

Proposed Changes to the Rules of Registration and Transfer

These proposals have not been initially approved by the NFHR Board of Directors. They are being provided to the NFHR membership for comments. Please comment on which proposal you prefer. You can comment on all 4 or any number of proposals. Send all comments in writing to the NFHR Office by Jun 30, 2022.

Article I, D. In the interest of protecting the genetic purity and the highest standards of the Norwegian Fjord Horse, the NFHR Registrar will withdraw from the Norwegian Fjord Horse Registry any mare or stallion that is used for crossbreeding with another breed or species. Violators may have their membership suspended and may lose all membership privileges including registration, transfer of horses and any voting rights. The names of horses who have been crossbred and their owners will be placed on the suspended list.

1. Proposal from NFHR Breeders Committee

(Note: This proposal includes wording about the signed written statement from the Watness proposal in 2.)

Article I, D. In the interest of protecting the genetic purity and the highest standards of the Norwegian Fjord Horse, the NFHR Registrar will withdraw from the Norwegian Fjord Horse Registry any mare or stallion that is used for crossbreeding with another breed or species.

1. Violators ~~may will~~ will have their membership suspended and **will** lose all membership privileges including registration, transfer of horses and ~~any all~~ voting rights.
2. The ~~names of horses~~ Fjord Horses ~~who have been~~ used for ~~crossbred~~ crossbreeding ~~and their owners will be placed on the suspended list~~ will have their registration revoked.
3. As of the date of revocation, the stallion's or mare's future progeny cannot be registered. The stallion's or mare's progeny registered prior to the revocation will remain registered.
4. Fjord Horses imported from countries whose registry do not prohibit crossbreeding will be allowed to be transferred to the NFHR. The new owner shall verify in a signed written statement that the applicant has made a due diligent effort to verify that the Fjord has not been previously used for cross breeding. All other rules involving importation cited in the NFHR Rules of Registration still apply.
5. Frozen Fjord semen or embryos imported from countries whose registry do not prohibit crossbreeding will be allowed to be permitted by the NFHR. The importer of the semen or embryos shall verify in a signed written statement that the applicant has made a due diligent effort to verify that the Fjord has not been previously used for cross breeding. All other rules involving importation and use of frozen semen or embryos cited in the NFHR Rules of Registration still apply.
6. New owners of a previously revoked Fjord may have the Fjord's registration reinstated by including with the transfer application a signed written statement verifying that the new owner will not use the Fjord for crossbreeding. The new owner cannot be related to the previous owner.
7. Crossbreeding caused by an accident (broken fence, etc) will be handled on a case-by-case basis using the appeal process in Article XI.
8. Except for the cases cited in d, e and f, appeal of all other cases of crossbreeding must use the appeal process in Article XI.

2. Proposal from Eric Watness

January 3, 2022

D. In the interest of protecting the genetic purity and the highest standards of the Norwegian Fjord Horse, the NFHR Registrar will *refuse registration in or* withdraw from the Norwegian Fjord Horse Registry any mare or stallion that is *or has ever been* used for crossbreeding with another breed or species. *Any member applying for registration of a Norwegian Fjord Horse previously registered with any other Registry shall verify in a written statement signed under penalty of perjury that the applicant has made a due diligent effort to verify that the horse has not been previously used for cross breeding. The same statement shall be required when registering any horse produced from semen or ovum of any horse previously registered with another Registry. The Registrar's decision to refuse or withdraw a registration may be appealed to the Board which shall determine whether any horse previously used or descending from a horse used for cross breeding may be registered with the NFHR. Registration shall be conditioned on a requirement that the applicant will not use the horse for crossbreeding after registration.* Violators may have their membership suspended and may lose all membership privileges including registration, transfer of horses and any voting rights. The names of horses who have been crossbred and their owners will be placed on the suspended list *on the Registry.*

(Note: There is not a suspended list, but horses found to have been used in crossbreeding will have their registration revoke. In the pedigree listing, there is no registration number for these horses.)

Email Conversations on Jan 26, 2022

Thank you Curt.

I believe due diligence is a general term of art that means you make a good faith effort to verify; you tried. If there was evidence of cross-breeding shown by advertising or social media and someone registering as horse ignored that evidence, one would conclude that there was not due diligence. You exercise due diligence when you meet and confer as a Board; when you drive your car on a public roadway or make personal investment decisions. There is nothing magical about the phrase.

Penalty of perjury is a promise that whatever is stated is true. You could have it notarized, with a lot of additional hassle of course, to obtain the same formality. Frankly, whether there is a statement under penalty of perjury or not is not a big deal. That requirement could be removed. Every application for registration or transfer has an implied promise that the information is correct. If someone says they are telling the truth when they are not, the representation is not only false but misleading. There are consequences for lying. If an application for registration of a horse misrepresented its progeny or the true names of breeders or owners or the date of birth or date of transfer, the registration should be denied. It is false and misleading. Otherwise the reliability of the registration is ruined. If the NFHR is going to keep records, they need to be correct. As you can see this goes beyond crossbreeding to touch every aspect of registration.

3. Proposal from Sarah Clarke

January 24, 2022

Why Rule of Registration Article 1D should be deleted, instead of rewritten.

It is inconsistent with the vast majority of other worldwide fjord registries, especially the Canadian Fjord registry. (This is one of the reasons that the recent import controversy arose)

It does not seem to be a deterrent, as there are a large numbers of fjord crosses being displayed on the internet.

It is inconsistently enforced. In order to “ban” a fjord and its owner, the registrar must become aware do the situation.

This either happens due to self-reporting, Facebook posts or because a 3rd party wishes to report malfeasance.

Adjudication of cross breeding and exceptions and requests has taken a disproportionate amount of this volunteer boards resources over the last year.

It is not required to protect the pureness of the breed in an era where DNA testing ensures only 100% pure Fjords will be registered.

It puts the board members at risk for lawsuits if a member has lost their membership for what is perceived as an arbitrary decision which results in loss of income.

Some breeders have decided to register their horses with the CFHR due to the negative perception that the cross breeding rule creates. Or those who wish to maintain both pure and cross bred stock need only to register them with CFHR.

A paradoxical result of withdrawing purebred horses used for crossbreeding from the registry is a narrowing of the genepool. In an already constricted gene pool we do not need to lose individual animals and all their subsequent progeny, because of the crossbreeding rule.

The mission statement of the NFHR uses words like “support” “promote” encourage”.. I believe that the negative, punitive, spirit of Article 1D is actually contrary to the spirit of the mission statement.

Rules of Registration: Article 1D states

In the interest of protecting the genetic purity and the highest standards of the Norwegian Fjord Horse, the NFHR Registrar will withdraw from the Norwegian Fjord Horse Registry any mare or stallion that is used for crossbreeding with another breed or species. Violators may have their membership suspended and may lose all membership privileges including registration, transfer of horses and any voting rights. The names of horses who have been crossbred and their owners will be placed on the suspended list.

NFHR Mission and Vision Statement

THE NORWEGIAN FJORD HORSE REGISTRY

MISSION: The Mission of the NFHR is to register and preserve the genetic purity of the Norwegian Fjord Horse and will include education and the promotion of the breed.

VISION: The NFHR aspires to serve its membership by maintaining a sustainable organization and by supporting and promoting the breed.

GOALS:

To maintain a Registry Database for Norwegian Fjord Horses to preserve their purity and original type in North America.

To develop educational programs that encourage versatility of the Fjord horse while maintaining humane and ethical horse management.

To encourage the membership to participate in accurate recording of Fjord horses including birth, death, transfers, progeny and status changes.

To undertake activities designed to increase public awareness of the breed and its ability to perform across the full range of equine disciplines.