

# OFFICIAL RULES GOVERNING TYPE CLASSIFICATION

## Brown Swiss Cattle Breeders' Association of the U.S.A.

Effective January 1, 2025

### I. AUTHORIZATION & ADMINISTRATION

- A. The Brown Swiss Cattle Breeders' Association (BSCBA) has adopted a classification program which includes both Linear Descriptive and Classification Traits.
- B. The rules of this program are hereby presented and will be administered by the Secretary.
- C. In the event that an official classifier, while engaged in classifying a herd, decides to discontinue classifying and leaves before the herd classification is completed due to harassment by the owner or any of his representatives or due to any other unfavorable events or conditions under the control of the owner, such action will be reported to the Board of Directors at their next regular meeting for their consideration and such action as they may determine is needed.

### II. SUPERVISION OF CLASSIFIERS

- A. The appointment of the classifiers shall be made by the Executive Secretary. In the interests of standardization, the number of classifiers shall be kept as small as is consistent with the demand for classification.
- B. No classifier shall score any cattle in which he or she has any pecuniary interest without special authorization. He or she shall have no financial dealings with the owner of the herd, and under no circumstances shall receive any remuneration from the owner of the cattle classified. The Association shall pay each classifier for their service.
- C. The Association reserves the right to set the date of classification and designate the classifier.

### III. ELIGIBILITY

- A. In order to be eligible for official classification, an animal must be recorded in the **Official Herdbook or the Identity Enrollment Herdbook**, including Step I ID and Recorded Females, of the BSCBA. Owner must have completed applications and appropriate fees available for any animals with registrations pending. Tattoo numbers or other permanent ID will be checked to verify these applications.
- B. All females, which have freshened at least once and have not been previously classified after their fifth birthday, must be classified.  
(Exceptions to Rule III. Section B)
  1. Should a cow be out-of-condition due to sickness, injury, or abnormal calving, the classifier may, at his discretion, withhold classification and report her condition.
  2. Scoring of first-lactation cows will be optional for the first 60 days after calving. Scoring of second or higher lactation cows will be optional for the first 30 days after calving. Regardless of post-calving condition, the classifier will score the cow if the owner requests she be done.
- C. **Bulls**, to be eligible, must be two years of age or older at the time of classification. The classification of bulls is optional with the owner.
- D. Should anyone suspect that not all cows have been presented at the completion of a classification, such information shall be submitted to the National Office and an investigation will then be conducted. An official representative of the Association will inspect the entire herd by tattoo number or other permanent ID and submit his findings to the Board of Directors for review and appropriate action. At their discretion, the Board may hold the herd owner liable for the costs of making such an inspection.

### IV. APPLICATION

- A. Application for classification shall be made by the owner or his agent on standard forms furnished by the Association and sent to the BSCBA, 800 Pleasant Street, Beloit, Wisconsin 53511-5456.
- B. Herds enrolled in the Brown Swiss Advantage (BSA) Program shall automatically be included in a regular group classification schedule.
- C. Herds not enrolled in the BSA Program shall list on an application blank all animals currently in his herd or send in DHI test sheets if on test.
- D. Applications must include all animals currently in the herd. If animals are added to the herd or qualify for classification subsequent to the filing of an application, these animals shall also be included in the classification.
- E. Before applying for classification, the owner shall make certain that the tattoo or other permanent ID of each animal listed is clearly legible and corresponds with that indicated on the Certificate of Registry. At the time of classification up to 10% of the herd may be randomly selected to check tattoos or other permanent ID's.
- F. All applications for classification (individual or group) must be on file in the Brown Swiss office at least 45 days prior to the month of classification.
- G. The owner shall agree to have the Certificate of Registry available on all animals to be classified for the classifier. The date, five breakdown scores, and final rating of all animals classified will be printed on labels to be attached to the Certificate of Registry.

### V. FEES

#### A. Group Herd Classification

1. Herds which have enrolled in and paid for the BSA Program will be classified once each calendar year during the regular tours conducted from April through October. No additional classification fees will be required except for bulls.
2. For herds not enrolled in the BSA Program, the fee shall be \$21.50 for each animal scored with a minimum of \$150 per herd. (There will be a minimum herd fee of \$40 for junior members.) Where a whole herd of one to three cows are taken to a neighbor's herd, the minimum herd fee will be \$50. The travel expenses for the classifier will be paid by the Association.
3. Additional expenses incurred to classify ET donor dams housed off the farm will be assessed to the owner if he requests the animal be classified.
4. Regular group classification tours shall be set up in an area or state at least once per calendar year on a 7-month rotation with 7-14-14-7-14-14-14 month intervals between regular schedules. Herds may score an additional time in the months of November, December, January, February, or March in the year which contains the 14-month interval. Herds that choose the option to score in the November, December, January, February, or March additional tour, provided they scored the entire herd during the last regular tour, are not required to score the entire herd, but must classify all unscored milking females. They also have the option to score any additional cows in the herd they wish to have reevaluated at that time. For BSA herds, the per cow fee will be \$10.00 for 1-200 head or \$5.00 for 201 and over, and for other herds \$21.50 per cow (\$150 herd minimum, \$40 minimum for Juniors).
5. Fees are to accompany the completed application.

#### B. Special Herd Classification

1. A breeder may request a special classification to have their herd classified at a specific date outside the regular group schedule. The fees shall be a \$500 herd fee, \$21.50 per head, plus classifier expenses. .  
**Note:** Classifiers for all special classifications shall be designated by the Association. In the event that a herd owner refuses the first classifier, a second classifier will be appointed. If this classifier is also refused, an additional fee of \$250 will be added to the normal fee for a special classification.
2. A special classification arranged for a herd in an area where a group tour is planned, three months in advance of the group tour or within three months of completion of the group tour must use the same classifier, if available, as used for the group tour. The breeder will have no right of refusal.
3. The initial classification of a herd may be performed at a time other than the specified tour dates for that area if economically feasible at the standard group rate.

#### C. Foreign Classification

The fees for foreign classifications will be \$21.50 per cow (\$150 minimum) plus travel expenses and per diem for the classifier.

#### D. Export Classification

Animals being exported and dams or sires of animals being exported may be classified on an individual basis. Fees for such classification shall be \$50 for the first animal and \$21.50 for each additional animal at one location, plus the classifier's expenses.

#### E. Multiple "E" Special Classification

Females at least ten years of age and eligible for Multiple "E" may be scored on an individual basis without special classification of the entire herd. Fees are \$50 for the first animal and \$21.50 for each additional animal at one location, plus the classifier's expenses.

#### F. Classification at a show

1. Must be scheduled by prior arrangement to occur during the regular tour in that area.
2. The entire milking herd must be at the show and presented to the classifier.

#### G. Animals Nominated for 95 Points

The first classifier will nominate the cow after a classification of 95 points. No scores will be left and this is not the official score. A second classifier will be sent out no earlier than a 48 hours after the first classifier and no later than 30 days. The second classifier will classify the cow. No scores will be left and this is not the official score. The Executive Secretary, Classification Coordinator, and the two classifiers will meet for discussion and then the owner will be notified via phone with the breakdowns and final score. The breeder will pay the expenses of the second classifier.

**1. STATURE** Measures height at the hips. From 58" (= 5 points), each 1" difference shall change the score by 1 point.

1-Very Short 54" 5-Intermediate Height 58"

9-Very Tall 62"

**2. STRENGTH (Chest & Body)**

Measures chest depth and width, heart girth, and bone mass in relation to the rest of the cow.

1 - Very narrow & frail

5 - Intermediate width & strength

9 - Very wide & strong

**3. BODY DEPTH**

Measures overall depth primarily at the ribcage in relation to the rest of the cow.

1 - Extremely shallow

5 - Intermediate depth

9 - Extremely deep

**4. DAIRY FORM**

Structure includes evidence of milking ability, including cleanness, sharpness, openness of rib, flatness of bone, and length of neck.

1 - Very coarse & tight ribbed

5 - Intermediate sharpness, openness, & cleanness

9 - Very sharp, open ribbed, & clean cut

**5. RUMP ANGLE (Side View)**

Measures the degree of slope from hooks to pins.

1 - Pins higher than hooks - 2" reverse slope

4 - Pins level with hooks

6 - Ideal slope from hooks to pins - 2" slope

7 - Moderate slope - 4" slope

9 - Extreme slope - 6" slope

**6. THURL WIDTH**

Measures the width of thurls in relation to the rest of the cow.

1 - Extremely narrow at thurls

5 - Intermediate width at thurls

9 - Extremely wide at thurls

**7. THURL PLACEMENT**

Horizontal position of thurl between the pin bone and hook.

1 - Thurl at 20/80 - back too far

5 - Thurl at 40/60 - ideal placement

7 - Thurl at 50/50 - center

9 - Thurl at 80/20 - ahead too far

**8. REAR LEGS (Rear View)**

Scored as the animal walks or stands.

1 - Severe hocking in

6 - Moderate hocking in

8 - Straight tracking, parallel hind legs

9 - Slight hocking out

**9. REAR LEGS (Side View)**

Scores the amount of set of the leg.

1 - Extremely posty

3 - Nearly straight in hock

5 - Slight set in hock - ideal

7 - Moderate set in hock

9 - Extremely sickle hocked

**10. FOOT ANGLE**

Measured on the first inch down from the hair line ( $3^\circ = 1$  point).

1 - Extremely low angle -  $33^\circ$

5 - Intermediate angle -  $45^\circ$

9 - Extremely steep angle -  $57^\circ$



Very Narrow & Frail

Intermediate Width & Strength

Very Wide & Strong



Extremely Shallow

Intermediate Depth

Extremely Deep



Very Coarse & Tight Ribbed

Intermediate Sharpness, Openness & Cleanness

Very Sharp, Open Ribbed & Clean Cut



Pins Higher than Hooks

Slight Slope from Hooks to Pins

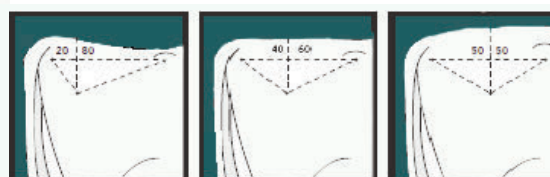
Extreme Slope



Extremely Narrow at Thurls

Intermediate Width at Thurls

Extremely Wide at Thurls



Back  
1

Ideal Placement  
5

Center Ahead  
7 9



Severe Hocking In

Moderate Hocking In

Straight Tracking Parallel Hind Legs



Extremely Posty

Slight Set in Hock

Extremely Sickle Hocked



Extremely Low Angle & Extremely Shallow Heel

Intermediate Angle & Average Depth of Heel

Extremely Steep Angle & Extremely Deep Heel



Extremely Loose, Weak or Broken Attachment

Strong Attachment

Extremely Tight & Strongly Attached



Extremely Low

Intermediate Height

Extremely High



Extremely Narrow

Intermediate Width

Extremely Wide



Negative Cleft, Broken Support

Defined Halving and Cleft

Extremely Deep Cleft



Extremely Deep - Below Hock

Slightly Above Hock

Extremely High - Shallow



Deep Rear Udder Tilted to Rear

Level Udder Floor Ideal

Deep Fore Udder Reverse Tilt



Base of Teats Extremely Wide

Placement Slightly Towards Outside

Base of Teats Extremely Close



Extremely Short

Intermediate Length

Extremely Long

## 11. FORE UDDER ATTACHMENT

Measures strength of the attachment of fore udder to body wall.

- 1 - Extremely loose, weak, or broken
- 3 - Very loose, weak
- 5 - Strong attachment
- 7 - Very strongly attached
- 9 - Extremely tight & strongly attached

## 12. REAR UDDER HEIGHT

Measured from the top of secretory tissue to the base of the vulva.

- 1 - Extremely low - 13+"
- 3 - Low - 11"
- 5 - Intermediate height - 9"
- 7 - High - 7"
- 9 - Extremely high - 5"

## 13. REAR UDDER WIDTH

Measured at the top of the crease between the leg and udder.

- 1 - Extremely narrow - 4½"
- 3 - Narrow - 6"
- 5 - Intermediate width - 7½"
- 7 - Wide - 9"
- 9 - Extremely wide - 10½"

## 14. UDDER CLEFT

Measures the depth of cleft of the udder (1/3" per point).

- 1 - Negative cleft, broken support
- 2 - Flat
- 3 - Slight cleft - ⅓"
- 5 - Defined halving & cleft - 1"
- 7 - Deep cleft - 1 ⅔"
- 9 - Extremely deep cleft - 2 ⅓"

## 15. UDDER DEPTH

Measured from the point of hock as viewed from the rear in relation to the floor of the udder (1" per point).

- 1 - Extremely deep - below hock - 2" below
- 3 - Level with the hock
- 5 - Slightly above hock - 2" above
- 7 - Floor well above hock - 4" above
- 9 - Extremely high - shallow - 6" above

## 16. UDDER TILT

Measures the levelness of the udder floor.

- 1 - Deep rear udder or tilted to rear
- 3 - Slightly tilted to rear
- 5 - Balanced - level floor
- 7 - Slightly tilted to front
- 9 - Deep fore udder or reverse tilt

## 17./18. FRONT/REAR TEAT PLACEMENT

Measures placement of front & rear teats on the quarter.

- 1 - Base of teats extremely wide
- 3 - Placement moderately toward outside (wide)
- 5 - Placement slightly toward outside
- 6 - Centrally placed
- 7 - Placement slight toward inside (close)
- 9 - Base of teats extremely close

## 19. TEAT LENGTH

From average of 2¼", a ¾" change adjusts score 2 points.

- 1 - Extremely short - ¾"
- 3 - Moderately short - 1½"
- 5 - Intermediate length - 2¼"
- 7 - Moderately long - 3"
- 9 - Extremely long - 3¾"



## VI. LINEAR DESCRIPTIVE TYPE TRAITS

- A. Pictorial description and scale of linear type traits are presented in the center two pages of this brochure.
- B. Standards for linear descriptive type traits. Each trait is scored on a scale of 1 to 9.
- C. No consideration shall be given for age of animal nor stage of lactation.
- D. Management Trait - supplied by breeder, data not publishable; used only for sire evaluation.
  - 1. Milking Speed: scored on a scale of 1 to 8.
    - 1 = slow      8 = fast

## VII. CLASSIFICATION TRAITS

- A. There are five classification breakdown traits as described in the Brown Swiss Dairy Cow Score Card. Each trait is given a numerical score between 50 and 99 points and a corresponding rating as listed in section VIII.A. Each breakdown trait will be weighted as indicated in parenthesis in determining Final Score. Consideration can be given for age of animal and stage of lactation.
  - 1. **Strength and Substance (15)**
  - 2. **Dairy Quality (15)**
  - 3. **Rump (10)**
  - 4. **Mobility (20)**
  - 5. **Mammary System (40)**
- B. Final Score - will reflect the degree to which the animal approaches the optimum expression of the five breakdown traits. The final score will be calculated from the numeric value traits weighted as above.
- C. **Bulls** will be scored for the following breakdown traits with weighting in parenthesis. Strength and Substance (25), Dairy Quality (25), Rump (20) and Mobility (30). They will also be scored for the first 9 linear traits.

## VIII. CLASSIFICATION STANDARDS

- A. The Final Score is numerical and will be categorized according to the following standards:
  - 1. **"Excellent"** - Animals which score 90 to 95 points.
  - 2. **"Very Good"** - Animals which score 85 to 89 points.
  - 3. **"Good Plus"** - Animals which score 80 to 84 points.
  - 4. **"Good"** - Animals which score 75 to 79 points.
  - 5. **"Fair"** - Animals which score 65 to 74 points.
  - 6. **"Poor"** - Animals which score 60 to 64 points.
- B. Maximum Score:
  - 1. First lactation      "V89"; maximum Mammary      "E90"
  - 2. Second lactation      "E91"
  - 3. Third lactation      "E93" - must be on official test
  - 4. Fourth lactation      "E94" - must be on official test
  - 5. Fifth lactation - eligible for "E95" - must be on official test
- C. Requirements for "E93", "E94", & "E95"-point cows:
  - 1. For a cow to score "E92", she must be in third lactation or later.
  - 2. For a cow to score "E93":
    - a. Must be in third lactation or later, on official test.
    - b. Must be currently scored at least "E91".
    - c. Must be milked out.
    - d. Must be walked.
  - 3. For a cow to score "E94":
    - a. Must be currently scored at least "E92".
    - b. Must be in at least fourth lactation, on official test.
    - c. Must be different lactation than previous score.
    - d. Must be milked out.
    - e. Must be walked.
    - f. The classifier must verify with the national office, as soon as practical, the cow's eligibility to be "E94".
  - 4. For a cow to score "E95":
    - a. Must be currently scored at least "E94".
    - b. Must be in at least fifth lactation, on official test.
    - c. Must be different lactation than previous score.
    - d. Must be different classifier than for previous score level.
    - e. Must be milked out.
    - f. Must be walked.
    - g. The cow may be nominated for "E95" by the classifier; however, before the final score is official, the classifier must call the office as soon as practical to verify the cow is eligible to be "E95" and a second classifier after a minimum of 48 hours and within 30 days must confirm the final score at the owner's expense.
- D. Excellent Cows can only increase 2 points per classification while meeting lactation requirements.
- E. Cows will be eligible for Permanent Score at their third lactation.
- F. Dry cows are not scored unless they have no previous classification or are eligible for another multiple "E".

## IX. MULTIPLE EXCELLENT PROGRAM

The "Multiple Excellent" program recognizes cows that remain "Excellent" in Final Score to an advanced age. Each additional multiple "E" requires an additional lactation from when she received the previous "E".

- A. A cow classified "Excellent" for the first time shall be designated "E". Minimum 2nd lactation.
- B. An "E" cow which is reclassified and retains her "E" rating shall be designated a "2E" cow. Minimum age - 5 years and 3rd lactation.
- C. A "2E" cow which is reclassified and retains her "E" rating shall be designated a "3E" cow. Minimum age - 7 years and 4th lactation.
- D. A "3E" cow which is reclassified and retains her "E" rating shall be designated a "4E" cow. Minimum age - 9 years & 5th lactation.
- E. A "4E" cow which is reclassified and retains her "E" rating shall be designated a "5E" cow. Minimum age - 11 years & 6th lactation.

## X. MISCELLANEOUS RULES AND TERMS

- A. In classifying a cow with a defective quarter when the opposite half of the udder is normal, if the defective quarter is definitely the result of injury or disease, the cow is not to be penalized.
- B. In classifying a cow with one or more quarters admittedly defective at the time of first calving, the udder rating shall be at least one category below that which the cow would receive if the quarter were normal.
- C. If it is evident that a cow was born with only three teats or with two teats grown together, such cows are to be classified "Poor" in Udder.

## XI. RESEARCH DATA COLLECTION

The collection of data on Udder Quality is for research purposes, all data will be strictly confidential, and individual cow data or herd data will not be published in any form. For each cow, the classifier will ask the owner to rank the udder quality.

### UDDER QUALITY STANDARD:

- 1 - Meaty
- 2 - Thick & Hard
- 3 - Somewhat Coarse
- 4 - Slightly Coarse
- 5 - Fairly Pliable
- 6 - Soft & Silky
- 7 - Very Pliable
- 8 - Completely Collapsible

## XII. ISSUANCE OF CERTIFICATES

- A. The classification of each animal evaluated shall be permanently recorded in the office of the BSCBA. The date of classification, five breakdown traits, and Final Score will be available to be applied to the animal's Certificate of Registry.
- B. A Classification Cow Summary for each herd is printed at the time of classification. After an animal is scored the ratings shall be used in Sire Performance Summaries.
- C. Registration certificates submitted to the National Office for cancellation received prior to or at the time of classification will be eliminated from the herd averages. The scores will be used for sire summaries and the normal fee charged.

## XIII. RECLASSIFICATION

- A. No herd or individual cow shall be reclassified within three months of the previous classification.
- B. All cows previously classified must be presented for reclassification unless their last classification occurred at 5 years of age or over.
- C. Cows previously classified may be passed if they are dry or were previously classified in their current lactation.

## XIV. Any infractions or violations of the Classification Rules will be reported to the Board of Directors for action.

## XV. Matters not covered by these rules will be administered by the Executive Secretary of the Association.

TCR-12-24

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