may be paid expenses and may be indemnified by the charity to the same extent as their appointor but shall not be entitled to receive any remuneration from the charity for serving as an alternate director.

26. **Termination of an alternate directorship**

An alternate director's appointment as an alternate terminates:

- 26.1. when the alternate's appointor revokes the appointment by notice to the charity in writing specifying when it is to terminate;
- 26.2. on the occurrence, in relation to the alternate, of any event which, if it occurred in relation to the alternate's appointor, would result in the termination of the appointor's appointment as a director;
- 26.3. on the death of the alternate's appointor; or
- 26.4. when the alternate's appointor's appointment as a director terminates.

27. **Powers of directors**

- 27.1. The directors shall manage the business of the charity and may exercise all the powers of the charity unless they are subject to any restrictions imposed by the Companies Acts, the articles or by any special resolution.
- 27.2. No alteration of the articles or any special resolution shall have retrospective effect to invalidate any prior act of the directors.
- 27.3. Any meeting of the directors at which a quorum is present at the time the relevant decision is made may exercise all the powers exercisable by the directors.

28. **Appointment of directors**

- 28.1. The directors shall be those nominated and proposed by the NSA regions pursuant to article 40, provided the directors may refuse to appoint a director if they believe such appointment would not be in the best interests of the charity. In addition to those appointed by the NSA regions, a treasurer and chair shall also be appointed.

The composition of the board of directors shall be:

- a. one director as nominated by each of the six NSA English regions (six directors in total);
- b. three directors as nominated by the NSA Cymru/Wales region;
- c. two directors as nominated by the NSA Scottish region;
- d. one director as nominated by the NSA Northern Ireland region;
- e. one director to act as treasurer to the charity as elected by the board (subject to the provisions of article 36);
- f. and one director as elected by the board to act as chair of the directors (subject to the provisions of article 35).

The directors may only change the composition of the board by obtaining the consent of the members.

- 28.2. Subject to articles 23 and 28.1, the charity may by ordinary resolution appoint a person who is willing to act as a director of the association.
- 28.3. No person may be appointed a director at any general meeting unless:
 - 28.3.1. not less than 14 nor more than 35 clear days before the date of the meeting, the charity is given notice that:

- a. states the member's intention to propose the appointment of a person as a director;
- b. contains the details that, if the person were to be appointed, the charity would have to file at Companies House; and
- c. has appended to the notice, a written confirmation (which, for the avoidance of doubt, can include an email) from the person who is to be proposed confirming their willingness to be appointed.

28.3.2. All members who are entitled to receive notice of a general meeting must be given not less than 7 nor more than 28 clear days' notice of any resolution to be put to the meeting to appoint a director.

28.3.3. The appointment of a director, whether by the charity in general meeting or by the other directors, must not cause the number of directors to exceed any number fixed as the maximum number of directors.

29. **Retirement of directors**

29.1. Other than the treasurer, who has no limit to their number of terms, , subject to article 35, a director shall not serve for more than three consecutive years then will be obliged to retire or seek re-election. All directors that have served for six consecutive years must retire and will not be eligible for re-election for at least three years following retirement.

30. **Disqualification and removal of directors**

A director shall cease to hold office if they:

- 30.1. cease to be a director by virtue of any provision in the Companies Act or is prohibited by law from being a director;
- 30.2. is disqualified from acting as a trustee by virtue of section 72 of the Charities Act 1993 (or any statutory re-enactment or modification of that provision);
- 30.3. ceases to be a member of the charity;
- 30.4. becomes incapable by reason of mental disorder, illness or injury of managing and administering their own affairs;
- 30.5. resigns as a director by notice to the charity (but only if at least two directors will remain in office when the notice of the resignation is to take effect); or
- 30.6. is absent without the permission of the directors from all their meetings held within a period for six consecutive months and the directors resolve their office be vacated.

31. **Remuneration of directors**

The directors must not be paid any remuneration unless it is authorised by article 6.

32. **Proceedings of directors**

- 32.1. The directors may regulate their proceedings as they think fit, subject to the provisions of the articles.
- 32.2. Any director may call a meeting of the directors.
- 32.3. The directors will meet at least 4 times per calendar year.
- 32.4. The secretary (if any) must call a meeting of the directors if requested to do so by a director.
- 32.5. Questions arising at a meeting shall be decided by a majority of votes.
- 32.6. The chair shall have no vote, unless there is an equality of votes, when the chair shall have a casting vote.
- 32.7. A meeting may be held by suitable electronic means or by teleconference as agreed by the directors in which each participant may communicate with all other participants.
33.
 - 33.1. No decision may be made by a meeting of the directors unless a quorum is present at the time the decision is purported to be made ('present' includes being present by suitable electronic means or by telephone as agreed by the directors in which a participant or participants may communicate with all other participants).
 - 33.2. The quorum shall be 50% of the total number of appointed directors or if that number is not even then one less than 50% of the total number of appointed directors.
 - 33.3. A director shall not be counted in the quorum present when any decision is made about a matter upon which that director is not entitled to vote.
34. If the number of directors is less than the number fixed as the quorum, the continuing directors or director may act only for the purpose of filling vacancies or of calling a general meeting.
35.
 - 35.1. The directors shall appoint from within their number a chair of the board of directors. The chair shall not serve a term as chair for longer than three consecutive years. The chair, as well as acting as chair of meetings, shall serve as an external representative of the charity, as appropriate, and work closely with senior management staff members as appropriate. The other directors, by simple majority, may revoke at any time such appointment. Any director who has previously not held the position of chair of the board may continue as chair beyond the six-year limitation of article 29.1 but must retire as a director after a maximum of three years in the chair. Where such appointment is made, this shall be ratified by the members at an annual general meeting.
 - 35.2. If the appointed chair is one of the directors nominated by an NSA region then the NSA region from which that director was nominated shall be entitled by notice given to the board to nominate another director. That other director shall be appointed as a director as soon as reasonably practicable after notice of their nomination has been given to the board.

- 35.3. At any time in the 12 months prior to the end of the chair's three-year term, the directors may appoint from within their number a vice chair to shadow the chair in their duties. There is no guarantee that director will go on to be appointed as chair when the current chair retires.
- 35.4. When the chair of the board of directors retires, the remaining directors have the option to appoint the retired chair as a vice president at the next meeting of the directors.
- 35.5. If the chair cannot attend a meeting of the directors or is not present within 10 minutes after the time appointed for the meeting, the directors present may appoint one of their number to chair the meeting.
- 35.6. The person appointed to chair meetings of the directors shall have no functions or powers except those conferred by the articles or delegated to them by the directors.
36. The directors shall appoint from within the membership a treasurer of the board of directors. The treasurer shall serve a term as treasurer for three consecutive years which may be extended for any number of further three consecutive year terms provided always that they are willing to act for a further term. Where such appointment is made, this shall be ratified by the members at an annual general meeting. The other directors, by simple majority, may revoke at any time such appointment.
- 37.
- 37.1. A resolution in writing or in electronic form agreed by all of the directors entitled to receive notice of a meeting of the directors and to vote upon the resolution shall be as valid and effectual as if it had been passed at a meeting of the directors duly convened and held.
- 37.2. The resolution in writing may comprise several documents containing the text of the resolution in like form to each of which one or more directors has signified their agreement.
38. **Overview of regional matters**
- 38.1. When a full member joins in accordance with article 7, they shall be allocated to one of the regions.
- 38.2. The member shall automatically be allocated to the region in which their postcode falls, but may elect at any time to change to a neighbouring region (but shall only ever be entitled to be a member of one region at a time).
- 38.3. The NSA regions have been established to allow regional issues to be dealt with by the charity in a focused manner, to keep members fully engaged with and involved in the work of the charity, to encourage flow of information and opinion both ways between the region and the directors, its committees and charity staff, and to enable the charity to be regionally represented at appropriate meetings and events.
- 38.4. The NSA regions shall establish and maintain regional committees to manage the operation of their region, operating in a manner that allows the charity to comply with its legal obligations.
39. **Regional committees**

- 39.1. The regional committees shall operate as the management for each region, known as "committee members".
- 39.2. The number of committee members for each region shall not be less than 10, nor more than 50.
- 39.3. No business shall be transacted at a regional committee meeting unless a quorum is present.
- 39.4. A quorum shall be the greater of 25% of the committee members or 5.
- 39.5. The regional committees will hold a minimum of 4 meetings annually. There is no maximum number of meetings the regional committees may call.
- 39.6. The regional committees are authorised to delegate responsibilities to subcommittees, who may be created for the purposes of, but not limited to, organising events or NSA ram sales.
- 39.7. A member may only be a committee member if they are a fully paid up member of the charity.

40. **Regional membership**

- 40.1. Each regional committee shall hold an annual regional members' meeting.
- 40.2. No business shall be transacted at a regional meeting unless a quorum is present.
- 40.3. A quorum for each regional members' meeting shall be 20 members of that region.
- 40.4. All full members of the region, and to the extent permitted, all breed society members, shall be entitled to attend and vote at regional members meetings.
- 40.5. Each regional committee shall nominate, on the acceptance of the member in question and assuming their eligibility in line with these articles, a member for the directors to consider for appointment to act as a trustee and director of the charity.

41. **Regional rules**

The directors of the charity shall have the power to make bylaws and rules governing the terms of the regional committees and regional committee members.

42. **Delegation**

- 42.1. The directors may delegate any of their powers or functions to a committee but the terms of any delegation must be recorded in the minute book.
- 42.2. The directors may impose conditions when delegating, including the conditions that:
 - 42.2.1. the relevant powers are to be exercised exclusively by the committee to whom they delegate; and

42.2.2. no expenditure may be incurred on behalf of the charity except in accordance with a budget previously agreed with the directors at their discretion.

42.3. The directors may revoke or alter a delegation.

42.4. All acts and proceedings of any committees must be fully and promptly reported to the directors.

43. **Declaration of directors' interests**

43.1. A director must declare the nature and extent of any interest, direct or indirect, which they have in a proposed transaction or arrangement with the charity or in any transaction or arrangement entered into by the charity which has not previously been declared. A director must absent himself or herself from any discussions of the directors in which it is possible that a conflict will arise between their duty to act solely in the interests of the charity and any personal interest (including but not limited to any personal financial interest).

44. **Conflicts of interests**

44.1. If a conflict of interests arises for a director because of a duty of loyalty owed to another organisation or person and the conflict is not authorised by virtue of any other provision in the articles, the unconflicted directors may authorise such a conflict of interests where the following conditions apply:

44.1.1. the conflicted director is absent from the part of the meeting at which there is discussion of any arrangement or transaction affecting that other organisation or person;

44.1.2. the conflicted director does not vote on any such matter and is not to be counted when considering whether a quorum of directors is present at the meeting; and

44.1.3. the unconflicted directors consider it is in the interests of the charity to authorise the conflict of interests in the circumstances applying.

44.2. In this article a conflict of interests arising because of a duty of loyalty owed to another organisation or person only refers to such a conflict which does not involve a direct or indirect benefit of any nature to a director or to a connected person.

45. **Validity of directors' decisions**

45.1. Subject to article 33.2, all acts done by a meeting of directors, or of a committee of directors, shall be valid notwithstanding the participation in any vote of a director;

45.1.1. who was disqualified from holding office;

45.1.2. who had previously retired or who had been obliged by the constitution to vacate office;

45.1.3. who was not entitled to vote on the matter, whether by reason of a conflict of interests or otherwise;

If without;

- 45.1.4. the vote of that director; and
- 45.1.5. that director being counted in the quorum, the decision has been made by a majority of the directors at a quorate meeting.
- 45.2. Article 44.1 does not permit a director or a connected person to keep any benefit that may be conferred upon them by a resolution of the directors or of a committee of directors if, but for article 45.1, the resolution would have been void, or if the director has not complied with article 43.

46. **President and vice presidents**

- 46.1. The charity has the option to appoint a president at the annual general meeting each year. The president shall serve as an external representative of the charity, as appropriate.
- 46.2. The president shall serve a term of one year following their appointment and shall be automatically retired at the annual general meeting following their election but shall be eligible for re-election. The directors may revoke at any time such appointment prior to the automatic retirement by giving the president 2 weeks' notice of such retirement.
- 46.3. The directors have the option to appoint vice presidents to act as advocates of the charity and representatives/spokespeople where appropriate and as decided by the charity. This is an honorary lifetime role, subject to the directors right to revoke at any time such appointment, giving the relevant vice-president 2 weeks' notice of such retirement. Where such appointment is made, this shall be ratified by the members at an annual general meeting.

47. **Minutes**

The directors must ensure minutes are kept of all:

- 47.1. appointments of officers made by the directors;
- 47.2. proceedings at meetings of the charity;
- 47.3. meetings of the directors, committees with delegated powers and regional meetings including:
 - 47.3.1. the names of the directors present at the meeting;
 - 47.3.2. the decisions made at the meetings; and
 - 47.3.3. where appropriate, the reasons for the decisions.

48. **Accounts**

- 48.1. The directors must prepare for each financial year accounts as required by the Companies Acts. The accounts must be prepared to show a true and fair view and follow accounting standards issued or adopted by the Accounting Standards board or its successors and adhere to the recommendations of applicable Statements of Recommended Practice.

48.2. The directors must keep accounting records as required by the Companies Acts.

49. **Annual report and return, and register of charities**

49.1. The directors must comply with the requirements of the Charities Act 1993 with regard to the:

49.1.1. transmission of a copy of the statements of account to the Commission;

49.1.2. preparation of an Annual Report and the transmission of a copy of it to the Commission;

49.1.3. preparation of an Annual Return and its transmission to the Commission.

49.2. The directors must notify the Commission promptly of any changes to the charity's entry on the Central Register of Charities.

50. **Means of communication to be used**

50.1. Subject to the articles, anything sent or supplied by or to the charity under the articles may be sent or supplied in any way in which the Companies Act 2006 provides for documents or information which are authorised or required by any provision of that Act to be sent or supplied by or to the charity.

50.2. Subject to the articles, any notice or document to be sent or supplied to a director in connection with the taking of decisions by directors may also be sent or supplied by the means by which that director has asked to be sent or supplied with such notices or documents for the time being.

51. Any notice to be given to or by any person pursuant to the article

51.1. must be in writing; or

51.2. must be given in electronic or other recognised form.

52.

52.1. The charity may give any notice to a member either

52.1.1. personally;

52.1.2. or by sending it by post in a prepaid envelope addressed to the member at their address; or

52.1.3. by leaving it at the address of the member;

52.1.4. by giving it in electronic or other recognised form to the member's address; or

52.1.5. by placing the notice on a website and providing the person with a notification in writing or in electronic form of the presence of the notice on the website.

The notification must state that it concerns a notice of a charity meeting and must specify the place date and time of the meeting.

53. A member present in person at any meeting of the charity shall be deemed to have received notice of the meeting and of the purposes for which it was called.
- 54.
- 54.1. Proof that an envelope containing a notice was properly addressed, prepaid and posted shall be conclusive evidence that the notice was given.
- 54.2. Proof that an electronic form of notice was given shall be conclusive where the charity can demonstrate that it was properly addressed and sent, in accordance with section 1147 of the Companies Act 2006.
- 54.3. In accordance with section 1147 of the Companies Act 2006 notice shall be deemed to be given:
- 54.3.1. 48 hours after the envelope containing it was posted; or
- 54.3.2. 5 days after the envelope containing it was posted in the case of an address outside of the United Kingdom; or
- 54.3.3. in the case of an electronic form of communication, 48 hours after it was sent.
55. **Indemnity**
- 55.1. The charity shall indemnify any director against any liability incurred by them or it in that capacity, to the extent permitted by sections 232 to 234 of the Companies Act 2006.
- 55.2. In this article a “relevant director” means any director or former director of the charity.
56. **Rules**
- 56.1. The directors may from time to time make such reasonable and proper rules or bylaws as they may deem necessary or expedient for the proper conduct and management of the charity.
- 56.2. The bylaws may regulate the following matters but are not restricted to them:
- 56.2.1. the admission of members of the charity and the rights and privileges of such members, and the entrance fees, subscriptions and other fees or payments to be made by members;
- 56.2.2. the conduct of members of the charity in relation to one another, and to the charity’s employees and volunteers;
- 56.2.3. the setting aside of the whole or any part or parts of the charity’s premises at any particular time or times or for any particular purpose or purposes;
- 56.2.4. the procedure at general meetings and meetings of the directors in so far as such procedure is not regulated by the Companies Acts or by the articles;

- 56.2.5. the formation and governance of committees such as regional committees and sales committees;
- 56.2.6. and generally, all such matters as are commonly the subject matter of company rules.
- 56.3. The charity in general meeting has the power to alter, add to or repeal the rules or bylaws.
- 56.4. The directors must adopt such means as they think sufficient to bring the rules and bylaws to the notice of members of the charity.
- 56.5. The rules or bylaws shall be binding on all members of the charity. No rule or bylaw shall be inconsistent with, or shall affect or repeal anything contained in, the articles.

57. **Dissolution**

- 57.1. The members of the charity may at any time before, and in expectation of, its dissolution resolve that any net assets of the charity after all its debts and liabilities have been paid, or provision has been made for them, shall on or before the dissolution of the charity be applied or transferred in any of the following ways:
 - 57.1.1. directly for the Objects; or
 - 57.1.2. by transfer to any charity or charities for purposes similar to the Objects; or
 - 57.1.3. to any charity or charities for use for particular purposes that fall within the Objects.
- 57.2. Subject to any such resolution of the members of the charity, the directors of the charity may at any time before and in expectation of its dissolution resolve that any net assets of the charity after all its debts and liabilities have been paid, or provision made for them, shall on or before dissolution of the charity be applied or transferred
 - 57.2.1. directly for the Objects; or
 - 57.2.2. by transfer to any charity or charities for purposes similar to the Objects; or
 - 57.2.3. to any charity or charities for use for particular purposes that fall within the Objects.
- 57.3. In no circumstances shall the net assets of the charity be paid to or distributed among the members of the charity (except to a member that is itself a charity) and if no resolution in accordance with article 57.1 is passed by the members or the directors the net assets of the charity shall be applied for charitable purposes as directed by the Court or the Commission.
- 57.4. Nothing in these articles shall authorise an application of the property of the charity for purposes which are not charitable in accordance with section 7 of the Charities and Trustees (Investment) Scotland Act 2005 and/or section 2 of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.

58. **Disputes**

If a dispute arises between members of the charity about the validity or propriety of anything done by the members of the charity under these articles and cannot be resolved by

agreement, the parties to the dispute must first try in good faith to settle the dispute by mediation before resorting to litigation.