

This Policy Manual is an additional governing document for the ISBONA organization. It is designed to supplement the ISBONA Bylaws with additional details and to hold current policies and important procedures. The document is maintained by the Board of Directors.

Much of this information is also available in descriptions on the ISBONA website. In the event of any disagreement, this document will have precedence.

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Amendments:

10-13-2020 Revisions to Section 7 AI Registrations: Text via Motion
2020-10-13B

1. GENERAL

A. Breed Association Membership

ISBONA believes that sheep are best first registered via a breed association and registry sited in the country of their birth.

ISBONA members who breed sheep in Canada and wish to register them will continue to be instructed to join the Canadian Sheep Breeders Association (CSBA) in order to register sheep. Alternatively, Canadian members may choose to pay CSBA Non-Member rates.

ISBONA members who breed sheep in the US and wish to register them have joined the ISBONA Breed Association and may register sheep through ISBONA. Non-member rates are also available for US breeders who do not wish to join ISBONA.

ISBONA members who reside in other countries will be expected to utilize their own entities for registration.

Interested individuals in Canada and elsewhere are invited to join ISBONA at discounted rates because they register sheep elsewhere.

B. Registration - CLRC is ISBONA's designated registrar

All purebred Icelandic sheep registrations will be handled by the Canadian Livestock Records Corporation (CLRC) and all rules and regulations of registration as determined by CSBA (for Canadians) or ISBONA (for US citizens) will be recognized as authoritative and final.

C. Standards

Icelandic Sheep Breed Standard

The Icelandic Sheep Breed Standards accepted by ISBONA are those currently published by ISBONA. Any amendments to said standards must be made in accordance with the rules and regulations of ISBONA and should include consultation with any standards that may be in effect in Iceland and Canada.

General Description

A medium sized sheep

Fine boned with an open face and legs

Mature body weights: rams 90-100 kg, ewes 60-65 kg.

Head

Short with a broad forehead to the nostrils

Nostrils should be well open, lips thick and jaw strong looking

Eyes should be bright and alert

Horned and polled acceptable in both sexes

Horns growing too close to the face is undesirable

Neck

Short, round, and broadening at shoulders so that where neck and shoulders meet is not noticeable

Rams should have a much thicker neck area than ewes

Shoulders

Broad, blending smoothly into body

Rounded and meaty

Chest and Ribs

Broad and reaching well in front of legs

Wide chest cavity

Ribs should stand well out and be well rounded

Back, Loin, and Rump

Long, thick back muscle with firm flesh

Loin is broad, roundish, strong

Rump is broad, well muscled, fairly long but can taper back a bit

Feet and Legs

Legs are well muscled and thick, muscle reaching far down towards the hock
Feet are short, thick, straight, and squarely placed
Pasterns are strong, angling about 45 degrees to the ground

Fleece

There should be a lot of wool
Fleece comes in wide range of natural colors
Wool is dual coated; fine, wavy undercoat called *thel* and long, coarse corkscrewy outercoat called *tog*.
Kemp in wool is undesirable

Skin

Color variable, depending on color of wool.

Tail

Tail is naturally short, fluke shaped, mostly covered with hair, 15-20 cm long on a full-grown sheep.
Docking of tail disqualifies Icelandic sheep from registration.

Serious Defects

Badly twisted legs

Icelandic Sheep Judging Standard

Both the breed standards and judging standards are provided to members. If you plan on showing your sheep in local fairs, be sure to provide copies of these standards to administrators so that they can instruct judges on the proper way to judge Icelandic sheep.

The following rules were formed by the late Dr. Halldor Palsson who was the leading sheep specialist in Iceland for a quarter of a century. Few, if any, people have had such influence on ideas in sheep breeding in Iceland as Dr. Palsson.

How a sheep is to be measured

A sheep to be measured shall stand on a flat dry surface. Sheep will be shown in its natural fleece (not shorn).

Chest measurement shall be done with a soft but strong measuring tape just behind the shoulders. The person measuring shall always stand on the left side of the sheep, slide the end of the tape down the right side, pull it up the left side and pull the tape tight and have the ends meet over the spine. Care

should be taken that neither shoulder blade is under the tape. Inexperienced people should be careful to pull the tape firmly so that it gets close to the chest, especially when the sheep has a lot of wool.

Width of loin is measured with the tape right across the loin out to the end of the loin rib. Pull the tape tight.

Length of front leg (cannon bone) is measured with a ruler that must be at least 15 cm long (around 6"). It can be bothersome if it is any longer. This measurement is taken on the left front leg by lifting the leg from the ground and bending at the knee and at the pastern. Then the leg is measured from the outer edge of the leg head to the end of the leg at the knee. For those that have studied the legs at slaughter it should be fairly easy to estimate where the leg begins and ends.

Scoring points for special body parts and for wool

For the audience and participants to easily understand the good and bad aspects of the sheep, each body part is judged and given points from 0 to 10. Only whole points should be given. Keep in mind that when a point system is used, a sheep that gets below 5 for each body part, characteristic or wool, or a total of less than 50 points should not be passed since that is a poor sheep. If the points are 50-59 the sheep gets 3rd grade; if it gets 60-74 points it gets 2nd grade (i.e., it is a good sheep); if the points are 75-100 it gets 1st grade and is very good. If the sheep gets more than 90 points it is an excellent sheep. Never give a sheep 0 except for a deformity such as a bad bite or badly twisted feet, etc.

Icelandic sheep should be as follows to be given maximum points

HEAD: The head should be short and broad, with a broad forehead, a broad (the front section of the) nose, nostrils well open, lips thick, jaws good looking, upper- and lower jaw even and good distance between the lower jaws at the neck, eyes big and bright, horns on horned sheep fine ridged and not too long. The head on a polled sheep can be somewhat thinner than on horned.

NECK AND SHOULDERS: The neck should be short, round and broadening at shoulders so that where neck and shoulders meet is not noticeable. Rams should have a very thick neck but the ewes should have considerably narrower neck, particularly at the head. Shoulders shall be rounded and meaty on both sides of the spine (Spinous Process). Shoulder and neck should be equal in scoring.

CHEST AND RIBS: The chest should be very broad and reach well in front of the legs by at least a hand's width when the sheep is standing naturally. Even though the chest should be broad in the front it is more important that it be broad in the back and the ribs come well out from the sternum between the legs and behind the legs, resulting in a good flat area at the bottom of the chest cavity. The ribs should stand well out so that the chest cavity be well rounded with no tapering in behind the shoulder. Of the 10 points given for chest and ribs, 3 should be given for chest in front of front legs, 4 points for chest behind the legs and the shape of the ribs attached to the sternum and 3 points for the roundness of the ribs themselves.

LOIN WIDTH AND STRENGTH: The loin should be broad, roundish, strong and well connected to the chest cavity. The spinous process must not be so high that the back looks like a high pitched roof. The back must be firm when pushed on.

MUSCLE FULLNESS ON BACK: The muscle on the back shall be so thick that the transverse process bones will not be sharp when pushed on, that is, on rams and other non-lactating sheep. Ewes with lambs are naturally thinner but should anyway have good meat covering

RUMP: Rump should be broad, fairly long and straight but can taper back a bit. It shall be well muscled.

LEGS: The legs should be well muscled and thick so that the crotch is "u" shaped rather than "v" shaped. The upper leg should be short and the muscle should reach far down towards the hock. Up in the crotch the muscle should be large and firm and fit well into a palm of the hand when grabbed.

FEET: The feet should be short, thick, straight and with good space between them. The space between the knees should be the same width as that between the feet at the pasterns. The pastern should be strong and form an angle of about 45 degrees to the ground when the sheep stands naturally. Feet must not be twisted, neither at pasterns, knees or hocks.

WOOL, QUANTITY AND COLOR: There should be a lot of wool. The quantity of wool can best be gauged by grabbing the wool and feeling how well it fills the hand. The wool can be any color.

WOOL & SKIN, FINENESS, etc: The wool should be thick, lots of fairly long, fine waved *thel* (the finer undercoat), and the wool greasy. The *tog* should be corkscrewy, rather fine and not too long. The *tog* should be soft when

rolled between the fingers. The *tog* should not be straight and sleek, and little difference in the coarseness on the shoulder and on the rump and legs. No kemp should be in the wool. The wool should not separate along the back nor open to the skin.

Note: One would be tempted to compare some aspects of the Icelandic sheep to other breeds. A lot of wool on an Icelandic sheep means 6-8 lbs. Compared to some other breeds this is a small amount. On average, Icelandic sheep only give 4-5 lbs. of wool annually. Thickness is also a relative question. For example the Merino sheep has 53-87 hair follicles per square mm and the Romney has 22, whereas the Icelandic sheep has only 12 hair follicles per square mm. Greasiness is also relative. A normal Icelandic sheep does not have as much grease as most North American domestic sheep. In washing, domestic sheep's wool loses about 50% of its weight whereas Icelandic wool loses only about 25-30%.

2. MEMBERSHIP

A. Membership Application

Membership in ISBONA is processed through the Canadian Livestock Records Corporation in all instances.

Information collected includes name and address, additional members, telephone number, farm name, registration code, email and website addresses.

To join, go to <https://www.clrc.ca> and click on Join My Association. Choose Icelandic Sheep - US and fill-in your personal information via the CLRC electronic portal known as APPX. Fees maybe paid with a major credit card. CLRC will send you a receipt via USPS Mail You may also join via paper form found at <https://www.clrc.ca/associations/isbona>.

Members may also set up a free Farm Account on the ISBONA website at the URL shown below: (Note: directory is not in effect at present time 1/2026)

<https://www.isbona.com/index.php/breeders-directory>

B. Membership Classes

ISBONA will allow new or renewed memberships in its Regular US, International or Junior classes.

C. Dues and Fees

The following Dues Schedule is in effect for the 2026 Membership Year.

Note: All memberships expire in December of the Membership year regardless of their start date.

Dues must be paid by the end of the year to constitute a valid membership for that year. Dues may be paid through CLRC's APPX Electronic Portal. over the telephone to CLRC, or via mail.

Current (January 2026) fees (USD) for the 2026 Membership Year are:

Regular US Membership: \$40.00
International Membership: \$30.00
Junior (under age 18) Membership: \$5.00

Honorary Memberships: \$0.00

The following additional fees are in effect for the 2015-2026 Membership Years.

Late Renewal Fee - \$0.00

Reinstatement Fee - \$0.00

D. Membership Renewal Process

CLRC will handle all renewals for ISBONA memberships via the APPX Electronic Portal, telephone or paper forms found on the CLRC website for Icelandic Sheep - USA registry.

Any membership fees received by ISBONA will be forwarded to the Accountant, Canadian Livestock Records Corporation, Ottawa, for deposit.

3. MEMBER BENEFITS

Following is a list of benefits currently available to ISBONA members:

- Online newsletter
- Members Only section on website containing all past newsletters and various other resources (Currently, all newsletters remain available to public)
- Farm listing published on website including photos (self-maintained) - Note: not in effect at present time (1/2026)
- Eligible (if qualified) to serve as Director of ISBONA
- Lending Library privileges as described in the Library Section to include loan of a "Show Box" consisting of an ISBONA banner and an Icelandic sheep breed poster suitable for use in your booth at a show.
- ISBONA Groups.io internet email chat list
- Access to Board Meetings as listen/read only guest by securing permission from Board President

- Discounted rates for registering and transferring sheep for US members.
Note: Canadian members must join CSBA.

4. SHEEP SHOW PREMIUMS AND AWARDS

ISBONA offers cash premiums and award ribbons to those who show their sheep or fleeces.

\$50 Champion Ram

\$25 Reserve Champion Ram

\$50 Champion Ewe

\$25 Reserve Champion Ewe

\$35 Best in Show/Champion Fleece

\$25 First Place Fleece

\$12.50 Second Place Fleece

If the sheep show is held in conjunction with the Annual General Meeting (AGM) then the premium amounts are doubled. Because the AGM may not be held at a sheep show, the ISBONA Board may designate one show per year as "associated with the AGM".

In order to qualify for ISBONA premiums and awards, the sheep show:

1. Must have a designated Icelandic class.
2. Must have 3 or more breeders represented (they need not be ISBONA members).
3. Results must be submitted to the ISBONA Newsletter Editor by an ISBONA member who serves as the on-site representative for the show.
4. The show must be pre-approved by the ISBONA Board or its designee.

ISBONA may present premiums and awards to four sheep shows in the U.S. each year, one from each time zone, and two shows in Canada each year. Interested sheep shows that are applying for this program will be designated on a first come-first served basis. For example, the first show

held in the Eastern Time zone to contact the Board to qualify the show will be eligible to receive the premiums and awards for that time zone.

Passed by resolution of the ISBONA Board on 06/05/2018

5. LIBRARY

A. Lending Policy

ISBONA members in good standing are eligible to check out items from the library. Items are available for a 4 week check out for all members. There is a limit of three items per loan. You can contact our [Librarian via email](#) with your choices.

Items will be sent through the US Postal Service/Canadian Postal Service and will be insured for full value. On return of materials to the Librarian, you will be sent an invoice via Paypal for the cost of shipping to you, including insurance. We will include instructions and a return mailing address in your package.

The borrower is responsible for damage to library material. If the material is damaged but useable, a prorated charge will be assessed and paid to the ISBONA. Insurance claims must be submitted to replace materials lost in shipping. Claims for materials lost in shipping to borrower will be submitted by the librarian. Claims for materials being returned to the Library will be submitted by the borrower. A member who fails to file a claim will be billed for the lost item.

A late fee of \$5 per week may be charged for a maximum of four weeks past the due date. At the end of this period the member will be billed for the value of the item. If at this time the item is returned, only the \$20 late fee will be due. If the account is not settled within one month of billing, it will be referred to the Board of Directors who are authorized to limit the member's ISBONA activities, up to and including terminating the member's ISBONA membership.

B. Library Inventory as of 1/1/2016

A list of the current ISBONA Library collection is available on our website.

Please note that we also have copies of (almost) all printed ISBONA Newsletters (dating from 1997) and copies of many of the annual Southram guides to rams.

The Library also has some videotapes and audio tapes. However, borrowers have complained about the low quality of these tapes. We would like to convert them to better media and until that is completed, those materials generally will not be made available for loan.

6. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The current number of Director seats on the ISBONA Board is hereby set to nine (9). It is possible that not all current positions will be filled.

The number of three year director terms is hereby set to a maximum of two (2). There may be years when this provision is not used.

Policy set by Board action on 09/04/18.

7. NEWSLETTER POLICIES

Newsletters are made available to ISBONA members in the Members Section of the ISBONA website or other means designated by the Board of Directors.

Submission Guidelines

Articles

Send text in .doc, .docx, .pages, or .rtf format, and illustrations as separate .jpg attachments (email format) to: Karen Galle, Editor (karen@birchtreefarm.com)

8. COORDINATORS AND COMMITTEES

It is the responsibility of the Board of Directors to designate certain volunteer positions and to seek volunteers from the membership for those positions.

A. Membership Secretary

This position was eliminated because CLRC is now responsible for maintaining ISBONA memberships. Duties are described here for historical purposes.

The Membership Secretary shall keep the official roster of all active members containing their membership identification including such things as Member name and address, farm name, additional members on the account, email address, effective dates of membership.

The Member Secretary will send out a New Member packet to all new ISBONA members.

The Membership Secretary is also responsible for receiving dues via checks for member that choose not to use PayPal. He/she also responds to member questions or forwards to others (with followup) for appropriate responses.

B. Webmaster

The webmaster shall be responsible for updating the ISBONA website(s), assuring the security of those sites, providing connectivity to other sites as

required. S/he also responds to member questions or problems and provides assistance as appropriate.

C. Advertising Representative

This position has not been required for several years due to fewer advertising venues in use.

The Advertising Representative shall keep a running record of where and at what cost advertisements have been placed. Expenditures shall be pre-approved by the Board of Directors in the annual budget.

D. Newsletter Editor

The Editor shall solicit and receive articles for the Newsletter; edit all articles and advertisements and oversee the process of producing the newsletter on time to meet issue deadlines. Any costs of the newsletter shall be pre-approved by the Board of Directors in the annual budget.

E. Newsletter Layout Editor

The Newsletter Layout Editor shall be responsible for the layout, graphics and production of the Newsletter in online as well as hard copy form, if needed. The Layout Editor shall also receive ad copy from members and ensure inclusion in the newsletter as ordered and forwarding of any payments to the Treasurer.

F. Librarian

The Librarian shall be responsible for the collection, development, circulation, and safe storage for all materials in the ISBONA Library. The Librarian will update the inventory as new materials are obtained. S/he may also maintain historical documents for the organization.

ISBONA will designate a member for the Pedigree Committee, initially to be chosen from the ISBONA Board of Directors and ultimately from member volunteers. This position has never been used.

G. Instagram Coordinator

This position is responsible for receiving information from member farms for Instagram publication, including decisions on appropriateness, timing, etc of submissions.

9. ISBONA CALENDAR AND IMPORTANT DATES

AGM

2017 Annual General Meeting - November 1, 2017
2018 Annual General Meeting - November 7, 2018
2019 Annual General Meeting - November 3, 2019
2020 Annual General Meeting - November 1, 2020
2021 Annual General Meeting - November 7, 2021
2022 Annual General Meeting - November 7, 2022
2023 Annual General Meeting - November 5, 2023
2024 Annual General Meeting - November 3, 2024
2025 Annual General Meeting - November 3, 2025
2026 Annual General Meeting - November 1, 2026

Bylaws Approvals

2017 Vote to Approve New Bylaws - November 10- November 15, 2017
2018 Second Vote to Approve New Bylaws - Jan 1, 2018 - Jan 31, 2018
2019 - None held
2020 - None held
2021 - None held
2022- None Held
2023- None Held
2024 - None held
2025 - None held
2026 -

Election for Board Directors

2017 AGM Call for Nominees for 2018 Board Election - November 1, 2017
2018 Newsletter Call for Nominations - Spring 2018
2020 Call for Nominations - Spring 2020
2022 Call for Nominations - None Held
2023 Call for Nominations - None Held; all directors were by appointment
2024 Call for Nominations - Spring 2024
2025 Non election year
2026 Call for Nominations Spring 2026

2018 Election of Board Directors - October 2018
2020 Election of Board Directors - October 2020
2022 Election of Board Directors - None Held; Directors stayed on

2023 Election of Board Directors - October 2023
2024 Election of Board Directors - October 24-27, 2024
2025 Non Election Year
2026 Election of Board Directors - October 22-25, 2026;

10. REGISTRY REQUIREMENTS

US Requirements are available on the ISBONA website or on the CLRC website:

<https://www.clrc.ca/associations/isbona>

Canadian requirements can be reviewed at the CLRC website:

<https://www.clrc.ca/associations/sheep>

11. EMAIL PROCEDURE FOR BOARD MOTION APPROVAL

ISBONA BOD Procedure for Email Voting Outside of Board Meeting

When the Board is not in session (eg, between meetings) any Board Director may make a motion for resolution via email. For record keeping purposes, such motions should be made through the President or Secretary, who will email the motion to all current Directors and will manage the process.

The motion must begin with the identification of the moving Director: for example “_____” has made a motion to the Board that (description of motion).

No second to this motion is required.

The email subject line should include the word “Motion.”

The motion should be in proper form. The body of the email should include the words “I move that the Board approve/authorize/recommend ...”.

A unanimous affirmative vote is required to approve. The member who proposed the motion is automatically counted as an affirmative vote. If the motion doesn't receive the required number of affirmative votes by the deadline, it fails.

The process should make clear the number of votes needed to qualify for approval. For example, if there are eight board Directors voting, there must be 8 Yes votes cast and returned.

The motion will expire in seven calendar days or at the start of the next Board or membership meeting – whichever comes first.

All Board Directors, including the President, may vote. Responses may be accepted by the Secretary and must also be conveyed to the rest of the Directors.

The Secretary is responsible for tallying the votes and informing the Board of the final outcome.

When voting, Directors should address their vote to the sender of the motion and copy all respondents shown on the original email. If a Director fails to CC: other Directors on her/his vote, the Secretary will forward that email to the others.

Board members should include in the words “I vote No” or “I vote Yes” in their response. No rationale is required.

Email motions can only be voted up or down. They can't be amended.

The Director who proposed the motion may withdraw it at any time prior to approval.

The Secretary ensures the motion and vote are recorded in the minutes of the next formal Board meeting.

Note: Email voting is only suitable for very straightforward motions. Email is not suited for the conduct of a deliberative process because it doesn't provide the opportunity for discussion or amendment of the motion that you would have in a face-to-face meeting.

Procedure Added to Manual - January 2026