

THE RULES
Of
THE GOVERNING COUNCIL OF THE CAT FANCY OF
IRELAND

(Effective from 1st September 2009
Revised December 2020)

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Breeders, Show Managers, Judges, Stewards and Exhibitors are responsible for ensuring that they are familiar with all sections of the Rules. Evasion or breach of any of the Rules is liable to result in disciplinary action.

Amendments and additions are shown as **highlighted in grey**

SECTION 1

REGISTRATION OF CATS/KITTENS

REGISTRATION APPLICATIONS

Active and Non-Active Registers

1. Only cats/kittens required for breeding purposes should be registered on the Active Register. All male cats used at stud must be microchipped from 1st June 2016.
2. The Non-Active Register should be used for cats not required for breeding. Progeny of these cats will not be registered.
3. Only the breeder may apply to transfer a cat from the Non-Active to the Active Register on payment of the appropriate fee. The Executive Committee may order a transfer in exceptional circumstances where the breeder is no longer available.
4. ONLY the registered owner may ask to transfer a cat from the Active to the Non-Active Register on payment of the appropriate fee. The Executive Committee may order a transfer in exceptional circumstances where the owner is no longer available

All forms for use in the above are available on www.gccfi.com under Forms

Litter Registrations

5. Applications will not be accepted for kittens under the age of one calendar month.
6. **Renumbered following deletion of rule 6 2014** Kittens may be registered Active or Non-Active as appropriate. Where compulsory tests are required for Active Registration the kitten must be microchipped and the microchip number must be noted on the test result.
7. **If the registration of a parent/parents not registered with the GCCFI is endorsed "not for breeding" by another bona fide registering organisation, the cat may not be registered on the Active register. If the cat is so endorsed it shall be placed on the non-active register irrespective of the preference indicated on the form.**
8. A Veterinary Certificate of Entirety for a stud cat must be lodged with the Registrar before his first litter will be registered. **All entire males used as studs must be microchipped with effect from 1st June 2016. They must be uniquely identifiable at the time of examination by a microchip; the number of which must be noted on the Certificate of Entirety.**
9. The following information must be given for registration purposes:
 - a. The number of kittens in the litter.
 - b. The breed and apparent colour of each kitten.
 - c. The sex of each kitten.
 - d. Date of birth.
 - e. Name of each kitten.

- f. Breeder's prefix (if appropriate)
- g. A Mating Certificate is required if the breeder is not the registered owner of the sire.
- h. Kittens which have been declared may be registered at a later date, either by the breeder or by the new owner.**
- i. If a kitten is sold unregistered, in addition to the pedigree, the seller shall supply a copy of the certificate of mating whether or not the seller is the registered owner of the sire. Any application to register the kitten/cat at a later date must be accompanied by this certificate.**

- 10. The owner of the stud cat must provide a Certificate of Mating to the owner of the queen upon collection of the queen.
- 11. A Certificate of Mating must state the registered name, breed/breed description and registration number of both the sire and dam, the dates of mating and include 3 generations of pedigree. It must be signed by the registered owner(s) of the sire. In the case of joint owners one signature will suffice.

Transfer of Registration

- 12. The GCCFI requires that no kittens be permitted to go to a new home before 13 weeks of age. At least seven days prior to this, the kitten must have completed a full course of vaccinations, including a health check, given by a Veterinary Surgeon. The Breeder must ensure that the kittens are house-trained, inoculated and in good general health.
~~In order to protect the person purchasing a pedigree kitten/cat the Council requires that all kittens/cats are registered when being offered for sale as a pedigree.~~ Breeders/Owners when selling or transferring a kitten/cat must provide the new owners with a full set of papers including all GCCFI documents as listed below. Breeders/Owners must not deface GCCFI documents in any way.
- 13. New Owners when collecting their kitten/cat should receive the following:
 - a. Pedigree Form** When a kitten/cat is advertised as a pedigree kitten or cat the Breeder/Owner shall at the time of sale provide the purchaser with a properly completed pedigree signed by the Breeder, carrying three generations at least, showing all breed numbers, if available, and registration numbers of all cats named on the pedigree, including the registration number and the breed number of the kitten/cat being offered for sale. It should also include the vendor's name and address.
 - b. Transfer of Ownership Card Registration Certificate** The Breeder should fill in the name and address of the new owner on the reverse. In doing this the kitten is protected from being passed on to another party without the breeder's knowledge. The new owner should sign the ~~Transfer Card~~ **Registration Certificate** and return it with the relevant fee to the Registrations Administrator of the GCCFI to complete officially the Transfer of Ownership.
 - c. Vaccination Card** signed by the breeder's/owner's Veterinary Surgeon, and

stamped with the practice name, confirming that the kitten/cat has been fully vaccinated and states the date the last vaccination was completed. If the kitten/cat has been microchipped, the number should also be supplied.

d. A Copy of the Code of Ethics for Breeders and Owners

e. If the cat/kitten is not registered a copy of the mating certificate must also be supplied to the new owner.

Application for Prefix Registration

14. The name, including the registered prefix, may contain a maximum of **30** letters (Including spaces, hyphens & apostrophes) and not less than 2 and not more than 4 words.
15. A prefix may only be used to register cats bred and registered by the prefix Owner.
16. The breeder of a kitten is the registered owner(s) of the dam on the date of birth of the kitten. In the case of a joint prefix the dam must be registered in the joint ownership of the prefix holders at the time of the kitten's birth. When the prefix is owned by a single owner, the dam must be owned by that single owner only to be valid for use.

Application for Non-Prefix Registrations

17. All non-prefix applications will commence with an administrative prefix which will be agreed by the GCCFI and will change annually.
18. The name, including the administrative prefix, may contain no more than a maximum of **30** letters (including spaces) and not less than 2 and not more than 4 words.

All Registrations

19. The following will not be accepted as a name or part of a name:
 - a. Names of living people
 - b. Numbers in figures or letters (John 111, Robert Fourth, Louis Quatorze, Sean a Cuig etc)
 - c. Repitition of words previously registered by the same person or under the same prefix except recognized appropriate breed colour words.
 - d. GCCFI Show Titles (Supreme, Champion, Premier, Tara, Invictus, Hibernian)
 - e. Names which are primarily registered business or trade names.
 - f. Cedillas, accents etc
20. No cat once registered can have the name changed in any particular except at the discretion of the Executive Committee whose decision is final.

Granting Of Prefixes

21.
 - a. A prefix may be issued to single or joint owners only. The copyright of the prefix is vested in the owners.

- b. When a prefix is issued to joint owners, all rules apply to both parties. Either party may sign declarations required as part of applications or agreements in connection with the GCCFI and its services with the exception of changes to the prefix ownership itself.
- c. No change of title of ownership of a prefix will be granted except in exceptional circumstances and at the absolute discretion of the Executive Committee.
- d. **All applicants for prefixes must be members of a GCCFI affiliated club. To be confirmed by the club secretary.**
- e. A prefix can only be used to register cats bred and registered by the prefix owner(s).
- f. A prefix may **NOT** be used until notification of approval has been received. However it may be used for the registration of all cats born on or after the date of receipt by the GCCFI of the application for that prefix.
- g. A prefix cannot be added to an existing registration.
- h. Prefixes may consist of ONE word only and may be of any number of letters of the alphabet and the symbols! * - '(exclamation mark, asterisk, dash, and apostrophe). It must be remembered that the total number of characters, including letters, spaces and punctuation, allowed for registration is **30**, including the prefix.
- i. A choice of **FOUR** names must be given in a prefix application.
- j. The following will not be accepted as prefixes
 1. Names suggesting that a breeder is the sole or most important breeder in a particular area
 2. Words bearing a close resemblance to an existing prefix (words within one letter or sounding the same are considered to bear "a close resemblance". Existing prefixes should not be followed by the word CAT/S or any alternative spelling of CAT/S.
 3. GCCFI show titles (Supreme, Champion, Tara, Invictus, Hibernian).
 4. Any other word considered by the Executive Committee to be unsuitable.
- NB Applicants should ensure that they do not submit a business or trade name which might lead to legal action by the registered owner of that name. The applicant shall be held responsible for any action arising from the granting of a prefix.
- k. The granting of prefixes is at the discretion of the Executive Committee and their decision is final.
- l. The issue of a prefix guarantees that the prefix word will not be used as the first word of any name registered after the date of the issue of the prefix.
- m. The use of a prefix shall lapse on the death of the holder and shall not be used except within three months of the death of the holder or one month from the granting of probate of the holder's Will, whichever is the later. Cats bred by the deceased may be registered under the prefix of the deceased by the Executor or Administrator.

RULES 22 & 23 HAVE BEEN AMALGAMATED IN THE ABOVE

REGISTRATION POLICIES

24. A cat whose sire and dam are registered with GCCFI is also eligible for registration in accordance with the current GCCF Registration Policy for the breed in question. GCCFI follows the GCCF Registration Policies.

Cats from Registering Bodies other than GCCF

25. Cats already registered with another registering body will be eligible for registration with the GCCFI by paying the appropriate fee and supplying the following:
- a. Original of Certified Pedigree showing a minimum of **4 generations** of breeding certified as correct by the other Registering Body. This certified pedigree must be in accordance with the current GCCF Registration Policy for the breed in question (see **www.gccfcats.org**). This will be returned to owner on completion of the process.
 - b. A copy of transfer of ownership/registration certificate to the applicant whichever appropriate.
 - c. A GCCFI Application to Register form completed and fee enclosed.
 - d. Copy of Pet Passport.
26. When a cat is already registered with another registering body its name will not be changed in any way.
27. An indicator will be used after the name of the cat to show that the name has been imported from another registering body.

Dual Registration

28. a. A cat/kitten who is registered with GCCF may be dual registered with GCCFI on payment of the appropriate fee. In such cases the ownership with both organisations shall be the same. If ownership is transferred in one organisation it will automatically be transferred in the other. This also applies to Active/Non Active registers.
b. GCCFI will respect the validity of GCCF Non Active registration.

29. Deleted 28/3/2015

30. Application for Certified Pedigrees for entire male cats or kittens must be accompanied by a Veterinary Certificate of Entirety. **These cats must be microchipped with effect from 1st June 2016.**

SECTION 2

SHOW MANAGEMENT

SHOW LICENCE

1. Applications to hold a competitive Show at which cats registered with the GCCFI are present must be made to the Secretary of the GCCF **on the appropriate form.**
2. Permission to hold a championship show will only be granted to a recognised affiliated Club-
First applicant Clubs may be granted a show licence on proviso that they have a fully qualified Show Manager to run the show according to GCCFI rules.
3. The Show Manager may not be changed without the permission of the GCCFI and must be listed in the show schedule and catalogue. All disputes connected with the show must ~~initially~~ be referred to the Show Manager **at the show.**
4. Application for Show licences will be brought by the Secretary to the Executive committee. When applying for a show date, consideration should be given to other major events which may impact on entries and gate attendance.

SHOW MANAGEMENT

5. The Show Manager of a championship show must qualify by:
 - a. Having acted as assistant show manager at least **3** championship shows
and
 - b. engaged in a training programme
 - c. In exceptional circumstances the GCCFI may permit a person not so qualified to act as show manager.
6. The GCCFI will maintain a list of qualified show managers.

NOTES

- *The aisles between the rows of pens must be a minimum of 1.8 metres.*
- *There should be a rigid non-see through division between and behind the pens.*
- *It is the responsibility of the Show Manager to ensure there are adequate arrangements should the hall need to be evacuated in case of fire.*
- *Adequate insurance should be in place, checking whether trade stalls have their own insurance.*
- *It is desirable to appoint an assistant show manager where possible, to encourage the training of new show managers.*

SHOW FINANCES

7. The Show Manager carries overall responsibility to the GCCFI for the finances of the show.
8. A separate show account should be opened with the Show Manager and two other members of the Show Committee having signing authority; the Show Manager to hold a chequebook and lodgement book/ **express lodgement card. A record to be made of all lodgements.**
9. The Show accounts and cheque books should be passed to the Club Treasurer when completed. He/she will then pass them with the club accounts to the GCCFI, following the Club's AGM.

SCHEDULE

10. The Show Manager shall issue a schedule, which shall include:
 - a. The title of the Show, including the fact that it is held under the auspices of the GCCFI.
 - b. The name(s) and address of the Show Manager(s) and the names of the members of the show committee.
 - c. A list of **breed** classes, which will consist of:
 - I. **Invictus, Hibernian, Grand Champion and Grand Premier** classes for eligible exhibits.
(To be eligible for entry into these classes the exhibit must have obtained the status of *GCCFI Hibernian, Grand Champion, Champion, Grand Premier* or **Premier**, on or before the closing date for entries published in the schedule. This status shall be obtained by the awarding of three certificates by three different judges.
 - II. **The titles of Hibernian Grand Champion and Hibernian Grand Premier shall be attained by the awarding of four Hibernian Grand Challenge/Hibernian Grand Premier certificates by four different judges at shows licensed by the GCCFI. Invictus titles are Bronze, Silver & Gold and an award in each section is achieved by winning four certificates under four different judges.**
 - III. **Breed** classes for each breed which is eligible for a certificate.
 - IV. **Assessment** classes for preliminary breeds, *where a suitable judge is available*; these cats are judged against a standard of point **and are placed. The judge can award Merit certificates if it is considered the exhibits meet the approved standard of points. When a suitable judge is not available these breeds are eligible to go on exhibition.**
 - V. **Miscellaneous** classes, the number and type at the discretion of the show management team.
 - VI. **No new awards or breed classes may be put on without prior approval**

from Council. This applies to both the Pedigree and Household Pet sections.

- d. The names of the judges engaged.

- e. The judges on the Best in Show panel.
- f. The Show Manager must obtain the permission in writing of all judges before announcing them in the schedule, ensuring that such judges have not judged the same class at the last 4-5 GCCFI shows.
- g. Names of veterinary surgeons attending.
- h. A list of classes offered to exhibitors with the judge engaged for each class and the entry fee required.
- 11. **Breed** Classes may only be judged by judges appointed to that list; if more than one breed is covered (e.g. in miscellaneous classes) the judge must be on the list of at least one of the breeds involved.
- 12. If for any reason the judge is unable to fulfil his/her engagement in **Breed** classes and another judge takes over, after the schedule has been distributed, **and before the closing date**, exhibitors may withdraw their exhibits from competition in the relevant **breed** class and entry fees will be refunded.
- 13. In the event of a judge change of a **breed** class *after* the closing date of the show, provided the exhibitor notifies the show manager prior to judging that a certificate has previously been awarded by the replacement judge, the show manager shall appoint another qualified judge to assess the cat and countersign the certificate if the exhibit is considered of sufficient quality. This shall count towards championship status. *Should another qualified judge not be available the certificate awarded by the replacement judge shall count towards championship status.*
- 14. All **breed** classes with the exception of assessment classes shall be split male and female.
- 15. An adult cat must be at least **nine** calendar months old on the day of the show.
- 16. Kittens may not be shown or put on exhibition less than **14 weeks** of age on the day of the show.
- 17. Non pedigree classes may be judged by a person approved by the show committee.
- 18. The closing date for entries shall be prominently printed on the schedule; entries may be accepted after this date at the discretion of the show manager and only if they can be included in the catalogue. Show managers are authorised to refuse any entry without giving reasons and in the case of such refusals all entry and other monies must be returned to the sender.

19. Show managers, assistant show managers, section managers and members of their household may not exhibit in competition at their own show. A judge or section manager in the non-pedigree section may exhibit in the pedigree section and a judge or section manager in the pedigree section may exhibit in the non-pedigree section.

ENTRY FORMS

20. Entry forms must include:
- a. The name of the exhibitor; the registered name of the cat.
 - b. The names of the sire and dam.
 - c. The date of birth, sex and breed number of the exhibit.
 - d. GCCFI registration number. **If the registration number has not been received when completing the entry form, write RAF** (registration applied for **or TAF (transfer applied for) in the appropriate column.** *This should only be used if the GCCFI registration form or transfer form and fee have been submitted. This must be done if there is a delay in receiving further documentation* (i.e. certified pedigree, transfer certificate) from another registering body. The Show Manager should check in respect of any entries where **RAF or TAF** has been used.
 - e. Name of the breeder.
 - f. Class numbers exhibit is to be entered in.
 - g. The entry form must include a copy of the **health** declaration, which must be signed by the exhibitor or guardian, in the case of a junior. **In the case of joint owners only one need sign.**
 - h. **Entry fees.**
21. Prior to the show, the Show Manager shall check the exhibitor list against the official rejection list and the official bite/scratch list, supplied by the GCCF. No cat living at the same address as any exhibitor on the rejection list may be shown until a clearance certificate has been received and acknowledged.

CATALOGUE

22. After the closing date for entries the Show Manager shall prepare a show catalogue, which shall include:
- a. The names of the Show Manager, the show management team, and the judges.
 - b. *A list of the names of all exhibitors will be included. Addresses will only be published with the exhibitor's permission.*
 - c. The classes with the names of the entries and exhibitors. Details of breeding, i.e. the names of the sire and dam, date of birth, sex of the cat, breed number.
 - d. A list of prizes and specials being offered.
 - e. Acknowledgment that the show is being held under licence of GCCFI.

NOTES

- Should an exhibit be missed out of the catalogue, manuscript additions to catalogues may be made provided there is proof that the exhibit had been accepted into the Show (i.e. receipt of payment, as confirmed in accounts and presence of entry form in Show Managers possession)
- Non-GCCFI titles may be placed in brackets after the cat's name and that of its sire and dam.

AWARDS

23. No extra first prizes may be awarded in any class.
24. Winners of Invictus, Hibernian Grand Champion, Grand Champion, Hibernian Grand Premier or Grand Premier where the certificate has been awarded are automatically eligible to compete for best of variety.
25. In Invictus & Hibernian, Grand Champion and Grand Premier classes, only one prize i.e. **Invictus (Bronze, Silver or Gold)** Hibernian GrCh *Gr Ch Hibernian GrPr/Gr Pr* should be given and one reserve, which would merit the award of Invictus, Hibernian Grand **Champion**, Grand Champion, Hibernian GrPr or Grand Premier in the opinion of the judge, in the case of disqualification of the grand winner.
26. When the Invictus, Hibernian Grand Champion, Grand Champion, Hibernian Grand Premier or Grand Premier certificates are not awarded the reserve must also be withheld. The judge may award 1st and 2nd place and state in writing that the certificates have been withheld.
27. Assessment **Breed** classes shall be provided for preliminary status breeds and shall be judged by full judges of the breed group *where a qualified judge is available*.
28. The provision of a copy of the standard of points rests with the exhibitor and should be placed on the top of the pen for the use of the assessment class judge.
29. **Assessment class winners** are eligible for Best in Show.
30. The winner of any class where the certificate has been withheld is not eligible for Best in Show.
31. Best of Breed shall be offered to adults, kittens and neuters.
32. The best of breed decision shall be made by the **Breed** (not **Invictus, Hibernian or Grand**) judge.
33. Exhibits in the **Invictus, Hibernian and Grand** classes are to be considered for best of breed.
34. Any exhibit which has had the certificate withheld is not eligible for best of breed.
35. If a certificate has been awarded best of breed may not be withheld.

BEST IN SHOW

36. Best in Show shall consist of Best Persian Exhibit, Best Semi Longhaired Exhibit, Best British Exhibit, Best Foreign Exhibit, Best Burmese Exhibit, Best Oriental Exhibit, and Best Siamese/Balinese Exhibit, and Best Non-Pedigree and Pedigree Pet Exhibit.

VETS

37. It is recommended to supply 1 vet for approx every 60 entries.
38. All exhibits must be examined by a qualified veterinary surgeon prior to admission to the show hall; the decision of the veterinary surgeon is final and must be accepted without question.
39. The show manager must obtain full details of a local veterinary practice available to treat emergencies at the show.
40. All cats present at a GCCFI Show must have a current vaccination certificate against FIE, FVR and FCV ('cat flu') which must have been completed **more than 14 7 days before** the show, the certificate to be examined by the veterinary surgeon vetting in the exhibit **and if invalid the exhibit will be rejected under Section A. Any exhibit without a certificate will not be admitted to the show unless the exhibitor undertakes to provide proof of vaccination, valid for that show, to the Show Manager within seven days of the show. Homeopathic vaccinations are not acceptable.**
41. An adequate number of quarantine pens shall be available for isolation of suspect exhibits. These pens must be situated so that the public does not have access to them and it must be possible to separate pens so that cats suspected of having an infectious disease are kept separate.
42. If an exhibit is removed to isolation after judging has commenced, information regarding the section under which the cat has been rejected should be available to adjacent exhibitors through the Show Manager.
43. When the official vet is not readily available the Show Manager alone is empowered to take decisions concerning the welfare of the cats.

AFTER THE SHOW

44. The Show Manager shall within two days after the show send copies of any rejection slips to the GCCF so that details can be included on the GCCF official rejection list published for the next show. Details required are:
- Name and address of owner(s)
 - Name of exhibit(s)
 - Name and date of show
 - Section under which rejected (B, C or D)
- This can be done by email to the GCCF office
45. The Show Manager shall ensure that within seven days of the show a marked copy of the catalogue with all title class results, **and certified by the Show Manager, is sent to the GCCFI and to the GCCF Office for recording of results.**

46. Accounts should be checked by an independent scrutineer. Entry forms and award slips shall be retained by the Show Manager **for one year**.
47. **Unacceptable or aggressive behaviour towards any Show Official, Judge, Steward, Vet, Exhibitor or any other person WILL NOT BE TOLERATED. Any such behaviour will result in the removal of those responsible (and their cats) from the show venue. This behaviour may result in disqualification and/or disciplinary action by the GCCFI.**

SECTION 3 - JUDGES AND STEWARDS

JUDGES

1. Judges and Stewards are expected to behave in a professional manner and not engage in conversation with exhibitors until judges have completed their classes.
They are expected to wear white coats. Judges and members of a judge's household may not exhibit in competition at shows at which the judge is engaged, except that an exhibitor of pedigree cats may judge in the non-pedigree section.
2. Acceptance of an engagement, in writing, by a judge places that judge under an obligation, in normal circumstances, to both Show Management and prospective exhibitors to attend and officiate at the show in question.
3. Judges may not inspect catalogues or otherwise obtain information as to the ownership or identity of exhibits until after they have completed their engagement.
Necessary information with regard to the age, sex and breed number of particular exhibits may be obtained from the Show Manager; this information to be extracted from the entry form, not the catalogue, which may be in error.
4. In each class cats are to be judged in competition with each other, against the Standard of Points for the breed and are placed in order of merit.
5. Only one first prize may be awarded; Judges may withhold first, second or any other prizes offered and may, subject to the approval of the Show Manager, award extra second or third places if the quality of the exhibits warrants this. Judges must sign the award slips and state thereon if prizes or certificates are withheld.
6. Judges are authorized to award Tara, (applicable to the Supreme) **Invictus**, Hibernian, GCCFI Challenge/Grand Challenge Certificates GCCFI Premier/Grand Premier Certificates, and Merit-Certificates to classes at Championship Shows authorised by GCCFI. Assessment classes are considered to be Open classes, and Merit Certificates may only be awarded by a full judge of the breed. A judge should withhold the certificate if in his opinion the winning cat is not of sufficient merit. Only one first prize may be awarded.
7. When Invictus, Hibernian, Grand Challenge or Grand Premier Certificates are withheld, the Reserve award must also be withheld. The judge may award first and second prizes and state on the results slip that the certificates have been withheld.
8. A judge may withhold the Reserve, Invictus, Hibernian or Grand certificate if in his opinion the second placed cat is not of sufficient merit to be awarded the Grand certificate in the event of disqualification of the winner.
9. Winners of Open classes in which the certificate has been withheld are not eligible for Best of Breed or Best in Show nomination.
10. Probationer judges may not judge classes in which Certificates are awarded.

11. The Show Management shall reimburse judges promptly for expenses.
12. Clubs shall be free to invite senior overseas judges, i.e. judges who have been a full judge on the relevant list for a minimum of 3 years.

STEWARDS

13. The GCCFI regards experience as a judge's steward as an essential part of the training of new judges, and judges are expected to pass on their knowledge and techniques to their stewards.
14. The duties of stewards are determined by the judge concerned, but the following must be included:
 - a. To check and pass to the Show Secretariat, the detachable award slips from the judge's book, as soon as is practical after the judging of the class has been completed.
 - b. To keep an adequate record of all placings and absentees in each class judged.
 - c. To be available for carrying to the Best in Show Panel any cats nominated for Best in Show judging.
 - d. To be available to the judge at all times, for the handling of cats and to act as messenger between the judge, secretariat and Show Manager and to ensure judges expense slips are passed promptly to the Show Manager.
 - e. Stewards should be alert to the possibility of cross-judging.
 - f. To keep a record of certificates awarded for the judges to confirm the number of certificates for signing and correct details entered.
15. No person may steward for a judge under whom he or a member of his household is exhibiting in an Open class; this also includes cats not entered in the Open but to be considered for Best of Breed. This rule shall also apply to any persons acting as agent of a cat entered in the relevant class.
16. ~~It is recommended that wherever possible, stewards assisting judges should not be involved in the vetting in procedure except in an emergency.~~
17. Stewards may not handle catalogues until their judge has concluded his duties.
18. Stewards who are entered in the GCCFI stewarding and judging scheme should keep a personal record of engagements.

Notes

Judges and stewards who have had ringworm diagnosed in their catteries/household, must not attend shows until a Clearance

Certificate as required by GCCFI has been obtained.

Any person whose cats have been rejected under Sections C or D must not officiate as a judge or steward or in any other capacity which requires the handling of cats at shows, until a Clearance Certificate as required by GCCFI has been obtained.

SECTION 4 -EXHIBITS AND EXHIBITORS

ENTRY

1. With the exception of Household Pets, all cats and kittens exhibited at a show licensed by the GCCFI must be registered with GCCFI. Cats entering the adult and neuter classes must be 9 calendar months or over on show day. Kittens under the age of **14 weeks** on show day must not be shown (in competition or on exhibition).
Under the current agreement, breeders in Britain and Northern Ireland must first register cats and kittens with the GCCF. ~~When the certificates have been received, application can then be made for Irish registration if both parents have GCCFI registration.~~ If one or both parents have not GCCFI registration a **generation certified pedigree as required by the breeding policy** from the other Registering bodies will, in addition to copy of registration/transfer, be required. **This does not apply to GCCF registered cats.**
2. The Owner of the cat is the person so named in the GCCFI register.
3. **All applications for registration and transfer must have been received 10 days prior to the show.**
4. The entry form must be accurately completed. The onus is on the exhibitor to enter in the correct classes and to enter all details to correspond with the details on the registration/transfer certificate. Each **competitive** exhibit must be entered in its **breed** class.
5. **No cat or kitten may attend any show or public exhibition less than 13 days prior to or following the date of the show being entered. This applies to all cats living at the same address.**
6. GCCFI health declaration must be carefully read, signed and the rules specified therein must be observed. If the cat is in
Joint ownership, **either** owner **may** sign.
7. Correct Entry Fees as specified in Schedule must be enclosed.
8. Entries and fees must be returned by designated closing date.
9. Entries may be withdrawn before published closing date by writing to Show Manager. Fees will be returned.
10. After published closing date entries may only be withdrawn and fees returned:
 - a. in the case of death or serious illness of exhibit(s) confirmed in writing by a Veterinary Surgeon.
 - b. If there should be a change of breed class judge from that published in Schedule.

Notes

Judge changes will be posted on www.gccfi.com website and the relevant

Club website

11. Judges, and members of a judge's household, may not compete in shows at which the judge is engaged, with the exception of the Household Pet Section.

SHOW DAY

12. Exhibits must be brought in secure escape proof carriers and be accompanied by owner or owner's representative. A top loading carrier is recommended.
13. Exhibitor or Exhibitor's representative must be available at all times during the course of the show in case any emergency should arise.
14. Exhibits should be in good health, free of all outward sign of illness or skin disease or vermin infestation.
15. All exhibits must be presented to the appointed Veterinary Surgeon(s) for examination before entering the penning area. Exhibitors with a number of exhibits must present all to the same Veterinary Surgeon for examination.
16. All exhibits are required to have current vaccination against F.I.E. and cat 'flu, certificates to be dated at least 14 7days prior to the date of show. Certificates should be brought and will be checked at vetting-in. Cats with an invalid Vaccination certificate will be rejected under Section A. Cats unaccompanied by a vaccination certificate will also be rejected under Section A unless the exhibitor undertakes to provide proof of vaccination, valid for that show, to the Show Manager within seven days of the show. Failure to do so will lead to disqualification from the show and the cat's name will be placed on the rejection list until proof of vaccination is received.
17. Exhibits rejected by the Vet may not enter the show hall.
 - a. Depending on the reason for rejection the Vet may disqualify other exhibits from the same household or cattery and in some instances the owner(s) may also be refused entry.
 - b. Rejection under sections B, C, & D of the Rejection Form means that the owner will have to supply a Veterinary Clearance Certificate to the GCCFI and receive acknowledgement of its acceptance before entering another show.
 - c. Veterinary Surgeons are instructed not to admit adult monorchid or cryptorchid male cats.
 - d. Queens which are pregnant, lactating or have kitted within the past 12 weeks may not compete.
 - e. A de-clawed cat must be rejected.
 - f. The Veterinary Surgeon (or a Judge) may disqualify from competition any cat or kitten which in their opinion is very under-developed or in very poor condition.
18. During the course of the show, if the official Veterinary Surgeon is not readily available, the Show Manager alone is empowered to take decisions concerning the well-being of the cats.
19. In the case of veterinary rejection the exhibitor will receive a signed rejection slip from the Veterinary Surgeon, also a clearance form which in due course the Exhibitor's own Veterinary Surgeon should complete and return to the Show Manager.

Following rejection either at GCCF or GCCFI shows, a clearance certificate must be sent to the Show Manager and acknowledgement received before the

exhibits may compete at another show under either GCCF or GCCFI rules. In the case of rejection fees will not be refunded.

20. The decision of the Vet is final and not subject to appeal.
21. Exhibits arriving too late for the Veterinary examination may not enter the show and fees will not be refunded.
22. If an exhibit seriously bites or scratches a Veterinary Surgeon, Judge or Steward, the matter must be reported to the Show Manager by the injured party. It is then the duty of the Show Manger to withdraw the exhibit from that show and to notify the owner in writing, while sending a copy to the Secretary GCCFI. If the Exhibit was defending itself in exceptional or frightening circumstances, this information should also be given to the Secretary GCCFI so that it may be reported to the Executive for consideration. If the exhibit is reported for biting or scratching at another show it shall be disqualified from participating at all future shows, both for competition and/or exhibition, unless the Executive rules otherwise.
23. The Show Manager may require any exhibit which shows undue distress for any reason to be withdrawn from the Show. In such a case the exhibit will be disqualified from further competition on the day.
24. A cat that cannot be safely handled (CNH) will be disqualified. A Judge's decision in this matter is final. The Judge is at liberty to request the Show Manager to display a warning notice on the pen.
25.
 - a. The use of grooming aids in the show hall other than the use of a clean brush and comb or cloth is prohibited. No powder or other grooming substances may be left in the coat of an exhibit. The show manager upon being satisfied that this rule has been or is being broken shall disqualify the exhibit concerned from all remaining classes at the show. Awards made prior to disqualification will not be forfeited.
 - b. Any exhibit prepared for show in any artificial manner which changes its appearance relative to the Standard of Points shall be disqualified by the show manager upon receipt of a form signed by the Judge concerned and one other judge who is on the Best in Show panel. The judges should state that in their opinion there had been a breach of this rule. In the event of such a disqualification of an exhibit any person deliberately breaching this rule may be liable to disciplinary action and all awards shall be held in abeyance until the result of such action is decided.
 - c. Such preparation includes the uses of powder, dyes, other colouring matter or whitening or darkening substances, or any oils or greasy preparations, or any other cleaning substances which remain in the exhibit's coat during the show; it includes also trimming, clipping, singeing or rasping down of the fast coat.
 - d. Any treatment, including sedation, causing temporary or permanent change in the normal appearance or physical reaction of the exhibit or any surgery (cosmetic or otherwise) leading to changed appearance or reaction is forbidden.
 - e. The show manager shall at once inform the GCCFI Investigation Panel, via the Secretary, of all relevant details in writing and shall similarly inform the exhibitor concerned that this action has been taken and draw the exhibitor's attention to the provisions of this rule.

f. An alphanumeric identification tattoo in the ear or on the inner thigh shall not be considered a change in the normal appearance of a cat.

g. The use of chemical contraception with veterinary supervision is acceptable in the interests of welfare and is not considered as show preparation. Exhibitors with male cats that have received hormonal injection for contraceptive purposes are advised to have evidence of this with them to show to the Duty Vet should any testicular abnormality be queried.

26. Any complaint arising from the show should be made to the Show Manager on the day. ~~in the form of a signed letter and sent by post to the Show Manager within 7 days of the Show~~ Any complaints made after the show must be submitted on the official complaints form (available on the website) and sent with the fee to the Secretary, who will circulate to the Investigation Panel.
27. During the course of the day no exhibitor, under penalty of disqualification, may approach a Judge until that Judge has completed his/her judging engagement.
28. Except in the case of the Household Pet Section, all items used in the pen must be regulation white and no identifying objects such as toys may be left in the pen until judging has been completed. **Objects identifying the Exhibitor such as business cards or other advertising material may not be left in the vicinity of the pen.** A hot water bottle is permitted and should be concealed in the blanket.
29. Water must be left in the pen at all times, but feeding dishes must be removed before judging commences. Exhibits may be fed during the lunch interval.
30. Exhibitors are requested to point out to the Show Manager at the earliest possible moment, any errors in regard to their own entries which may appear in the Show Catalogue. If pointed out at a reasonable time during the Show, errors which have occurred as typing, printing or other managerial mistakes will be corrected in the judges' books and other relevant paper work. If error cannot be corrected the Show Manager may refund the entry fees on request.
31. **Exhibits may not leave the show until the published closing time. Failing to observe this rule may result in awards being cancelled.**
32. The Governing Council forbids the sale of cats or kittens at shows. Sale arrangements may be made at shows but a quarantine period of 7 days must elapse before a cat or a kitten is released from the Breeder to its new home. This is to protect the welfare of the cat/kitten and the interests of the Breeder and New Owner.
33. **Unacceptable or aggressive behaviour towards any Show Official, Judge, and Steward, Vet, Exhibitor or any other person WILL NOT BE TOLERATED. Any such behaviour will result in the removal of those responsible (and their cats) from the show venue. This behaviour may result in disqualification and/or disciplinary action by the GCCFI.**