4 - Excluded Breeds

The exhibition in the Novice Class is not permitted for the following established breeds, except where an explicit exception under this rule applies:

a) Shorthair:
Abyssinian, American Curl, Bengal, Bombay, British Shorthair, Chartreux, Cornish Rex, Devon Rex, Egyptian Mau, Munchkin SH, European Burmese, Exotic Shorthair, LaPerm, Ocicat, Russian Blue, Scottish Fold/Straight, Selkirk Rex, Singapura, Snowshoe, Toyger

b) Semi-Longhair:
Cashmere, Sacred Birman, Maine Coon, Munchkin LH, Nebelung, Norwegian Forest Cat, Ragdoll, Somali, Turkish Angora, Turkish Van

c) Longhair:
British Longhair, Highland Fold/Straight, Original Longhair, Persian, Selkirk Rex Longhair

d) Siamese/Oriental:
Foreign White SH/LH, Oriental Shorthair, Siamese, Siamese Longhair (Balinese), Tonkinese

e) Hairless:
Don Sphynx, Canadian Sphynx, Peterbald

5 – Permitted Breeds

Explicit Novice-eligible natural/open-gene-pool populations:
The following breeds or populations may be presented in the Novice Class when the cat originates from the recognized natural/indigenous population or from the regionally managed gene pool for which Novice admission is intended:

Arabian Mau, Aphrodite's Giant SH/LH, Brazilian Shorthair, Ceylon, Celtic/European SH, German Rex, Kanaani, Khao Manee, Karelian BobtailSH/LH, Kurilian Bobtail SH/LH, Korat, Mekong Bobtal, Siberian, Suphalak, Thai (Wichien Maat)*, Transylvanian, Ural Rex

*Thai (Wichien Maat) is explicitly eligible and is therefore not included in the exclusion list.

Burmese foundation cats originating from the Southeast Asian region (Thailand or Myanmar) may be admitted only with prior approval of the competent Judges and Pedigree Registration Commission for a defined foundation or breed-development purpose. This does not create general Novice eligibility for European Burmese or established closed Burmese breeding populations.

The list is exhaustive for ordinary Novice admission. A breed not listed there does not become eligible merely because it has a historical or geographical country of origin.

6 - Exceptions

a) Outcross Cases

In the case of an outcross for which no established registration pathway exists, a written request must be submitted to the Judges' Commission at least four (4) weeks prior to the exhibition.

If the request is approved, the cat may be presented once in the Novice Class. A written explanation of the outcross must be provided to the judges.

As a general principle, cats resulting from outcrosses should be evaluated through the Novice Class procedure.

This procedure does not apply to clearly defined "sister breeds" (e.g. PER/EXO, BLH/BRI/SFS/SFL, CAM/BEN, RUS/NEB, SRL/SRS), where standard registration pathways are available.

For an established or closed breed, this exception may be used only for a specifically approved outcross or breed-development programme. The approval must relate to a defined breeding purpose and may not be used as a general route for paperless cats of an established breed.

b) Correction of incorrectly issued Pedigrees

In exceptional cases where a cat already has a registered pedigree (e.g. LO), but this pedigree was issued incorrectly due to a serious administrative error (e.g. incorrect breed, colour, status, or parentage), and the issue can no longer be clarified or corrected through cooperation between the involved clubs, the following procedure may apply:

With prior approval of the Judges' Commission, the cat may be presented once in the Novice Class in order to reset its registration and allow the issuance of a new RIEX 0 pedigree.

This provision is strictly limited to cases of evident and substantial administrative errors and must not be used as a means to bypass existing rules or breeding restrictions.

This exception applies only if:
• no restrictions are recorded on the pedigree; and
• the pedigree has not been formally blocked by the issuing club.

c) Disputed, invalidated or unverified Pedigrees
The Novice Class shall not be used to bypass a pedigree or breeding restriction imposed by another recognized feline registry. A pedigree that has been formally declared invalid or deemed unreliable shall not be directly converted, transferred or restored through the Novice procedure.

Any exceptional case involving such documents requires individual review and prior approval by the competent Judges and Pedigree Registration Commission. Information from a disputed or invalidated pedigree may be carried forward only where it can be independently verified.

d) Documents from non-affiliated or non-recognized organizations
Documents issued by a non-affiliated or non-recognized organization may be submitted as supporting information, but their submission does not constitute WCF recognition or acceptance of that pedigree and does not by itself create eligibility for the Novice Class. Recognition of pedigrees remains subject to the applicable WCF rules.

7 - Relation to Breed Exclusions

These exceptions are intended to resolve specific and justified cases and do not generally override the exclusion of certain breeds from the Novice Class.
However, in clearly justified cases of erroneous pedigree issuance, the Judges' Commission may decide on an individual basis whether the procedure can be applied.
The explicit eligibility provisions in paragraph 5, and an individually approved outcross or breed-development programme under paragraph 6.a), are recognized exceptions to the general breed exclusions.