COI policy template, one page

Five decisions for your registry's board · version 1.0 · 2026-11-04

COI policy

Registry or club: _____ **Adopted on:** ____ / ____ / _____

Approved by: the board, minute or motion no. _____ **Next review:** ____ / ____ / _____

Policy owner (role, not name): _____

A coefficient of inbreeding (COI) depends on choices, and two correct calculations can disagree. This policy records the choices your registry has made, so every officer reads a COI the same way.

1. Depth

Generations counted: ____ (or: every generation on record). Print the depth next to every COI: the same animal can show a different COI at three, four and five generations, and every figure is correct.

2. Missing ancestors

Shown with each COI: ☐ pedigree completeness beside every COI ☐ a note when the pedigree is shorter than ____ generations ☐ other: _____

A pedigree COI is an estimate from the ancestry recorded: missing generations can hide shared ancestry and make it too low.

3. Lab and genomic results

Genomic COI: ☐ not recorded ☐ recorded, with the laboratory and test named

Keep the two apart: never average them, and never compare one animal's pedigree COI with another's genomic result.

4. Visibility

COI is visible to: ☐ the public ☐ members ☐ officers and the registrar only

5. Use

COI is: ☐ information only ☐ part of a rule: _____

This rule is changed by: ☐ the board ☐ a vote of members ☐ other: _____

For a proposed pairing, use the expected COI of the offspring, calculated from both parents' pedigrees. Never average the parents' own COIs.

If a breed average is used: depth ____ generations; reference population _____; calculated on ____ / ____ / _____

Why this template sets no target

Breeds start from different places, so one universal COI cutoff does not travel well between them. The Royal Kennel Club's advice: "produce puppies with an inbreeding coefficient which is at, or below, the breed average" where possible, and ideally as low as possible (Royal Kennel Club, Inbreeding calculators, read 2026-11-03). Record the depth, the reference population and the date, so a breed average is compared like for like. The full template has the guidance and example wording for each decision.

Work out an expected COI with the free COI calculator.
