



Statutes  
of the  
Verband der Züchter  
des Holsteiner Pferdes e. V.



## T A B L E O F C O N T E N T S

			<b>page</b>
<b>I. Constitution</b>	<b>A. General</b>	§ 1 Name, Registered Office, Legal Nature	1
		§ 2 Scope of Function	1
		§ 3 Area of Activity	2
	<b>B. Membership</b>	§ 4 Members	3
		§ 5 Acquiring Membership	3
		§ 6 Termination of Membership	4
		§ 7 Members' Rights	4
		§ 8 a Obligations of Members	5
		§ 8 b Rights and Obligations of the Association	6
		<b>C. Bodies of the Association</b>	§ 9 Bodies
	§ 10 Board of Directions		8
	§ 10a Advisory Board		10
	§ 11 Assembly of Delegates		10
	<b>D. Breeding Committee, Stallion Owners' Delegation and Breeding Committees</b>		§ 12 Area of Activity
		§ 13 Breeding Committee/Stallion Owners' Delegation	13
		§ 14 Stallion Licensing Committee/ Objection Committee	14
		§ 15 Inspection and Registration Committee	17
		<b>E. Data protection</b>	§ 16 Data Protection
<b>F. Management</b>	§ 17 Managing Directors		19
	§ 18 Invoice and Cash Auditing	20	



	<b>G. Arbitration</b>	§ 19	Arbitration	20
	<b>H. Dissolution</b>	§ 20	Dissolution	22
<b>II. Breeding Programme</b>		§ 21	Preamble	23
		§ 22	Breeding Goal	24
	<b>I. External Appearance</b>			24
	<b>II. Movement</b>			25
	<b>III. Inner Traits/ Performance Aptitude/ Health</b>			26
	<b>IV. Summary</b>			26
		§ 23	Traits of the Breed and Breeding Methods	27
		§ 24	Limits on the Use of Stallions	29
		§ 25	Registration of Horses from Other Breeding Populations	29
		§ 26	Selection Criteria	30
		§ 27	Foal Inspections	35
		§ 28	Awards for Mares	36
		§ 29	Licensing of Stallions	37
		§ 30	Structure of the Breed Registry	41
		§ 31	Registration of Stallions	42
		§ 32	Artificial Insemination	45
		§ 33	Embryo Transfer and Clones	46
		§ 34	Breeding Value Estimation	47
		§ 35	Registration of Mares	48
		§ 36	Mare Family/Stem Register	53
		§ 37	Amendments to Breed Registry Entries	53



		<b>page</b>
§ 38	Obligations of the Breeder	53
§ 39	Obligations of the Stallion Owner/ Keeper	54
§ 40	Breed Registry	54
§ 41	Stallion Service Report/ Covering Certificate	56
§ 42	Foal/No Foal Report	56
§ 43	Animal Breeding Certificate	57
§ 44	Pedigree Certificate	58
§ 45	Certificate of Registration	59
§ 46	Conditions for the Issue of Breeding Certificates	61
§ 47	Amendment of Breeding Dates	61
§ 48	Change of Ownership	61
§ 49	Identification	61
§ 50	Registration Number (Life Number)	62
§ 51	Registration Name	62
§ 52	Branding Rules	63
§ 53	DNA/ Blood Group Serological Par- entage Verification	63
<b>Final Provisions</b>		<b>65</b>





## **I. Constitution**

### **A. General**

#### **Section 1**

##### **NAME, REGISTERED OFFICE, LEGAL NATURE**

1. The association uses the name "Verband der Züchter des Holsteiner Pferdes e. V." [Association of Holsteiner Breeders] (hereinafter referred to as the "Verband") and has its registered office in Elmshorn.
2. The Verband is entered in the register of associations at Pinneberg Local Court under No. 691 EL.
3. The Verband is a breeders' organisation in the sense of the TierZG [German Animal Breeding Act] and is recognised by the competent authority in the state of Schleswig-Holstein.

#### **Section 2**

##### **SCOPE OF FUNCTION**

1. The Verband's function is to promote public interest in the Holsteiner breed and to encourage the breeding, keeping and sale of the Holsteiner through advice and practical support.
2. We fulfil this function in particular by:
  - 2.1. designing and implementing a breeding programme in accordance with our articles of association
  - 2.2. maintaining a studbook on the breed origin of the Holsteiner warmblood horse according to a breeding programme put together in accordance with these articles of association
  - 2.3. advising all our members on matters relating to the breeding and keeping of the Holsteiner
  - 2.4. keeping of stallions for breeding/insemination purposes
  - 2.5. carrying out licensing, performance tests, breeding value estimations, breeding shows and marketing events
  - 2.6. promoting the sale of breeding and sport horses, especially through auctions and marketing campaigns for the Holsteiner, among other things by running a tournament stable and via specialised media
  - 2.7. encouraging the next generation of breeders
  - 2.8. promoting and complying with animal welfare according to animal welfare law

### Section 3

#### AREA OF ACTIVITY

1. The geographical territory of activity in accordance with Annex I part 2 subparagraph 1 e) of the EU Animal Breeding Regulation covers the Federal Republic of Germany as well as the EU member states Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxemburg, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Sweden, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, and the United Kingdom.

Beyond that the Verband may act all across the world provided the respective legal guidelines are complied with.

- 1.2 The area of activity is divided into the core breeding area and the extended breeding area.

- 1.2.1 The core breeding area covers the state of Schleswig-Holstein as well as the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg in its region north of the Elbe. It is divided into eleven breeding districts, namely Bordesholm, Schleswig-Flensburg, Nordfriesland, Dithmarschen, Rendsburg-Eckernförde, Plön, Ostholstein, Segeberg, Stormarn-Lauenburg, Steinburg and Pinneberg.

No breeding district has been formed for the Hamburg state territory; Hamburg-based breeders are listed as members in the adjacent breeding districts.

- 1.2.2 The extended breeding area is divided into two breeding districts, Europe and North America.

The breeding district Europe covers the rest of the Federal Republic of Germany and the states listed under Section 3, sub-section 1, as well as Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Chile, Columbia, Monaco, Norway, Peru, Russia, Switzerland, South Africa, Turkey, Ukraine and the United Arab Emirates.

The breeding district North America covers the territory of Canada, Mexico, and the United States of America.

The scope of activity for members depends on the resolutions of the delegate assembly.

- 1.3 The breeding districts are legally dependent subdivisions.

2. Annual general meetings are carried out in the breeding districts (Section 7) where delegates (Section 11) are elected. In addition, an informative annual general meeting for all Verband members is held. The latter is to be announced on the official Verband website.

## **B. Membership**

### **Section 4**

#### **MEMBERS**

1. The Verband has full members,  
temporary members  
and honorary members.
- 1.1 A full member may be any natural person, private corporation or legal entity which makes a written application to the Verband and fulfils the requirements of the TierZG in its current version and acknowledges the Verband's articles of association in its current version.
- 1.2 A temporary member may be any natural person, private corporation or legal entity which makes a written application to the Verband and fulfils the requirements of the TierZG in its current version and acknowledges the Verband's articles of association in its current version. A temporary member has all the rights and obligations of a full member for the period of one year from the day of the board of directors' acceptance resolution according to Section 5 of these articles of association.
- 1.3 A temporary member may switch to full membership (sub-section 1.1) at any time by submitting a written declaration to the board of directors. In such cases there shall be no requirement for the board of directors to make a new decision according to Section 5 of these articles of association.
- 1.4 Members are assigned to a breeding area according to their place of business.
- 1.5 Private corporations (breeding communities) may be formed from up to two Verband members (sub-section 1), of which one must be nominated to the Verband as authorised for sole representation, and to which declarations may be issued with effect against both.
- 1.6 Persons who have particularly promoted the Verband may be named honorary members by the delegate assembly at the suggestion of the board of directors; an honorary member who has already occupied the position of chair may be named honorary chair in the same way; honorary members or chairs are released from paying contributions.
2. Membership is not hereditary, but may be transferred in the event of legal succession to a natural person's (1.1) breeding establishment.
3. The Verband generally only acts on behalf of members. In justified individual cases, the Verband is also entitled to act on behalf of non-members according to a decision by its board of directors.

### **Section 5**

#### **ACQUIRING MEMBERSHIP**

The board of directors shall decide whether to accept membership applications; if this application is rejected, it is possible to appeal to the delegate assembly.

## Section 6

### TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP

Membership shall expire:

1. if the member declares that they are leaving, which is only possible at the end of the financial year and must be done with a notice period of three months by means of a written letter to the Verband,
2. by death
3. by expulsion for good cause, especially if a member knowingly gives false information in or for breeding records, fails to comply with animal welfare requirements, breaches the articles of association or is in default on its payments to the Verband for longer than three months.

If the expulsion of a member is planned for reasons other than default on payment, the board of directors must consult the member in question beforehand, providing the reason for expulsion.

Expulsion will be declared by the board of directors and the member informed of it by written letter. The affected member may lodge an appeal against this decision within one month, to be decided on by the delegate assembly.

Expelled members must pay the full amount for the current financial year.

4. Members who have left shall have no claim to the Verband's assets.
5. The Verband's claims against ex-members shall remain in place after membership expires.
6. Stud book maintenance for registered horses belonging to members who have left or been expelled shall remain dormant until notice is given that ownership of these horses has been transferred to a current member.
7. Temporary memberships shall end when a year has passed since the day of the board of directors' acceptance resolution according to Section 5 of these articles of association.

## Section 7

### MEMBERS' RIGHTS

1. Members are entitled to use the Verband's facilities and services, as long as they are not in default on their payment obligations.
2. Members are entitled to vote at meetings once they have reached the age of sixteen.
- 2.1 In the core breeding area general meetings shall take place in the individual breeding districts, whereby members with their main place of residence/registered office within the city of Hamburg - north of the Elbe - shall vote in one of the adjacent breeding districts.

Version July 2020

- 2.2 Generally, in the extended breeding area, the meeting of the breeding district Europe shall take place in Schleswig-Holstein and the meeting of the breeding district North America in Schleswig-Holstein or the USA. Exceptions are possible in individual cases. The specific location of the meeting is chosen by the Verband's board of directors.
- 2.3 Meetings should be carried out at least once a year (in the first quarter).
- Members shall be invited through publication on the official Verband website at least two weeks prior to the date of the meeting.
- 2.4 Each general meeting is always competent regardless of the number of members appearing; resolutions shall require a simple majority of the votes submitted. Abstentions from voting shall be considered as non-declared votes. Group elections are permissible following an unanimous resolution passed by the members.
- 2.5 Delegates and their deputies, as well as a chair and his or her deputy and two assessors shall be elected in each district for a term of four years.
- The resolutions of the general meeting must be minuted and the minutes signed by the chair.

### **Section 8 a**

#### **OBLIGATIONS OF MEMBERS**

Members are obliged

1. to follow the articles of association and the resolutions of the bodies of the Verband,
2. to support the Verband at all times in pursuing its objectives according to these articles of association and on request to provide information, allow pedigree checks and to bear the costs and reimburse any damages incurred due to incorrect information,
3. to inform the Verband immediately of all changes (purchase, loss or sale of breeding horses, change of residence/registered office or similar) for data collection purposes,
4. to pay a regular contribution as well as fees levied for individual activities, as decided by the delegate assembly on the basis of the costs covering principle, meaning that services in the extended breeding area may be associated with higher fees due to the greater expenses associated with them,
5. to grant the Verband if a corresponding delegate resolution is passed an interest-free loan (of up to €300) which cannot be terminated during membership and shall fall due for repayment not less than three months after membership expires, if it has not already been offset against existing liabilities,
6. to pay an acceptance fee of €300 instead of a loan if the member joined on or after 01/01/2015, as a contribution to the running and further development of the Verband's facilities,
7. to pay an acceptance fee of €75 if the member joined as a temporary member, as a contribution to the running and further development of the Verband's facilities,

8. to pay a further acceptance fee of €225 on conversion of a temporary membership into a full membership according to Section 4 sub-section 1.3 of these articles of association, as a contribution to the running and further development of the Verband's facilities,
9. to pay levies if a corresponding delegate resolution is made so that the Verband can achieve particular goals.
10. So that we can process health indicators, we ask members to provide health data on their horses for the establishment of a database. Veterinarians will therefore deliver health data collected from you for central storage and processing. This information will be prepared for use in breeding and management with the help of recognised scientific methods. Members shall tolerate the use and publication of information from DNA parentage verification (blood/hair) for scientifically recognised methods of breeding value estimation. The breeding association is entitled to use the DNA provided (blood/hair) for analyses and to publish the results of these analyses.

### **Section 8 b**

#### **RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF THE ASSOCIATION**

The Association shall be:

1. responsible for the proper and statutory implementation of the breeding programme, the correct and thorough recording of pedigree and performance data, the proper keeping of breeding records, performance testing and genetic evaluation as well as for the legally compliant identification of the horses registered in its studbooks.
2. obliged to comply with data protection regulations and to only share data with third parties provided that it is necessary for the statutory implementation of the breeding programme.
3. entitled to terminate contracts for participation in the breeding programme or to expel breeders from the Breeding Association who fail to comply with the articles of association or who fail to fulfil their obligations in accordance with the articles of association.
4. obliged to settle disputes in accordance with Section 19 of the articles of association which arise between breeders or between breeders and the Verband, in implementing the approved breeding programme.
5. obliged to work in such a way that the rights of employees are observed while ensuring fair treatment of all employees.
6. obliged to maintain breeding documentation for at least 10 years provided no other statutory provisions exist.
7. obliged to allow, on request, all regular members in the branch, to view the contractual regulations with third parties, provided that their breeding interests are concerned and the data protection interests of third parties are not violated.

Version July 2020

8. entitled to collaborate with other breeding associations in the field of genetic evaluation, taking into account statutory animal breeding provisions. It shall also be entitled to cooperate with other agencies or third party service providers or to include them in the fulfilment of its duties, provided that it deems this necessary to ensure the performance of its statutory duties.
9. obliged to publish the principles of the breeding programme, for which it keeps the studbook, on the Association's website and to update it in the event of amendments.

## **C. Bodies of the association**

### **Section 9**

#### **BODIES**

The bodies of the association are

- the board of directors,
- the delegate assembly and
- the advisory board

All work for the Verband not carried out on the basis of an employment contract shall be voluntary.

### **Section 10**

#### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

1. The board of directors is elected by the delegate assembly. It comprises a total of five members, the chairperson, the deputy chairperson and three other members.

A member can only become a member of the board of directors if they have been elected by the members of a breeding district receiving more than 50 % of the vote and is nominated for this position via its chair.

At least one member of the board is to be nominated by the breeding district Europe.

2. The members of the board of directors should be elected for three years each, calculated from the day of the election. Each elected board member shall remain in office until the next election.

Justified exceptions may be made to the three-year term of office. Such exceptions include for example the previous resignation of individual board members or the whole board.

In the interest of continuity, unless in case of justified exceptions as mentioned above, members of the board of directors should also not be elected at the same time, but rather at the following intervals: After only the chairperson and one other member have been elected in a given year, the deputy chairperson and one other member shall be elected in the following year, and the remaining member in the year after that.

3. The chair shall convene the delegate assembly as well as the meetings of the board of directors, the breeding committee and the stallion owners' delegation and shall chair each of these meetings.
4. The board of directors is responsible for all matters which do not explicitly fall within the remit of the delegate assembly.

The board of directors must in particular

- 4.1. make suggestions to the delegate assembly for the appointment of committee and commission members, after consulting with the chairs of the breeding districts.



Version July 2020

- 4.2. make suggestions to the delegate assembly on the amount of contributions and fees.
- 4.3. prepare the annual financial statement.
- 4.4. manage the Verband's assets.
- 4.5. make decisions on staff matters.
- 4.6. decide according to the breeding committee's suggestion on the registering of stallions on breeding trial (Section 31 sub-sections 1.8, 1.9 and 1.10).
- 4.7. to set out the time, location and methods for licensing, inspections and premium awards, breed shows, performance tests, estimation of breeding values, registration of stallions into the stallion book, and other presentations and to govern participation in external events.
- 4.8. to appoint judges for all breed events.
- 4.9. to decide on acceptance and expulsion of members.
- 4.10. implement and protect the Good Governance Guidelines (see [www.holsteiner-verband.de](http://www.holsteiner-verband.de) at the bottom of the home page)
5. The board of directors is competent if at least three of its members are present. It shall decide with a simple majority; if the votes are tied, the object of negotiation shall be rejected. Abstaining from voting shall be considered as having cast no vote.

Minutes must be made of every meeting.

6. Each member of the board of directors may be dismissed by the delegate assembly before his or her term of office has expired with a two-thirds majority of submitted votes.
7. The members of the board of directors are remunerated for their activities according to the delegate assembly's resolution.

Moreover, the members of the board are entitled to claim reimbursement for expenses incurred while performing duties for the society. This includes in particular travel costs and expenses, postal charges, telephone, copying and printing costs. The members of the board are obliged to adhere to the principle of economy.

If a member of the board of directors is obliged to provide compensation to a third party for damage caused in the course of his or her duties as a member of the board of directors, he or she may request that the Verband release him or her from the liability, unless he or she caused the damage intentionally or through gross negligence.

8. The chair and the deputy chair are authorised to represent the entire board in the sense of Section 26 BGB [German Civil Code].

**Section 10 a**

**ADVISORY BOARD**

1. The advisory board should provide the board of directors with external expert advice on pursuing the purposes set out in these articles of association. It shall be composed of up to five advisory board members who work or worked in the fields of economics, finance, politics and/or media. The members of the advisory board shall carry out their role on a voluntary basis.
2. The board of directors has the right to propose members of the advisory board. The chairs of the breeding districts may, however, make proposals to the board of directors for possible advisory board members at least four weeks before the date of the delegate assembly. The board of directors must discuss these proposals before the delegate assembly. The members of the board of directors will then be confirmed for a term of three years by a simple majority of the delegate assembly at the proposal of the board of directors. The advisory board shall elect its own chair.
3. Each member of the advisory board may resign from his or her position early without giving reasons by means of a written declaration to the board of directors. He or she must take the interests of the Verband into account here and should comply with a notice period of six months.
4. Each member of the advisory board may be dismissed by a resolution of the board of directors if there is good cause to do so.
5. If members of the advisory board leave during their term of office, the advisory board shall consist only of the remaining members until the next ordinary delegate assembly where their replacements are elected.
6. A meeting of the advisory board should take place at least twice a year, led by the chair of the advisory board. The meeting shall be convened by the chair in writing with a notice period of at least three weeks, and the agenda sent out. All members of the board of directors have access to the meetings of the advisory board, and the same applies to the breeding directors/managing directors (Section 17 sub-section 1) as well as the managing directors of both limited liability companies (Section 17 sub-section 2.1 and Section 17 sub-section 2.2). The members of the board of directors must be informed of the meetings of the advisory board.

**Section 11**

**ASSEMBLY OF DELEGATES**

1. The delegate assembly is the Verband's general meeting in the sense of the Bürgerliches Gesetzbuch (BGB). It is as such the highest body of the Verband.

It is composed of the board of directors, the chairs of the breeding districts and the delegates.

The chairs of the breeding districts are the - born - first delegates.

The other delegates are elected in the individual breeding districts.

Each seventy registered breeding horses in all breeding districts shall entitle them to elect a delegate.

Each breeding district must elect at least three delegates.

The breeding district meeting may also elect deputies up to the total number of delegates elected, who will represent absent delegates and exercise their rights.

The number of delegates to be elected depends for the whole election period on the number of breeding horses updated by the Verband on 1 January of the relevant election year.

The delegates are elected on a free choice principle from the members of the particular breeding district.

As of 2022, a different rule applies for the election of delegates in the breeding district Europe in the extended breeding area. One delegate is to be elected from each of the following fifteen areas, respectively: North Rhine-Westfalia/Rhineland-Palatinate/Saarland; Lower Saxony/Bremen; Baden-Württemberg; Hesse; Bavaria; Berlin/Brandenburg/Mecklenburg-West Pomerania; Saxony/Saxony-Anhalt/Thuringia; Denmark; the Netherlands; Belgium/Luxembourg; Poland; Switzerland; Italy/France; Austria/Hungary/Czech Republic/Slovakia; Sweden. The other delegates of the breeding district Europe are elected on a free choice principle from the members of the breeding district.

2. The delegate assembly shall be called by the chair as needed, but at least twice a year. It must be announced at least six weeks before the date of the meeting on the official Verband website. Delegates' applications must reach the Verband board of directors at least four weeks before the date of the delegate assembly. These applications shall be sent out to the delegates along with the official invitation and the agenda at least two weeks before the date of the meeting. They can be forwarded either by post or fax or email provided that the delegates have provided the Verband with their fax number or email address to this purpose. Applications received later can only be decided on if they would not change the articles of association and delegates agree with at least three-quarters of submitted votes.
3. The first delegate assembly must take place in the first six months of the calendar year.
4. The delegate assembly is responsible for:
  - 4.1. changing the articles of association, consisting of I. constitution and II. breeding programme for which a majority of three-quarters of the votes of the present members of the delegate assembly is required.
  - 4.2. electing the chair and members of the board of directors.
  - 4.3. pursuing legal claims against members of the board of directors.
  - 4.4. dismissing the members of the board of directors from their posts with a two-thirds majority of submitted votes.
  - 4.5. approving the purchase, sale and encumbrance of real estate.

- 4.6. approving contracts with other breeding and marketing organisations which establish mutual obligations for the Verband.
- 4.7. setting the contributions and fees, member loans and levies. appointing two cash auditors for a term of two years.
- 4.8. releasing the board of directors in relation to its activities in the previous financial year.
- 4.9. deciding on all complaints made against the board of directors' rules of procedure.
- 4.10. nominating and expelling honorary members at the board of directors' request.
- 4.11. electing five full and five deputy members of the stallion licensing committee, as well as four members and replacement members of the objection committee based on suggestions from the board of directors and the breeding districts, represented by their chairs as well as the stallion owners' delegation.  
  
electing up to twenty-seven full members of the inspection and registration committee based on suggestions from the board of directors and the breeding districts, represented by their chairs.
- 4.12. approving of the Good Governance Guidelines drawn up by the board of directors (see [www.holsteiner-verband.de](http://www.holsteiner-verband.de) – bottom of the home page).
- 5.1 The delegate assembly should be called by the chair if at least 20% of delegates make a written application.
- 5.2 The delegate assembly shall be competent if at least half of delegates are present. The resolutions should be minuted; the minutes must be signed by the chair.  
  
The decisions of the delegate assembly shall generally be made by a majority of submitted votes, unless another method has been decided upon.  
  
Abstentions from voting shall be considered as non-declared votes.  
  
If the first vote on the election of persons does not yield an absolute majority, the two persons shortlisted shall be those with the most votes; if the votes are even, appointment shall be decided by lot.  
  
Other than individual elections, group elections are permissible following an unanimous resolution passed by the members.
- 5.3 A delegate who does not attend the delgate assembly and will not be represented by a deputy, may transfer his voting rights by appointing another delegate from the same breeding district as a proxy. A proxy may act for one delegate at most. For the proxy to become valid, the chairperson must have received an authorization signed by the represented identifying the proxy as an original by mail, by fax or by e-mail as PDF by the beginning of the delegate assembly.

## **D. Breeding committee, stallion owners' delegation and breeding committees**

### **Section 12**

#### **AREA OF ACTIVITY**

The Verband shall maintain

- a breeding committee
- a stallion owners' delegation
- a stallion licensing committee as well as an objection committee relating to this
- an inspection and registration committee

### **Section 13**

#### **BREEDING COMMITTEE/STALLION OWNERS' DELEGATION**

##### **I. Breeding committee**

1. The breeding committee consists of:
  - the chair of the Verband
  - two members of the board of directors
  - four representatives from the stallion licensing committee
  - one representative from the objection committee
  - two representatives from the inspection and registration committee
  - the managing director/breeding director
2. The committees and the board of directors shall appoint their representatives in the breeding committee by a vote with a simple majority of votes.
3. The chair may in individual cases bring in expert advisers for the meetings of the breeding committee.
4. The breeding committee is responsible for advising the board of directors on all breeding matters, and may invite external experts on particular questions of fact. The breeding committee is competent if at least half of its members are present and shall decide with a simple majority.

##### **II. Stallion owners' delegation**

1. The stallion owners' delegation consists of
  - a) members who own at least one of the stallions activated in the Verband's breeding records in Stallion Book I as well as the managing director of the Verband stallion keeping GmbH (Section 17 sub-section 2.1).
  - b) the chair or another member of the board of directors.
  - c) the managing director/breeding director.

2. The stallion owners' delegation may make applications to the breeding committee regarding breeding matters and to board of directors regarding other matters.
3. Votes among the members under 1. a) shall be carried with a simple majority of submitted votes; each meeting shall be competent. The chair shall invite members in writing with a notice period of at least two weeks.
4. The stallion owners' delegation shall make three suggestions to the delegate assembly for the appointment of members of the licensing and objection committees.

#### **Section 14**

##### **STALLION LICENSING COMMITTEE/OBJECTION COMMITTEE**

1. The stallion licensing committee consists of five full committee members, specifically:
  - a) three members of the Verband
  - b) one member of the Verband from the stallion owners' delegation
  - c) one successful competitive rider, who need not be a member of the Verband

and the breeding director.

A replacement member shall be elected for each full member (a. - c.).

- 1.1 The delegate assembly shall appoint the full and replacement members.

On a)

The nominations used as a basis shall be made by the board of directors and the breeding districts, represented by their chairs.

On b)

The nominations used as a basis shall be made by the stallion owners' delegation.

On c)

The nominations used as a basis shall be made by the board of directors and the breeding districts, represented by their chairs.

The five people who receive the most votes in the relevant individual vote shall be appointed as full members. The replacement members shall be the candidates with the next-highest number of votes.

In the interests of the stallion licensing committee's ongoing work, its members and corresponding replacement members shall not be elected at the same time, but rather at the following intervals:

On a)

A first breeders' representative (Verband member) shall be elected for four years, and the other breeders' representatives (Verband members) shall be elected after two years for four years.

On b)

A representative for stallion owners shall be elected at the same time as the other breeders' representatives after two years for four years.

Version July 2020

On c)

A competitive rider shall be elected at the same time as the first breeders' representative for four years.

The full members shall elect from among them a chair and his or her representative.

1.2 The committee members must decide exclusively on the basis of factual and professional considerations and must be independent in their decision-making and not bound by instructions.

1.3 The term of office of the members elected in this way shall be four years. A member may be newly elected or re-elected until he or she reaches the age of sixty-five.

1.4 The committee is competent when at least three members (including the breeding director, in case of on-farm licensing two members at least) are present.

If the votes are tied, the vote of the chair, or if necessary his or her deputy, shall be decisive.

1.5 A committee member has a conflict of interest if and when a horse which he or she bred, reared, prepared for licensing or owns is presented for assessment; this is also true if these reasons for expulsion apply to spouses, life partners and offspring.

In such a case, a replacement member shall participate, or the replacement member under 1a. is exchangeable.

2. Objections against a licensing decision (Section 29 sub-section 4.6) shall be decided on by an objection committee, consisting of four full members and the breeding director. The breeding director has no right to vote:

- a) two Verband members from the Verband's jurisdiction according to these articles of association
- b) one Verband member from the stallion owners' delegation
- c) one expert, who need not be a member of the Verband.

A replacement member shall be appointed for every full member.

The four full members and the replacement members shall be chosen by the delegate assembly.

On a)

The nominations used as a basis shall be made by the board of directors and the breeding districts, represented by their chairs

On b)

The nominations used as a basis shall be made by the stallion owners' delegation

On c)

The nominations used as a basis shall be made by the board of directors and the breeding districts, represented by their chairs

The four people who receive the most votes in the relevant individual vote shall be appointed as full members. The replacement members shall be the candidates with the next-highest number of votes.

In the interests of the objection committee's ongoing work, its members and corresponding replacement members shall not be elected at the same time, but rather at the following intervals:

On a)

A first breeders' representative (Verband member) shall be elected for four years, and the other breeders' representatives (Verband member) shall be elected after two years for four years.

On b)

A representative for the stallion owners shall be elected at the same time as the other breeders' representatives after two years for four years.

On c)

An expert shall be elected at the same time as the first breeders' representative for four years.

- 2.1 The full members shall elect from among them a chair and his or her representative. The chair should come from area a) (member of the Verband/breeder).
- 2.2 The breeding director shall set the date for the meeting and if necessary the representation of the stallion and shall issue the invitations.
- 2.3 The objection committee is competent if at least three members are present. If the votes are tied, the vote of the chair of the objection committee, or if necessary his or her deputy, shall be decisive.
- 2.4 A committee member has a conflict of interest if and when the objection relates to a horse which he or she bred, reared, prepared for licensing or owns; this is also true if these reasons for expulsion apply to spouses, life partners and offspring.
- 2.5 The term of office of the objection committee corresponds to that given in sub-section 1.3 (Section 14).



**Section 15**

**INSPECTION AND REGISTRATION COMMITTEE**

1. The inspection and registration committee consists of up to twenty-eight members, namely twenty-seven elected full members and the breeding director by virtue of his or her position.
2. The full members shall be elected by the delegate assembly based on suggestions from the board of directors. The board of directors shall make suggestions based on the persons named by the breeding districts.

The people who receive the most votes in the relevant individual vote shall be appointed as full members.

3. The committee is competent if at least two of its members are present.
4. A committee member has a conflict of interest and must refrain from participating in the decision if he or she is the breeder, trainer and/or owner of the mare/foal to be assessed. This is also true if these reasons for conflict of interest apply to spouses and offspring.

## **E. Data protection**

### **Section 16**

1. The Verband collects, processes and uses members' personal data. The provisions of the Bundesdatenschutzgesetz (BDSG) [Federal Data Protection Act] shall apply.

Personal data is processing and used in order to keep breeding records and carry out our breeding programme. Participating service providers shall only receive personal data where this is necessary for the carrying out of breeding events and performance tests.

Service providers in this sense include Deutsche Reiterliche Vereinigung e.V. (FN), all breeding associations belonging to FN and Landeskontrollverband Schleswig-Holstein e.V. The processing and use of personal data also includes the publication of this data in FN's publication media and those of the FN member breeding associations as well as publication within the scope of breeding events and performance tests.

2. Each member agrees that details on his or her name and location as well as master data, all the scores, bonits and breeding values of his or her horses may be published by the breeding association and the FN, especially online and in the "Jahrbuch Zucht und Sport der FN" ["FN Breeding and Sport Yearbook"].

## **F. Management**

### **Section 17**

#### **MANAGING DIRECTORS**

##### **Managing director of the Verband/breeding director**

1. The Verband's duties are fulfilled on its behalf for one thing by an appointed managing director/breeding director, who is particularly responsible for the following areas:
  - 1.1. breeding work and studbook management according to the provisions of animal welfare law;
  - 1.2. implementing the breeding programme.

The managing director/breeding director is responsible to the board of directors for housekeeping within his or her area of responsibility and must prepare a business report for the delegate assembly.

The managing director/breeding director is the superior of the Verband's employees; he or she is responsible for recruiting and dismissing employees.

##### **Managing director of limited liability companies**

2. On the other hand, the Verband is the sole shareholder in two limited liability companies with their registered offices, which are active in the following areas:
  - 2.1. horse breeding and keeping, especially the keeping of stallions for breeding/insemination purposes (insemination business) as well as the rearing and training of their own and others' horses, and the other transactions and services connected with this.
  - 2.2. Marketing of breeding and sport horses, especially by means of auctions, carrying out the associated marketing campaigns and the other transactions and services connected with this.
  - 2.3. The managing directors of both limited liabilities companies have an obligation to the board of directors and the delegate assembly to run their companies properly. They must prepare a report for the delegate assembly occurring in the first half of the calendar year in the form of a presentation of the annual financial statements and the business plans for the following financial year.

## Section 18

### INVOICE AND CASH AUDITING

After the managing director/breeding director has completed the annual financial statement, the balance shall be checked by an auditor/auditing company.

The account books shall be checked by the cash auditors appointed by the delegate assembly, who must report the results to the assembly.

## G. Arbitration

### Section 19

#### ARBITRATION

1. The board of directors shall prepare and update rules of arbitration, which must be approved by the delegate assembly.
2. The court of arbitration is responsible for ruling on all disputes
  - 2.1. between and among members (and/or contracting partners) of the Verband and
  - 2.2. between the Verband and its members (and contracting partners) which have their basis in the execution of the breeding programme or in the case of members in the Verband's activities and assignments according to these articles of association or relate to the individual member in his or her basic decisions determining the life of the Verband.
3. The court of arbitration shall consist of three people, namely two arbiters and a chairperson.
4. The place of arbitration is Elmshorn.
5. The proceedings shall be conducted in German.
6. The law applicable to the matter shall, with the exception of UN sales law, be German law and directly applicable EU law.
7. The court of arbitration may impose the following disciplinary actions: reprimand, temporary prohibition on the exercise of honorary offices in the breeding association, temporary or permanent expulsion from the breeding association. It may impose the costs of the proceedings on the participants and make provisions on the publication of decisions and the reasons for them. It may also take appropriate measures to maintain order and carry out the proceedings.
8. Details on the proceedings are set out in the **Rules of Arbitration of the Verband der Züchter des Holsteiner Pferdes e. V.**
9. Appeals against the decisions of the court of arbitration may be brought to the delegate assembly.

Version July 2020

10. Ordinary courts may not be appealed to without the Verband's approval as long as the jurisdiction of the court of arbitration is justified.
11. Where the jurisdiction of the court of arbitration is justified, limitation according to Section 204 (1) (11) BGB is inhibited. The parties agree on Elmshorn as the place of jurisdiction.

## **H. Dissolution**

### **Section 20**

#### **DISSOLUTION**

1. The Verband may only be dissolved by an extraordinary meeting of individual members. In this meeting, to which every member and honorary member must be invited at least eight weeks before the date of the meeting, each member shall have a vote. Votes may only be submitted in person.
2. Dissolution requires a majority of three-quarters of the votes of all individual members entitled to vote. This should be calculated according to the number of members as of 31 December of the previous year. If the majority of individual members entitled to vote are not present at the meeting of individual members, a majority of three-quarters of the individual members entitled to vote who are present at an extraordinary meeting of individual members called later for the same purposes, which should be called on the same day.
3. On dissolution of the Verband, the meeting of individual members shall decide how to use its available assets. If no resolution is made, the assets shall pass to the Schleswig-Holstein Chamber of Agriculture, which must use them exclusively to promote the breeding of the Holsteiner warmblood horse.

## **II. Breeding programme**

### **Section 21**

#### **PREAMBLE**

1. The Verband der Züchter des Holsteiner Pferdes keeps the studbook on the origin of the Holsteiner warmblood horse. The Verband's breeding programme includes all measures tending to promote progress with regard to the breeding objective and the characteristic traits of the Holsteiner breed. This shall be done in accordance with the provisions of European and German animal breeding law as well as the regulations set out in the Zuchtverbandsordnung (ZVO) [Breeding Association Ordinance] of the Deutsche Reiterliche Vereinigung (FN). The basics on the Holsteiner warmblood horse with the necessary details according to the regulation (EU) 2016/1012 annex I, part 2 and 3 is published on the Verband's website.
  
2. The Holsteiner breed has been bred by farmers for centuries. This breed originates in the river marshes of the Elbe and on the west coast of Schleswig-Holstein. The original breeding goal for this working horse was to produce the characteristic breed type marked out by expressiveness, frame, substance and strong bones, achieved through selective breeding to Thoroughbreds. The original Holsteiners mostly had a bay coat and were known and valued for their performance traits way beyond the state borders. The breed attracted particular attention in the eighteenth century as a luxury coach horse with imposing charisma lent by its true-to-type expression and characteristic high and clearing gaits. But the Holsteiner's diligence and toughness were also well-known in agriculture, and led time and again to strong selection in the difficult ground conditions of the Holstein marshes. As early as 1883 Georg Ahsbahs, Sommerlander Riep, created a systematic breeding record in the horse breeding associations of the Holstein marshes and collected and archived the families of mares. The mare lines which are still valid and continued today emerged from this archive and form the basis of Holsteiner breeding today.

In the middle of the twentieth century the breed was re-bred from a working horse into a sport horse. The Holsteiner was refined mostly using English Thoroughbred stallions, which were an outstanding basis for successful cross-breeding due to the solidly bred Holsteiner mare base. Its existing breed traits such as diligence, toughness and jumping ability meant the Holsteiner sport horse took very quickly to competitive sport.

The rankings produced by the World Breeding Federation for Sport Horses (WBFSH) put Holsteiner jumping horse breeding in a leading position. Holsteiner sport horses are also represented at the highest levels of dressage and eventing. These successes are based on the solidly bred Holsteiner mare base in combination with English Thoroughbred improvement stallions and the selective use of performance genes from French sport horse breeding. Selective breeding trials with exceptional performance stallions have also been carried out.

3. All breeding horses registered in the main section of the breed registry below participate in the Verband's breeding programme:
  - Stallion Book I, Ia
  - Stallion Book II
  - Foal Book
  - Main Mare Book

- Mare Book
- Pre-Book I

For mares born from 1995:

- Studbook I for Mares
- Studbook II for Mares
- Foal Book

4. The use of selected young stallions is particularly important for breeding progress. If use of young stallions is not guaranteed, the board of directors may also take appropriate measures at the breeding committee's recommendation to ensure that estimation of breeding values can be made as early as possible on the basis of offspring's performance.
5. As at 1 January 2018, the breeding population comprises 5756 registered brood mares and 141 activated stallion. The number of members is 5,812.
6. The breeding programme is integral part of the constitution.

## **Section 22**

### **BREEDING GOAL**

Breed: Holsteiner warmblood horse

#### **I. External appearance**

Colour: mostly bay, no piebalds/skewbalds

For mares born up to 1994:

Height at the withers:

Mares - registration in the main mare book	at least 160 cm
Registration in the mare book	at least 158 cm

For mares born from 1995:

Premium mares	at least 160 cm
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Stallions - for licensing at 2.5 years of age	at least 162 cm
Licensing at thirty-six months and older	at least 164 cm
requirements for registration in the Stallion Book same as those for licensing	

Type: the typical Holsteiner is an athletic, long-lined and expressive riding horse with an aptitude towards sporting performance, especially in jumping. The Thoroughbred influence should be expressed in a dry and expressive head, well-formed neck and sculpted musculature. Breeding stallions and breeding mares should have the typical features of their sex.

Particularly undesirable traits include a stocky, plump or unsporty appearance, a coarse head and indistinct contours as well as a lack of sex-typical features in breeding horses.



Version July 2020

Build: Desirable traits include  
a harmonious build suitable for riding purposes, especially showjumping.

This includes:

a long neck tapering towards the head,  
ample flexation,

a large, oblique shoulder,

marked withers reaching far into the back,

a functional back fulfilling the requirements for an athletic sport horse; when moving, the swinging back combines carrying power and balance. a long, muscular croup, harmonious division of the body into front, middle and hindquarters.

Also desirable is

a dry foundation suited to the build with correct, large joints, medium-length fetlocks and well-formed hooves likely to stay usable for a long time.

Also correctly-positioned limbs, i.e. ones that are straight when seen from behind, a foreleg straight when seen from the side and a hind leg with a well-splinted ankle joint.

Undesirable traits include

a generally unharmonious build

a short, heavy or low neck,

a small, steep shoulder,

unmarked withers,

a poorly-functioning back which does not fulfil the requirements of an athletic sport horse, an overly straight croup with high set tail, an obliquely-angled tail, little chest depth and raised flanks with short rear ribs;

also undesirable are

incorrect limbs,

including:

small, slim or constricted joints , weak cannon bones and

small, steep or over-long soft fetlocks as well as

overly small hooves, especially with inward-pointing heels .

Also undesirable are misalignments, particularly splay-footed, pigeon-toed, base-wide, base-narrow, calf-kneed , steep or sickle-hooked , cow-hocked or bow-legged limb positions.

## **II. Movement**

Paces: Desirable traits include

diligent, rhythmic and ground-covering paces (walk four-stroke, trot two-stroke, canter three-stroke).

The movement sequence when walking should be relaxed, vigorous and elevated with the feet being raised and put down clearly.

The movement sequence when trotting should possess the knee action typical of the Holsteiner. Trot and canter should be elastic, lively, light-footed, and have a clearly recognisable suspension phase with natural elevation and balance.

The impetus from actively working hindquarters pushing off energetically from the ground should be transferred to the front legs, which should reach freely forward from the shoulder, through a freely swinging back. The canter in particular should be jumped forward with a clear up-hill tendency.

Movement is inspected and judged in-hand and at liberty.

Particularly undesirable traits include short, flat, inelastic movement bound in the shoulder with a tense back or heavy movement falling on the forehand or a lack of rhythm.

Jumping: Desirable traits include a scopey, elastic and deliberate jump demonstrating calm and intelligence.

In movement

clear ability to contain impulsion, a powerful and quick take-off when jumping, a markedly quick bend of the limbs (the bearing of the lower limbs over the jump should be as close to horizontal as possible), an arched back with clearly protruding withers and downward-bending neck with opening hindquarters (bascule) are desired.

The flow of movement and rhythm of the canter should be maintained in the overall sequence. Stallions are inspected free jumping at the licensing, and when they are registered in the Stallion Book.

Particularly undesirable traits include uncontrolled or indecisive jumps with hanging legs, high nose over the jump, associated with a tense or hollow back causing the flow of movement and rhythm of the canter to be lost.

### **III. Inner traits/performance aptitude / health:**

Desirable traits include

an uncomplicated, strong-nerved and reliable horse, easily handled, yet possessing great willingness to work, giving an alert, intelligent impression and showing good character traits and calm, balanced temperament in appearance and behaviour.

Also desirable are

health and soundness (requirement Section 29 sub-section 2.2), good physical and psychological resilience and natural fertility.

A pool of health data allows the breeding association to incorporate health indicators into its breeding programmes in the long-term using the newest scientific methods.

### **IV. Summary:**

Desired is a rideable, versatile horse, willing and able to perform, which should be primarily suited for showjumping, but also well-disposed to the disciplines of dressage and eventing. The following criteria should generally be evaluated to recognise performance aptitude in stallions at three years of age or before registration in the studbook:

- Character and temperament
- Rideability
- Basic paces
- Jumping

The performance aptitude of mares should be evaluated at three years of age.

The Verband's decision committees are responsible for weighing up the criteria of the breeding goal.

## **Section 23**

### **TRAITS OF THE BREED AND BREEDING METHODS**

#### 1. Breed traits of the Holsteiner

##### 1.1 Genealogical traits

The Holsteiner has ancestral features which mark out line breeding:

- Concentration on particular sire lines which strengthen and pass on the breed's performance characteristics.

The Holsteiner has mare family or stem numbers which mark out particularly solidly-bred performance mare families (stems).

The Holsteiner carries refiner genes from English Thoroughbreds and French warmblood breeding.

##### 1.2 External traits

- mostly bay coats
- large frame and athletic appearance
- correct conformation, good carriage and a well-set neck
- influenced by Thoroughbred genes

##### 1.3 Movement characteristics

- typical knee action of the front legs with lots of thrust from the hindquarters when trotting
- a ground-covering walk
- elevated and ground-covering canter

##### 1.4 Performance features

- good riding characteristics
- Diligence
- good temperament
- extraordinary jumping ability and technique
- quick reactions

#### 2. Breeding methods

The breed characteristics are generally maintained with pure breeding methods, i.e. mostly Holsteiner stallions and mares take part in the breeding programme. The incorporation of genes from other populations which are expedient for promoting the breeding target while maintaining breed characteristics is not ruled out.

##### 2.1 Outcross improvement breeds

With outcross improvement stallions we distinguish between breeds which are used to increase the Thoroughbred contribution (Section 23 sub-section 2.1.1) and/or to improve performance traits, especially jumping performance (Section 23 sub-section 2.1.2) in the breeding of Holsteiners.

2.1.1. Outcross improvement breeds for increasing Thoroughbred contribution  
- English Thoroughbred (xx)

English Thoroughbreds (xx) may be used in Holsteiner breeding if they fulfil the genealogical requirements of the relevant breed standard and the performance requirements of Section 31 sub-section 1.5 and the criteria of the external requirements for licensing according to Section 29 sub-section 4.2 or are licensed by an association belonging to the WBFSH. In the first two years of use in breeding, the outcross improvement stallions should be permitted for a maximum of 80 mares/year.

- Anglo-Arabians (x)

Anglo-Arabians (x) may be used in Holsteiner breeding if they fulfil the genealogical requirements of the relevant breed standard and the performance requirements of Section 31 sub-section 1.5 and the criteria of the external requirements for licensing according to Section 29 sub-section 4.2. In the first two years of use in breeding, the outcross improvement stallions should be permitted for a maximum of 80 mares/year.

2.1.2 Outcross improvement breeds to improve performance traits

- French warmbloods (SF)

This breed may be used in Holsteiner breeding if it fulfils the requirements of Section 31 sub-section 1.8 and 1.9.

The annual proportion of offspring by these outcross improvement stallions in the Holsteiner population should not be greater than 10%.

2.2 Breeding trials

In order to utilise the genes of particular top sires from other warmblood populations with extraordinary sporting performance or breeding successes for the further development of the Holsteiner, these stallions may find limited use within the scope of a breeding trial. The principle of purebreeding must be maintained here.

The riding horse breeds prescribed for use in breeding trials are:

Bavarian Warmblood, German horse, German Sport Horse, Hanoverian, Mecklenburger, Oldenburg horse, Oldenburg Jumper, Trakehner, Rhenisch Warmblood, Westphalian Warmblood, Württemberger, Zweibrücker, American Warmblood, Australian Warmblood, Australian Sport Horse, Belgian Sport Horse, Belgian Warmblood, Danish Warmblood, English Warmblood, Selle Français, Irish Sport Horse, Irish Warmblood, Italian Riding Horse, Royal Dutch Sport Horse (KWPN), Dutch Riding Horse (NRPS), Norwegian Warmblood, Austrian Warmblood, Wielkopolski, Swedish Warmblood, Swiss Warmblood, Slovenian Warmblood, Spanish Warmblood, British Sport Horse, La Silla, Czech Warmblood, Hungarian Sport Horse, Zangersheide and Anglo-Arabian and English Thoroughbred.

The breeding trial is intended to use these desired performance traits in Holsteiner breeding via the licensed sons of these top sires (F 1-generation). Admission of stallions for trial is governed by Section 31 sub-sections 1.8, 1.9 and 1.10 of these articles of association.

## **Section 24**

### **LIMITS ON THE USE OF STALLIONS**

1. To avoid excessive narrowing of bloodlines in the population and the risk of an increasing degree of inbreeding, a limit in the number of mares which can be bred by a single stallion from this population (according to Section 23 sub-section 2.2) shall be set by the board of directors based on a corresponding recommendation from the breeding committee and shared with the stallion keeper. Likewise stallions which have no performance test or not completed a performance test may be restricted in this way to prevent excessive use in breeding.
2. Stallions from other breeding populations (according to Section 23 sub-section 2.2) may be restricted in terms of breeding scope and time of use.

## **Section 25**

### **REGISTRATION OF HORSES FROM OTHER BREEDING POPULATIONS**

1. Stallions from outcross improvement breeds (Section 23 sub-section 2.1.1 and sub-section 2.1.2) may be entered in Stallion Book I.

Stallions of other genetic parentage according to Section 23 sub-section 2.2 may also be registered in Stallion Book I in the course of a breeding trial if their performance pedigree or their own performance is extraordinary.

The board of directors shall decide on the registration of such stallions on written application based on a corresponding recommendation from the breeding committee.

In the course of a breeding trial (Section 31 sub-sections 1.8, 1.9, 1.10) only the offspring resulting from breeding/insemination within the permitted limits shall be eligible for registration, as long as they come from mares registered in Holstein (H, S, V I, ZB I, ZB HG).

If the breeding experiment is assessed as positive after completion by the board of directors based on the breeding committee's recommendation, all the offspring of the stallion in question may be registered, as long as they come from mares registered in Holstein (H, S, V I, ZB I, ZB HG).

2. Stallions of other genetic parentage according to Section 23 sub-section 2.2 may be registered in the Stallion Book Holstein Global if the requirements of Section 31 sub-section 3 have been fulfilled.

The board of directors shall decide on the registration of such stallions on written application. The offspring of these stallions shall be eligible for registration in the Studbook Holstein Global, as long as they come from mares registered in Holstein (H, S, V I, ZB I).

3. Mares of other genetic parentage according to Section 23 sub-section 2.2, if they do not correspond to the requirements of the articles of association (Section 35), shall be registered in the Mare Book Holstein Global.

The mare's sire and dam, as well as male and female ancestors in the dam's line, up to at least the fourth generation, must generally be horses which fulfil the conditions for registered status in the relevant breeding population according to Section 23 sub-section 2.2.

## Section 26

### SELECTION CRITERIA

1. The lineage (according to Section 31 Registration of stallions and Section 35 Registration of mares).
2. The evaluation of traits in external appearance.  
Stallions and mares shall be evaluated when they are licensed/registered in the studbook. The evaluation should be carried out at major inspection sites, so that the horses presented can be compared with a sufficiently large number of other presented horses, unless this is not feasible due to the need to avoid hardship cases or risks to health.

The following grades shall be used for the partial criteria:

10 = excellent	4 = insufficient
9 = very good	3 = fairly bad
8 = good	2 = bad
7 = fairly good	1 = very bad
6 = satisfactory	0 = not presented
5 = sufficient	

It is only possible to give whole grades, except in the assessment of mature stallions, where half grades may also be given according to Section 29 sub-section 4.2.

#### 2.1 Stallions

##### 2.1.1 Licensing and registration in the stallion book

In the course of licensing the following traits pertaining to external appearance, movement and jumping/dressage (a-h) will be evaluated and graded by the stallion licensing committee:

##### I. Exterior

- a) Type (breed and sex type)
- b) topline (head, throat, withers, back, croup, tail)
- c) forehand (correctness of front limbs)
- d) hindquarters (correctness of hind limbs)

##### II. Movement sequence

- e) walk (correctness, rhythm and ground coverage)
- f) trot (correctness, thrust, impulsion)
- g) canter (correctness, ground coverage)

##### III. Jumping/dressage

- h) Free jumping or jumping under the rider (technique and ability), alternatively dressage for older stallions (movement and rideability).

These traits are each awarded a mark and an average mark calculated. The bonits are set down in the stud book.

The exterior (I.) and movement (II.) bonits are given in the pedigree certificate.

Stallions of three years and older are also presented under the rider, whereby the result is taken into account in II. and III..

For older stallions whose training focus has been evidenced by successes in dressage at S

level , the evaluation of jumping (III. is replaced by evaluation in the area of dressage.

Stallions of fifteen years or older (mature stallions) need no longer be shown in jumping/dressage. The following factors should be particularly important in their performance evaluation:

- Pedigree evaluation
- Their own achievements in competitive sport
- Success of offspring (breeding & sport)

## 2.2 Mares

### A. For mares born up to 1994:

For registration in the Main Mare Book, Mare Book and Pre-Book, the seven traits pertaining to external appearance (type, topline, width/depth, fore leg , hind leg , correctness of gait and thrust and impulsion are evaluated according to the grading scale (sub-section 2).

### B. For mares born from 1995:

For registration in the Mare Book, the seven traits pertaining to external appearance (type, topline, , forehand , hindquarters , walk, trot and canter) are evaluated according to the grading scale (sub-section 2).

## 3. Health

Breeding horses are required to be healthy and fertile. General health as well as sexual and hereditary health should be taken into account here.

## 4. Performance tests, breeding value estimation

### 4.1 General

Performance tests - both for stallions and for mares and the estimation of breeding values are the responsibility of the Verband ~~under its own responsibility~~. The Verband does not carry out stallion performance tests itself. The Verband may make use of other facilities/organisations for this purpose, which shall be recorded in writing and submitted to the recognising authority.

#### 4.1.1 To estimate a stallion's or mare's descent, the Verband may make use of the following information for a breeding value estimate:

- a) results of the horse's own performance tests,
- b) results of offspring's performance tests,
- c) results of evaluation of foals carried out on registration,
- d) results of the performance tests of other relatives.

The Verband may commission the FN or other bodies with the estimation of breeding values (according to Section 34). The regulations are published on the Verband's homepage.

#### 4.1.2 The results of performance tests will only be recognised if they are carried out according to the regulations of animal breeding law or the Leistungsprüfungsordnung (LPO) [Performance Test Ordinance] of the Deutsche Reiterliche Vereinigung e.V. (FN) or the regulations of the Federation Equestre Internationale (FEI). Results of performance tests will also only be taken into account if they are recognised by the Verband's board of directors after consultation in the breeding committee.

#### 4.2 Stallion performance testing, version **valid until 31/12/2015**

Stallion performance tests are tests carried out according to the provisions of animal breeding law. They are carried out in accordance with the FN-Zuchtverbandsordnung (ZVO Section 15) as well as the FN's HLP Directives for Stallion Performance Tests (ZVO, Part F – HLP Directives). They may be carried out in the form of a station test, a competitive sport test or a combination of a aptitude test and station test or a combination of a aptitude test and competitive sport test.

Stallion performance tests and the collection of competitive sport results to prove the stallion's own performance shall be carried out on the Verband's behalf by Deutsche Reiterliche Vereinigung e.V. (FN), which is contractually obliged to apply the procedures set down by German breeding associations in the ZVO, as set out in detail in the HLP Directives in Section 200 f.

These directives are published in their current version online ([www.pferd-aktuell.de](http://www.pferd-aktuell.de), [www.holsteiner-verband.de](http://www.holsteiner-verband.de)).

These directives also include the requirement for all measures carried out by examining institutes to be controlled by on-site FN personnel.

##### 4.2.1 30-day aptitude test

The aptitude test on station is carried out as an uninterrupted event over a period of thirty days. It consists of a training phase ( preliminary test) and a final test and is carried out according to the HLP Guidelines for Stallion Performance Tests of the ZVO and in connection with the BMELV Guidelines for Stallion Aptitude Tests in German Riding Horse Breeding (Part F of the ZVO - HLP Directives and Guidelines).

The aptitude test is bound by the Special Provisions for Station Tests as well as the Special Provisions for the 30-day Stallion Aptitude Test in German Riding Horse Breeding of the HLP Directive for Stallion Performance Tests of the ZVO (Part F of the ZVO - HLP Directives). The test counts as passed if the horse achieves a aptitude breed value (ABV) of at least 80 in jumping or dressage and a weighted final grade of at least 7.0 or a dressage-weighted/jumping-weighted final grade of 8.0 or better.

##### 4.2.2 70-day performance test

The station test is carried out as an uninterrupted event over a period of at least seventy days. It consists of a training phase ( preliminary test) and a final test and is carried out according to the HLP Guidelines for Stallion Performance Tests of the ZVO (Part F of the ZVO - HLP Directives and Guidelines).

The aptitude test is bound by the Special Provisions for Station Tests as well as the Special Provisions for the 70-day Stallion Performance Test in German Riding Horse Breeding of the HLP Directive for Stallion Performance Tests of the ZVO (Part F of the ZVO - HLP Directives). The test counts as passed if the horse achieves a HLP-BV of at least 80 in jumping or dressage and a weighted final grade of at least 7.0 or a dressage-weighted/jumping-weighted final grade of 8.0 or better.

##### 4.2.3 Competitive sport test according to Section 7 TierZG

As an alternative to the test of the horse's own performance on station, the performance test counts as completed if the stallions can prove success in competitive sport tests. The competitive sport test is carried out in the disciplines of dressage, jumping and eventing.

The test counts as passed if proof is provided of

- five placings on first to third position in jumping classes at S\* level or three placings at least in jumping classes at S\*\* level or



- five placings on first to third position in dressage classes at S level or
- three placings at least in dressage at S – intermediate II level or
- three placings on first to third position in eventing at CCI \*/CIC \*\* level (or comparable national tests such as GVL/VM or three placings at least in eventing at CCI \*\*/CIC \*\*\* level (or comparable national tests such as GVM/VS)
- in addition to the aptitude test (sub-section 4.2.1)
- qualification for the national championship for five-year-old German dressage horses, German jumping horses or German eventing horses for five-year-old stallions or
- qualification for the national championship for six-year-old German dressage horses, German jumping horses or German eventing horses for six-year-old stallions .

For five-year-old stallions fulfilling the performance requirements through a combination of aptitude test and competitive sport test, the following applies:

- Use in the breeding programme is only permitted if evidence can be given of a result of 7.5 or better in a young dressage horse, jumping horse or cross country horse tests at A level or suitability tests as a four-year-old stallion. This does not include stallions providing documentation to have qualified for the national championship for German riding horses at four years old.
- The aptitude test (4.2.1) and the station test (4.2.2) as well as the competitive sport test (4.2.3) are subject as regards the admission requirements, examination process and evaluation system to the provisions of the Zuchtverbandsordnung (ZVO) of the Deutsche Reiterliche Vereinigung (FN) in the current version.

#### 4.2.4 HLP objection committee

The affected party has the right to object against any decision taken according to the HLP directives. The FN's HLP objection committee is responsible for this. The code of procedure of the HLP objection committee is an integral component of the HLP directive (ZVO Section 15).

#### 4.2a Stallion performance test, **version valid from 01/01/2016**

Stallion performance tests are tests carried out according to the provisions of animal breeding law. They are carried out according to the special provisions of the FN Zuchtverbandsordnung (ZVO Section 15) and according to the HLP Directives for FN Stallion Performance Tests (ZVO, Part F – HLP Directives). They may be carried out as station tests, competitive sport tests or as a combination of aptitude test and station test or as a combination of aptitude test and sport test.

Stallion performance tests and the collection of competitive sport results to prove the stallion's own performance shall be carried out on the Verband's behalf by Deutsche Reiterliche Vereinigung e.V. (FN), which is contractually obliged to apply the procedures set down by German breeding associations in the ZVO, as set out in detail in the HLP Directives in Section 200 f.

These directives are published in their current version online ([www.pferd-aktuell.de](http://www.pferd-aktuell.de), [www.holsteiner-verband.de](http://www.holsteiner-verband.de)).

These directives also include the requirement for all measures carried out by examining institutes to be controlled by on-site FN personnel. Controls shall also be carried out by on-site breeding association representatives. Their presence must be documented.

4.2a.1 14-day aptitude test

The aptitude test on station is carried out as an uninterrupted event over a period of fourteen days and according to the HLP Guidelines for Stallion Performance Tests of the ZVO and in connection with the BMEL Guidelines for Stallion Aptitude Tests in German Riding Horse Breeding (Part F of the ZVO - HLP Directives and Guidelines).

The aptitude test is bound by the Special Provisions for Station Tests as well as the Special Provisions for the fourteen-day Stallion Performance Test in German Riding Horse Breeding of the HLP Directive for Stallion Performance Tests of the ZVO (Part F of the ZVO - HLP Directives). The test counts as passed if the horse achieves a weighted final grade of at least 7.5 or a dressage-weighted/jumping-weighted final grade of 8.0 or better.

4.2a.2 Fifty-day performance test (station test)

The station test is carried out as an uninterrupted event over a period of at least fifty days and according to the HLP Guidelines for Stallion Performance Tests of the ZVO (Part F of the ZVO - HLP Directives and Guidelines).

The station test is bound by the Special Provisions for Station Tests as well as the Special Provisions for the fifty-day Stallion Performance Test in German Riding Horse Breeding of the HLP Directive for Stallion Performance Tests of the ZVO (Part F of the ZVO - HLP Directives).

It is carried out with an emphasis on jumping or dressage and counts as passed if a discipline-specific, weighted final grade of at least 7.8 is achieved.

4.2a.3 Sport tests for licensed stallions

The sport tests for licensed stallions follow the fourteen-day aptitude tests according to ZVO Section 200 f(1) and last for three days. The stallion keeper must have his or her stallion, whether four or five years old, participate in one of the sport tests advertised and carried out by the Deutsche Reiterliche Vereinigung e.V. (FN) specially for stallions at various locations. The sport tests are offered for stallions specialising in dressage, jumping and eventing and carried out with corresponding emphases. Suitability for the relevant discipline (dressage, jumping and eventing) is derived from parentage and/or the aptitude displayed by the stallions. The stallions are presented and evaluated in different test phases, both by their own riders and test riders (Part F of the ZVO - HLP Directives). The test counts as passed if a discipline-specific, weighted final grade of 7.5 is achieved.

4.2a.4 Competitive sport test

As an alternative to the station test, the performance test also counts as completed if the stallions can prove success in competitive sport. The competitive sport test is carried out in the disciplines of dressage, jumping and eventing.

The test counts as passed if evidence is provided of:

- five placings on first to third position in jumping classes at S\* level or three placings at least in jumping classes at S\*\* level or
- five placings on first to third position in dressage at S level or three placings at least in dressage a S- intermediaire II level or
- three placings on first to third in eventing at CCI\*/CIC\*\* level (or comparable national competitions such as GVL/VM) or three placings at least in eventing at CCI\*\*/CIC\*\*\* level (or comparable national competitions such as GVM/VS) or

- placing in the final at the national championship for the German dressage horse, German jumping horse or German eventing horse or
- placing in the final at the world championship for young dressage or young jumping horses or placing in the top third in the final of the world championship for young eventing horses or
- in combination with a fourteen-day aptitude test (according to ZVO Section 200f (1))(from exam cohort 2016) or a thirty-day aptitude test (up to and including exam cohort 2015)
  - qualification for the national championship for five-year-old German dressage horses, German jumping horses or German eventing horses or
  - qualification for the national championship for six-year-old German dressage horses, German jumping horses or German eventing horses or
  - participation in the final at the world championship for young dressage or jumping horses or a placement in the final at the world championship for young eventing horses .

4.2a.5 Stallion performance test (HLP) objection committee

The affected party has the right to object to any decision within the framework of the HLP Directives. The FN's HLP objection committee is responsible for this. The code of procedure of the HLP objection committee is an integral component of the HLP directive (ZVO Section 15).

4.3 Mare performance tests

Performance tests for mares are carried out in the form of performance tests (station and field test) according to the Zuchtverbandsordnung (ZVO Section 200 g) of the Deutsche Reiterliche Vereinigung e.V. (FN) and the Verband's directive on the execution of mare performance tests, as published in its current version on the Verband's homepage. These directives also include the requirement for all measures carried out by examining institutes to be controlled by on-site FN personnel.

4.3.1 Station test

The performance test on station is carried out as an uninterrupted event over a period of fourteen days under the Verband's responsibility. It consists of a training phase ( preliminary test) and a final test (performance test).

4.3.2 Field test

The field performance test is a one-day test. The technical execution of the field performance test is carried out on the Verband's behalf by the State Committee for Horse Performance Tests in Schleswig-Holstein, to which the Verband is contractually obligated.

## **Section 27**

### **FOAL INSPECTIONS**

Suckling foals shall be evaluated by the foal inspection committee. All foals should be presented at their dams' foot and shall receive two grades (type/conformation and movement) according to the grading scale (Section 26 sub-section 2). This allows for an early evaluation of the offspring of the stallions used in breeding with regard to their type, conformation, movement and pedigree. Exceptional foals shall receive premium designations; this shall be marked on the pedigree certificate without individual grades being given. In order to get a premium designation, the foal must be graded at least 7 in both grades according to the grading scale (Section 26 sub-section 2).

## Section 28

### AWARDS FOR MARES

1. District premium (DP)

This premium designation is for mares which embody good quality at breeding district mare inspections by fulfilling the following requirements:

- Both parents are horses registered in the Verband's breed registries (sire: H I, Holstein Global, dam: ZB I (H, S), Holstein Global.
- The overall grade total must be at least 47 points, whereby the type grade must be at least a 7 according to the grading scale (Section 26 sub-section 2) and no partial characteristic may receive a grade 3 or less according to the grading scale (Section 26 sub-section 2). They must be at least 160cm at the withers.
- The premium designation shall be recorded in the mare's pedigree certificate and the abbreviation (BP) put next to the mare's name.

2. Verband premium (VP)

This premium designation is for three-year-old mares which embody exceptional quality on the occasion of the breeding district mare inspection by fulfilling the following requirements:

- the pedigree requirements as necessary for a dam to a stallion (Section 31 sub-section 1.2 - dam to a stallion from birth year 1995)
- the overall grade total must be 52 points, whereby the mare's type must be awarded at least a grade 8 according to the grading scale (Section 26 sub-section 2).  
No partial characteristic may receive a grade 4 or less according to the grading scale (Section 26 sub-section 2). They must be at least 160cm at the withers.
- participate at the Verband's annual mare show.
- The premium designation shall be recorded in the pedigree certificate and the abbreviation (VP) put next to the mare's name.

2.1 State premium (SP)

Verband premium mares which have achieved a positive result in the mare performance tests (an average grade of 7.0 or more) are also entitled to the designation of "state premium mare" according to the regulations of the Ministry of Energy, Agriculture, the Environment, Nature and Digitalisation of the state of Schleswig-Holstein. This premium designation shall be recorded in the pedigree certificate and the abbreviation (SP) put next to the mare's name.

3. Notes for awards and prizes won at state and national mare shows may be put in the pedigree certificate on request.

## Section 29

### LICENSING OF STALLIONS

#### 1. General

Licensing is a performance test on the basis of which the Verband's stallion licensing committee decides on the use of a stallion for breeding within the scope of the breeding programme as a requirement for registration in Stallion Book I. The decision takes into account evaluations in the areas of conformation, movement and jumping (according to Section 26 sub-section 2.1.1).

#### 2. Application and admission requirements

2.1 The licensing of a stallion should be applied for by submission to the Verband's offices, breeding department, Kiel before the published date.

The licensing fee must also be paid with the application.

2.2 The following conditions must be met before a stallion can be admitted for licensing:

- the stallion must be at least two years old
- the stallion must have been presented at a pre-selection site with a positive result
- the stallion must fulfil the pedigree requirements for registration in stallion book I according to Section 31 sub-section 1.2; outcross stallions shall be subject to the requirements of Section 25
- the pedigree certificate must be available.
- two-year-olds must be at least 162cm at the withers, stallions older than thirty-six months must be at least 164cm
- Thoroughbred stallions fulfil the height requirement if they are at least 162cm at the withers.

It is required for admission to licensing and for licensing itself that the stallion:

- does not show any health defects which adversely affect his capability to breed and breeding value,
- does not show any genetic defects relating to disease,
- is free from any condition formerly known as statutory major deficiencies/vices
- does not show any anomalies in the teeth or testicles,
- has not had any operations for the purpose of bodily correction,
- is not to be excluded after the radiographs of its limbs have been evaluated by a committee consisting of at least three equine practitioners appointed by the board after consultation in the breeding committee (this provision applies to stallions born from 1997),
- is not a carrier of EVA (equine virusarteritis),
- is free of any influence from banned substances, which can be determined by random sampling ordered by the stallion licensing committee. Veterinary examinations as well as doping controls shall be carried out by veterinarians appointed by the board of directors.

2.3 The stallion's identity must be verified before licensing. Stallions without adequate identification are excluded from the licensing event. The identification documents required in Section 53 sub-section 3 must be submitted.

#### 3. Execution of stallion licensing

3.1 Young stallions in the sense of this regulation are two-and-a-half-year-old colts.

3.2 The Verband shall generally put on at least two stallion licensing events per year.

3.2.1 A stallion licensing with subsequent auction in Neumünster, at which only colts in the sense of this regulation are admitted. To be admitted, colts must fulfil not only the requirements of Section 29 (1) and (2) but also the following requirements:

- the horse passport issued by the Holsteiner Verband
- selection by pre-selection

This pre-selection requires registration. The registration date will be published.

The selection committee shall be composed of:

- the chairman of the stallion licensing committee
- another member of the stallion licensing committee
- the member of the stallion keepers' delegation in the stallion licensing committee
- the breeding director

Each member may be replaced by another member of the stallion licensing committee. Those members involved with the pre-selection should also be part of the licensing committee at the main licensing.

Colts shall be assessed according to the criteria of Section 26 sub-section 2.1.1. The committee shall decide on the presentation of the colts in the areas of conformation, movement and jumping. For participation at the event in Neumünster, the minimum average grade must be at least 7.3.

The stallion producer shall receive a written notice of the results immediately after the pre-selection process ends. Should he or she not be in agreement with this decision, he or she has the option of having the colt re-inspected by other members of the selection committee. These members shall be appointed by the board of directors and shall be composed of the other members of the stallion licensing committee and from members of the objection committee. On this date/site stallions can also be re-presented which have received a corresponding recommendation from the selection committee.

3.2.2 A stallion licensing event in Elmshorn, to which all stallions are admitted which fulfil the conditions of sub-section 2.2. There shall be no pre-selection process.

3.2.3 In the event of particular need, the board of directors may arrange further stallion licensing.

3.2.4 In exceptional cases, on-farm stallion licensing is feasible upon application of the stallion owner to be submitted to the board:

- The stallion has already been licensed by a WBFSH affiliated breed organisation according to Section 23 sub-section 2.2 and has documentation of age-appropriate stallion performance testing.

In this case a committee comprising at least two members of the stallion licensing committee (according to Section 14 sub-section 1.4) is convened. The costs of the procedure are born by the stallion owner.

Version July 2020

4. The stallion licensing decision

4.1 The stallion licensing decision shall be:

- Licensed
- Not licensed
- Provisionally not licensed

4.2 The stallion licensing decision shall be “licensed” if the stallion receives an overall grade of at least 7.5 upon inspection of the following traits (a-h):

I. Conformation

- a) Type (breed and sex type)
- b) topline (head, throat, withers, back, croup, tail)
- c) forehand (correctness of forelimbs)
- d) hindquarters (correctness of hind limbs)

II. Movement

- e) walk (correctness, rhythm and ground coverage)
- f) trot (correctness, thrust and impulsion)
- g) canter (correctness, ground coverage)

III. Jumping/dressage

h) Free jumping or jumping under the rider (technique and ability), when evaluating the jumping on two-and-a-half-year-old colts, the jumping result on presentation for the health examination should be incorporated into the licensing decision, alternatively dressage for older stallions (movement and rideability) according to Section 26 sub-section 2.1.1. The overall grade is the average of the grades from the three areas (I. conformation, II. movement and III. jumping/dressage). The grades for these areas are averages of the individual traits assigned to the area (a-h). Type (a) in Area I. Conformation must have received a grade of at least 7.0 according to the grading scale (Section 26 sub-section 2).

Mature stallions (from fifteen years of age) must have an overall grade for areas I., II. and III. of at least 7.0. Type (a) in area I. conformation must have received a grade of at least 6.5 according to the grading scale (Section 26 sub-section 2).

Mature stallions which receive an overall grade of between 7.0 and 7.5 shall be restricted to a maximum of twenty mares per year. This restriction shall apply for three years. After this, the stallion keeper may make a written application to the breeding committee to increase the annual restriction on the number of mares. The breeding committee shall decide based on the quality of offspring and on the application.

The licensing decision shall be “provisionally not licensed” if the stallion does not fulfil the requirements but is expected to do so in the future. When the licensing decision is made, the deadline should be set by which the stallion must be re-presented for licensing. The stallion must go through the whole licensing process again.

4.3 The stallion’s licensing shall be carried out on the condition that the stallion fulfils or will fulfil the performance requirements of Section 26 sub-section 4.2 of these articles of association for registration in the Verband’s Stallion Book I according to Section 31 sub-section 1.

- 4.4 The owner of the stallion must be informed in writing of the licensing decision. If the licensing decision is “not licensed” or “provisionally not licensed”, the owner of the stallion may request the licensing protocol from the Verband in writing when the decision is made. The decision “licensed” should be entered into the pedigree certificate.
- 4.5 The licensing
- must be revoked if it turns out that a requirement for its issue which was believed to have been fulfilled actually was not.
  - must be withdrawn if one of the requirements subsequently ceases to be met.
  - may be withdrawn if a condition is associated with it and the owner fails to fulfil this condition on time.
- 4.6 The owner of the horse being presented at the time of the licensing may object to a decision of “not licensed” or “provisionally not licensed”. The deadline for objections is fourteen days from receiving the written notification of the decision. The objection and the reasons for it must be addressed in writing to the Verband’s offices, breeding department, Kiel. The objection shall be decided on by the objection committee (Section 14 sub-section 2).



**Section 30**

**STRUCTURE OF THE BREED REGISTRY**

1. The Studbook for Stallions is divided into the sections

Main section

- Holstein Stallion Book I, Ia (HB I)
- Holstein Stallion Book II (HB II)
- Holstein Global Stallion Book (HB HG)
- Foal Book

Special section

- Pre-Book

2. The Studbook for Mares is divided into the sections:

A. for mares born up to 1994:

Main section

- Holstein Main Mare Book (H)
- Mare Book (S)
- Pre-Book I (V 1)
- Holstein Global Studbook (ZB HG)

Special section

- Pre-Book II (V 2)

B. for mares born from 1995:

Main section

- Holstein I stud book for Mares (ZB I)
- Holstein II stud book for Mares (ZB II)
- Holstein Global stud book for Mares (ZB HG)
- Foal Book

Special section

- Pre-Book (VB)

3. The stallions registered in the Verband's stallion book before 18/09/1990 count as registered in Stallion Book I in relation to the provisions of these articles of association.
4. Horses shall only be entered into the various sections of the breed registry if they fulfil the relevant requirements and have been identified according to the rules of the breed registry. Registration in a section of the breed registry shall be recorded on the pedigree certificate or the birth certificate.

## Section 31

### REGISTRATION OF STALLIONS

#### 1. **Registration in Stallion Book I**

The licensing committee shall decide on provisional registration. Final registration shall be carried out by the board of directors after the performance requirements of Section 26 sub-section 4 have been fulfilled.

1.1 Registration in Stallion Book I of the Verband can take place in the third year of life at the earliest, and then only if the stallion in question has been licensed by the Verband and has fulfilled the pedigree requirements. Final registration in the Verband's Stallion Book I will only take place if the requirements of Section 26 sub-section 4.2 - Stallion performance test - have been fulfilled. Three-year-old stallions shall be registered subject to the requirements of Section 26 sub-section 4.2 - Stallion performance test.

1.2 The sire and the dam's sire must be registered stallions within their own breeding population (Stallion Book I). The other male ancestors in the maternal line (third to fifth generation) must be licensed stallions.

- dams of stallions born up to 1994:  
must be registered in the Main Mare Book, the second dam and third dam on the dam's side must at least be registered in the Verband's Mare Book. The other ancestors in the maternal line (up to the fifth generation) must likewise be mares registered with the Verband.
- Dams of stallions born from 1995:  
must be registered in the Verband's stud book I for Mares, with an overall grade total of at least 42 points, whereby the type grade must be at least a 6 according to the grading scale (Section 26 sub-section 2) and no partial characteristic may receive a grade 4 or less according to the grading scale (Section 26 sub-section 2). They must be at least 160cm at the withers.  
The second dam and third dam on the dam's side must at least be registered in the Mare Book or in stud book I for Mares having fulfilled the above requirements (of a dam of stallions born from 1995). The other ancestors in the maternal line (up to the fifth generation) must be mares registered in the Verband's stud book I.

1.3 The stallion must have received the required grade in a Holsteiner Verband licensing according to Section 29. He must be at least 164cm at the withers at the age of three. Thoroughbred stallions fulfil the height requirement if they are at least 162cm at the withers.

1.4 The requirements of Section 26 of these articles of association or FN (ZVO Section 200 f) must be fulfilled in the stallion performance test. No stallion may be used for breeding which has not passed at least the aptitude test according to Section 26 sub-section 4.2.1.

1.5 English Thoroughbred stallions fulfil the performance requirements:

- if they have been assigned a minimum weight of 70 kg on the flat or at least 75 kg over hurdles/fences. .
- or carried a minimum weight of 65 kg on the flat or 70 kg over hurdles/fences with at least 20 starts in three racing seasons. or have achieved the results listed under sub-section 1.4.

Anglo-Arabian stallions fulfil the performance requirement:

- if they have completed the HLP in comparison with warmblood stallions and passed with a result of at least 7.0. The requirements of Section 26 of these articles of association or of FN (ZVO Section 200 f) must be fulfilled in the stallion performance test

1.6 The dam should have completed one of the performance tests set out in Section 26 sub-section 4.3.

1.7 Holsteiner stallions with extraordinary breeding value which are to be allowed to participate based on a resolution by the board of directors taken on the recommendation of the breeding committee must not be presented at an Verband licensing event. A committee commissioned by the board of directors, consisting of two members of the licensing committee and the breeding director, shall grade the conformation of the stallion in question and evaluate his offspring at the place of origin.

1.8 Outcross stallions with exceptional breeding value for the Holsteiner which have been licensed by an association belonging to the WBFSH according to Section 23 sub-section 2.2 and are to be allowed to participate to a limited extent in the Verband's breeding programme based on a board resolution made on the basis of a recommendation from the breeding committee must not be presented at one of the Verband's licensing and recognition events (breeding trial). Pedigree and performance data may be taken over by the responsible breeding association.

Stallions registered in this way may:

- sire female offspring eligible for registration as mares (Section 35),
- sire male offspring eligible for licensing by the Verband (Section 29)

1.9 Outcross stallions (according to Section 23, sub-section 2.1.2 and 2.2) which are to be allowed to be used in the Verband's breeding programme (breeding trial) must also fulfil the following requirements.

Only suitable stallions whose breeding value is regarded as way above average and whose descendants are expected to have a positive influence on the Holsteiner population should be used for breeding.

The following principles should be considered before use in breeding:

- The stallion must have completed a HLP (at least a aptitude test according to Section 26, sub-section 4.2a.1) at the German standard (ZVO) with an above-average result.
- French bloodlines should be considered particularly strongly in the stallion's pedigree,
- The stallion owner must address an application for admission, along with the relevant documents, to the board of directors.

1.10 Outcross stallions may also be used under the following conditions:

- The stallion has already been licensed by a breeding association affiliated to the WBFSH according to Section 23 sub-section 2.2.
- Stallions specialising in jumping must have achieved sport results (at least three placings on first to fifth position in 1.60m classes
- Stallions specialising in dressage must have achieved sport results (at least three placings on first to fifth position in S\*\*\*\* Grand Prix tests or finished first to third

- in the final of the World five-, six- or seven-year-old dressage horse Championships) or provide documentation of a least eight sons licensed with a WBFSH affiliated breed society according to Section 23 sub-section 2.2.
- Before breeding the mare, the breeder must have made a written application to the Verband.
  - The board of directors must have agreed to the application after consultation in the breeding committee.

The offspring of these stallions shall be equated with those of the breeding trial stallions (Section 31 sub-section 1.8).

- 1.11 On dissolution of the American Holsteiner Horse Association (AHHA), the stallions registered in the stallion book there on 31/12/2017 with a completed HLP according to AHHA requirements shall be transferred into the Verband's Stallion Book Ia, after their owners have become members of the Verband. This is a closed section which is to be dissolved when these stallions are no longer used for breeding.

The stallions registered in Stallion Book Ia may

- sire female offspring eligible for mare inspection and registration (Section 35),
- sire male offspring eligible for licensing by the Verband (Section 29).

## 2. **Registration in Stallion Book II**

All stallions of three years or older with a confirmed Holsteiner pedigree which have been identified according to the rules of the breed registry, i.e. the stallion's sire and dam must be registered in the main section of the stud book (Section 30), shall be entered when the owner submits a written application.

The breeding director shall carry out the registration.

In addition, offspring of the breeding horses listed in the special section (Pre-Book) may be registered,

- if the ancestors in the Pre-Book have been bred from breeding horses from the main section for two generations and
- these have been presented for identity verification and
- in the evaluation of external appearance according to Section 26 sub-section 2.1.1 (I. exterior, II. movement), these received at least a 5 in each of the seven sub criteria according to the grading scale (Section 26 sub-section 2) and a 6 for type. The average grade must be at least 6.0.

## 3. **Registration in the Holstein Global Stallion Book**

- 3.1 Other stallions can be registered in the Holstein Global Stallion Book under the following conditions:

- The stallion belongs to ones of the warmblood and thoroughbred breeds listed in Section 23 sub-section 2.2.
- The stallion has already been licensed by a breed association affiliated with the WBFSH according to Section 23 sub-section 2.2 and is at least three years old.
- A result is available for a comparable stallion performance test.
- Details are available for breeding/and or sport results achieved by the horse.
- The board of directors has licensed the application.

The offspring of these stallions are registered in the Holstein Global studbook, if they are out of dams registered in Holstein (H, S, V I, ZB I). The offspring of these stallions shall be equated with those of the breeding trial stallions (Section 31 sub-section 1.8).

4. **Registration in the Foal Book**

All foals by stallions shall be registered in the Foal Book in their first year of life, as long as their parents are registered in the breed registry, with at least one parent in the main section.

5. **Registration in the special section ( preliminary section) for stallions**

All stallions of three years or older which are within the type of the Holsteiner warmblood horse but cannot be entered in Stallion Book I or II shall be entered when the owner submits a written application. The stallions must be presented for identity verification and achieve an overall grade of 5.0 in evaluation of their external appearance according to Section 26 sub-section 2.1.1 (I. exterior, II. movement ).

The breeding director shall carry out the registration.

6. **Annual Stallion Activation**

6.1 Registration is limited to one year. Annual stallion activation shall occur according to the following provisions.

6.2 Registered horses should be registered in writing to the Verband's offices, breeding department, Kiel for activation in the Stallion Book by 31/12 of the given year. The stallions registered for activation in Stallion Book I shall be published in the official Verband magazine and on the Verband's website, along with their stallion station in the coming breeding season. Stallions not registered in time shall have no claim to publication. If a stallion is not activated for the year of breeding, its offspring shall generally not receive pedigree certificates.

Stallions activated in Stallion Book II shall not be published.

6.3 After registration for activation, the stallion keeper shall receive on request the Verband's Covering Certificate/ Foal-no foal report , which the breeder should use to register the birth of the foal.

## **Section 32**

### **ARTIFICIAL INSEMINATION**

1. Insemination of fresh or -frozen semen is possible:

- at a station approved by the Verband
- or
- via on-farm insemination at the breeder's own facility.

Station managers and breeders are obliged to tolerate inspection of their insemination stations and breeding facilities by the Verband in order to ensure that the proper procedure and the necessary records are in place.

A stallion used in artificial insemination may not also be used for live cover in the same season.

2. Insemination permit
- 2.1 The Verband shall only approve the use of a stallion for artificial insemination if it is registered in one of the Verband's stallion books.
- 2.2 The stallion keeper must make a written application to the Verband's offices, breeding department, Kiel, for the issue of insemination permit by the Verband.
- 2.3 A permit shall only be issued if the stallion keeper undertakes in a separate agreement with the Verband to comply with all its relevant resolutions.

### **Section 33**

#### **EMBRYO TRANSFER AND CLONES**

##### **Embryo transfer**

Pedigree certificates shall only be issued for foals originating from embryo transfer if the mare owner reported the embryo transfer to the Verband beforehand and the following data was collected according to the provisions of animal breeding law:

- a) the identification of the genetic parents, the recipient mare and the embryo,
- b) the date of insemination,
- c) the dates when the embryo was collected and transferred.
- d) name, address, approval number of the embryo removal unit.

Horses originating from an embryo transfer shall be labelled by the addition of "ET" in their pedigree certificate and in the Verband's catalogues.

##### **Clones**

The Verband does not consider the cloning of horses to be a desirable breeding method.

The Verband does not register cloned horses.

## Section 34

### BREEDING VALUE ESTIMATION

1. Breeding values are estimated according to generally recognised and economically secured methods. Non-genetic performance differences should be ruled out here as far as possible.

The Verband or its commissioned representatives are responsible for carrying out breeding value estimates.

2. **Verband breeding value estimation for mares and stallions**

The Landeskontrollverband (LKV), Kiel, carries out the breeding value estimation on behalf of the Verband, which is responsible for this estimation.

The breeding value estimate is based on the data from foal evaluations, mares inspected and registered into the Mare Book as well as the data on mare performance tests collected in Schleswig-Holstein. Competitive sport results are not included in the estimate.

The breeding value for active brood mares shall be estimated at the end of each year and sent to the owners with the status report for the following year.

Breeding values shall be published for stallions with the following minimum numbers of evaluated offspring:

Foals evaluated: 15

mares inspected and registered into the Mare Book: 10

mares performance tested: 5

The breeding values for stallions shall be estimated at the end of each year and published on the Verband's homepage.

3. **FN breeding value estimation for German riding horses**

The Verband commissions the Deutsche Reiterliche Vereinigung (FN) to provide FN breeding value estimation. The FN then commissions Rechenzentrum VIT (Vereinigte Informationssysteme Tierhaltung w.V.) in Verden with carrying this out.

The breeding value estimation for dressage and jumping aptitude of German riding horses is carried out annually. The data basis for the breeding value model consists of performance data and pedigree data.

4. Commissioned agencies

<b>Commissioned agency</b>	<b>Activity</b>
Landeskontrollverband Kiel	Breed registry Breeding value estimation for Holsteiner mares and stallions
FN breeding department, Warendorf	Breeding value estimation for German riding horses Data centre Coordination
FN breeding department, Warendorf	Stallion performance testing

## Section 35

### REGISTRATION OF MARES

1. The inspection and registration committee (Section 15) is responsible.
2. The registration of mares in the main sections of the breed registry occurs when the requirements of these articles of association applicable as of the dam's registration have been fulfilled and the mares to be registered have been identified in accordance with the rules of the breed registry.

Registration in the main section of the breed registry can only occur if a valid pedigree certificate or birth certificate is submitted at the time of the assessment.

3. Registration of mares born up to 1994:

#### 3.1 **Main Mare Book (H)**

- 3.1.1 Mares of three years and older are registered in the Main Mare Book. The requirements for registration are:

- 3.1.1.1 The dam must be registered in the Main Mare Book or Mare Book of Holsteiner Verband. The maternal second dam must be registered in a section of the Holsteiner Verband stud book (H, S or V1). The sire and the sires of the dam, the second and the third dam must be registered in the Verband's stallion book I (four generations' pedigree).
- 3.1.1.2 The external appearance must have received a grade of at least 5 according to Section 26 sub-section 2.2 in each of the seven partial criteria according to the grading scale (Section 26 sub-section 2), and the type must have received at least a 6. The total grade must be at least 42 points.
- 3.1.1.3 The measurement of height at the withers, chest circumference and cannon bone circumference, whereby the minimum height at the withers must be at least 160cm.

#### 3.2 **Mare Book (S)**

- 3.2.1 Mares of three years and older are registered in the Mare Book. The requirements for registration are:

- 3.2.1.1 The dam must be registered in the Holsteiner Verband Main Mare Book, Mare Book or Pre-Book I. The sire and the sires of the dam, the second and the third dam must be registered in the Verband's stallion book I (four generations' pedigree).
- 3.2.1.2 The external appearance must have received a grade of at least 4 according to Section 26 sub-section 2.2 in each of the seven partial criteria according to the grading scale (Section 26 sub-section 2), and the type must have received at least a 5. The total grade must be at least 35 points.
- 3.2.1.3 The measurement of height at the withers, chest circumference and cannon bone circumference, whereby the minimum height at the withers must be at least 158cm.



Version July 2020

### 3.3 **Pre-Book I (V 1)**

3.3.1 Mares of three years and older are registered in Pre-Book I. The requirements for registration are:

3.3.1.1 The sire and dam must be registered in the Verband's main section and have a pedigree confirmed according to the rules of the breed registry and must have been identified according to the breed registry.

3.3.1.2 The external appearance must have received a grade of at least 4 according to Section 26 sub-section 2.2 in each of the seven partial criteria according to the grading scale (Section 26 sub-section 2), and the type must have received at least a 5.

3.3.1.3 Offspring of breeding horses registered in Pre-Book II may also be registered,

- if the ancestors in the Pre-Book have been bred from breeding horses from the main section for two generations and
- these received a grade of at least 4 in the assessment of external appearance according to Section 26 sub-section 2.2 in each of the seven partial criteria according to the grading scale (Section 26 sub-section 2.) and the type received a grade of at least 5.

Whereby height at the withers, chest circumference and cannon bone circumference are measured and the minimum height at the withers must be at least 158cm.

### 3.4 **Holstein Global stud book**

Mares which do not fulfil the pedigree requirements according to Section 35 may be registered in the Verband's Holstein Global stud book. The requirements for registration are given under Section 35 sub-section 8.3.

### 3.5 **Pre-Book II (V 2)**

Mares of three years and older which are within the type of the Holsteiner warmblood horse but cannot be registered in one of the above books are registered. The mares must be presented for identity verification and their external appearance must have received a grade of at least 4 according to Section 26 sub-section 2.2 in each of the seven partial criteria according to the grading scale (Section 26 sub-section 2), and the type must have received at least a 5.

The breeding director shall carry out the registration.

4 Registration of mares born from 1995

### 4.1 **Stud book I for Mares (ZB I)**

4.1.1 All mares of three years and older born in 1995 or later are registered in stud book I for Mares. The requirements for registration are:

4.1.1.1 The sire and the sires of the dam, second, and third dam must be registered in the Verband stallion book I. Dams of stallions shall be subject to conditions in Section 31 sub-section 1.2.

4.1.1.2 The external appearance must have been assessed in at least seven partial criteria according to Section 26 sub-section 2.2. Mares may receive a distinction for their quality according to Section 28 (district premium/Verband premium/state premium

designation).

4.1.1.3 The measurement of height at the withers

## 4.2 **Stud book II for Mares (ZB II)**

4.2.1 Mares of three years and older are registered in stud book II for Mares if they fulfil the following requirements:

4.2.1.1 The mare's sire and dam must be registered in the main section of Holsteiner Verband's breed registry and have a pedigree confirmed according to the rules of the breed registry and must have been identified according to the breed registry.

In addition, offspring of the breeding horses listed in the preliminary book may be registered,

- if the ancestors in the Pre-Book have been bred from breeding horses from the main section for two generations and
- these received a grade of at least 5 in the assessment of external appearance according to Section 26 sub-section 2.2 in each of the seven partial criteria according to the grading scale (Section 26 sub-section 2.) and the type received a grade of at least 6. The total grade must be at least 42 points. The height at the withers is recorded.

## 4.3 **Pre-Book for Mares (VB)**

Mares of three years and older are registered which are within the type of the German riding horse but cannot be registered in the Verband's Stud book I or II (ZB I and ZB II) for Mares (Section 35 sub-section 4.1 and 4.2). The mares must be presented for identity verification and their external appearance must have received a grade of at least 4 according to Section 26 sub-section 2.2 in each of the seven partial criteria according to the grading scale (Section 26 sub-section 2), and the type must have received at least a 5. The total grade must be at least 35 points. The height at the withers is recorded.

The breeding director shall carry out the registration.

5. Mares which have died before their registration in the Verband's Stud Book or are otherwise no longer eligible for registration may subsequently be entered in the Verband's register of ancestors if they fulfil the pedigree requirements for registration in one of the sections of the Breed Registry (H, S, V1 or Holstein Global stud book or ZB I, ZB II, VB or Holstein Global stud book). Registration shall be decided by the board of directors after a written application has been submitted.

6. Subsequent amendment of the entry  
If incorrect requirements were assumed when a mare was registered, the entry will be corrected.

7. Re-boniting  
Mares may be re-bonited on a one-off basis, generally one year at the earliest after registration in the stud book and after re-presentation to the inspection and registration committee.

Version July 2020

8. Registration of mares from other breeds

8.1 Mares which do not fulfil the pedigree requirements according to Section 35 (outcross) but which have total sport winnings of at least €10,000 or a particularly valuable breeding pedigree may be registered in the Verband's Holstein I Stud book or Holstein Main Mare Book (Section 35 sub-section 3 and sub-section 4). The mare owner must address a written application to the Verband, along with the required documents.

Mares registered in this way may:

- produce female offspring eligible for registration as mares (Section 35), if these are by a sire registered in the Verband's Stallion Book I
- produce male offspring eligible for licensing by the Verband (Section 29) and for registration in the Verband's Stallion Book (Section 31), if these are by a sire registered in the Verband's Stallion Book I.

For their male offspring to be eligible for licensing by the Verband (Section 29) and for registration in the Verband's Stallion Book (Section 31), the mares registered in this way must also fulfil the following additional requirements:

- at least 42 points on mare inspection
- type assessment with a grade of at least 6
- no grade of 4 or less in any partial characteristic
- Height at the withers of at least 160cm.

8.1.1 Thoroughbred mares may be registered in the Verband's stud book I (Section 35 sub-section 3 and sub-section 4). In agreement with Section 26 sub-section 2.2, the external appearance must be graded in 7 partial criteria according to the grading scale (Section 26 sub-section 2.) and the height at the withers recorded. The mare owner must address a written application to the Verband, along with the required documents.

Mares registered in this way may:

- produce female offspring eligible for registration as mares (Section 35), if these are by a sire registered in the Verband's Stallion Book I,
- produce male offspring eligible for licensing by the Verband (Section 29) and for registration in the Verband's Stallion Book (Section 31) if these are by a sire registered in the Verband's Stallion Book I,

Thoroughbred mares in the Verband's breeding programme may not be bred to an Anglo-Arabian or English Thoroughbred stallion.

8.2 Mares which do not fulfil the pedigree requirements according to Section 35 may be registered in Stud book I for Mares if they fulfil the following requirements:

- 100% Holsteiner genes, with the sire holding a Holsteiner pedigree certificate and/or other male ancestors with Holsteiner pedigree certificates which in the maternal line (up to the fourth generation) are not registered in Stallion Book I but have been licensed by an association affiliated to the WBFSH according to Section 23 sub-section 2.2.

or

- 50% Holsteiner genes, i.e. the sire has Holsteiner genetic parentage (Holsteiner pedigree certificate) and has been licensed by the Verband and is registered in Stallion Book I. The other male ancestors (up to the fourth generation) must generally be licensed by an association affiliated to the WBFSH according to Section 23 sub-section 2.2.

or

- 50% Holsteiner genes, i.e. the dam is a mare registered in Holstein (H, S, V I, ZB I) and the sire must generally have been licensed by an WBFSH affiliated association according to Section 23 sub-section 2.2.

Should a mare with a large proportion of Holsteiner genes (at least 50%) fulfil a comparable pedigree requirement by carrying 50% Holsteiner genes via her dam's pedigree, the board of directors may decide to admit her according to a recommendation from the breeding committee.

In agreement with Section 26 sub-section 2.2, the external appearance must be graded in 7 partial criteria according to the grading scale (Section 26 sub-section 2.) and the height at the withers recorded.

To promote purebreeding, the offspring of these mares may only be registered if they are by a stallion registered in Holstein in Stallion Book I.

The offspring of these stallions shall be equated with those of the breeding trial stallions (Section 31 sub-section 1.8).

### 8.3 **Holstein Global Stud Book**

Mares which do not fulfil the pedigree requirements according to Section 35 may be registered in the Verband's Holstein Global stud book. The requirements for registration are:

The sire and the sires of the dam, second, and third dam must generally be registered in Stallion Book I of a breeding population the incorporation of which into the breeding programme is governed in Section 23 sub-section 2.2.

The external appearance must have been assessed in at least seven partial criteria according to Section 26 sub-section 2.2.

The measurement of height at the withers.

Mares registered in this way may:

- produce female offspring eligible for registration as mares (Section 35), if these are by a sire registered in the Verband's Stallion Book I
- produce male offspring eligible for licensing by the Verband (Section 29) and for registration in the Verband's Stallion Book (Section 31) if these are by a sire registered in the Verband's Stallion Book I.

For male offspring to be eligible for licensing by the Verband (Section 29) and for registration in the Verband's Stallion Book (Section 31), the mares registered in this way must also fulfil the following additional requirements:

- at least 42 points on mare inspection
- type assessment with a grade of at least 6
- no grade of 4 or less in any partial characteristic
- Height at the withers at least 160cm.
- Checking of maternal pedigree for a comparable registration status (according to Section 31 sub-section 1.2) by the breeding committee

Version July 2020

**8.4 Registration in the Foal Book**

All mares' foals are registered in the Foal Book in their year of birth if their parents are registered in the breed registry, and at least one of them in the main section.

**9. De-activation of mares**

If a mare is no longer bred, the owner must de-activate her by the end of the year with the breeding stock report for the following breeding year. De-activation due to death or euthanasia must be reported to the Verband immediately.

**10. Re-activation of mares**

A de-activated mare may be re-activated by the owner in writing, retaining her previous registration status. Re-activation is subject to a fee.

**11. Transfer of ownership of mares**

Following written proof of a mare's new owner, the transfer of ownership shall be registered immediately in the Verband's breed registry. The requirements for this are:

- that the new owner is or becomes a member of the Verband
- that the mare is registered in a section of the breed registry.

**Section 36**

**MARE FAMILY/STEM REGISTER**

The mare families (stem-no.) which have been maintained and recorded by the Verband up to this point shall be continued via their foals and recorded in the pedigree certificates. The Verband will issue new stem numbers on request if the last four generations are registered in the main section of the Verband's Stud Book (only stud book I).

**Section 37**

**AMENDMENTS TO BREED REGISTRY ENTRIES**

A horse shall be re-classified into another section, or if necessary removed from the breed registry, if the Verband subsequently discovers that the requirements for registration were not met or subsequently ceased to apply.

Any amendment shall be clearly marked as such and the member notified of it. All the pedigree documents which were originally issued shall be retracted, but not destroyed.

**Section 38**

**OBLIGATIONS OF THE BREEDER**

The breeder is responsible for the correctness of the details on the covering certificate, the foal/no foal report as well as other certificates which he or she is obliged to fill out, submit or retain. He or she must check the accuracy of the details given in all breed registry documents and forms, including proof of pedigree, after they have been issued by the Verband. Inaccurate information must be reported to the Verband immediately, which shall carry out the necessary corrections with a correction note. The breeder may not carry out the corrections him- or herself.

## **Section 39**

### **OBLIGATIONS OF THE STALLION OWNER/KEEPER**

The stallion owner and/or keeper is responsible for proper execution of breeding/insemination and its registration with the Verband. He or she must in particular fulfil the following obligations:

1. Maintenance of a covering/insemination record.
2. Issue of a covering/insemination certificate to the mare owner for their internal breed registry documentation.
3. Submission of the stallion service record to the Verband's offices, breeding department, Kiel, by 30/9 of the breeding year.
4. Written declaration, in awareness of the consequences according to these articles of association of a breach, of compliance with the limits set on the use of stallions.
5. Written, contractual obligation when breeding a stallion ( live cover/insemination) to recognise the Verband's applicable conditions.
6. To issue the breeding director with any information on the stallion service record and disclose the relevant documents.
7. To immediately report any change of ownership or location or the death of a stallion to the Verband's offices, breeding department, Kiel.
8. To tolerate the publication of breeding value-relevant data of all stallions which are or were in his or her possession.
9. To tolerate the use and publication of information from DNA parentage verification (blood/hair) for scientifically recognised methods of breeding value estimation.
10. To participate in the Verband's breeding programme according to the current fee schedule .
11. To inform the breeder of the genetic status of the licensed stallion as regards known and relevant genetic defects or peculiarities . The stallion keeper is obliged to provide information.

## **Section 40**

### **BREED REGISTRY**

The breed registry is maintained and retained at the Verband's offices, breeding department, Kiel, or at a data processing facility. To fulfil the requirements of animal breeding law, the breed registry must contain at least the following details for each registered horse:

- the name and address of the breeder and owner
- the dam's breeding date
- date of birth, sex, colour and marking
- the life number
- identification (brand and microchip)

Version July 2020

- the parents and their identification as well as the grandparents (if known)
- all results known to the Verband of performance test and the latest breeding value estimate with date and test form
- decisions on entries and amendments in the breed registry by the breeding director
- the date and, if known, the cause of de-activation
- the issuing of breeding certificates, with date of issue (if multiple copies have been made, purpose and ordinal number)
- at least three generations of ancestors
- the assessment of the horse
- its offspring, for stallions the registered sons and daughters with life numbers, for mares the total offspring with life numbers
- If it was registered in the main section as a refiner, a corresponding identification as such
- breed show results
- blood typing/DNA
- details on twin births
- the biological parents and their DNA/blood groups for embryo transfer offspring
- DNA typing for parentage verification for births from 2003
- DNA typing for AI stallions available

Decisions on licensing and breed registry entries as well as all amendments (with all more detailed conditions) should be noted.

The Verband shall generally issue information on breed registry entries by publishing an annual breed registry, and on individual request only to the owner or a person authorised by the owner in writing. The Verband may also respond at its own discretion to requests from authorities and other breed organisations.

## **Section 41**

### **STALLION SERVICE REPORT/COVERING CERTIFICATE**

1. The stallion keeper is obliged to maintain a stallion service report (breeding/insemination list) for each stallion, recording all mares bred/inseminated . This list must contain at least:
  - the mare's name and life number
  - the stallion's name and life number
  - a description of the mare's colour
  - all breeding dates
  - the ongoing stallion service report number (serial no.)
  - the mare owner's name and address
  - the signature of the stallion owner or his/her authorised representative.
  
2. The owner of the bred/inseminated mares shall receive from the stallion keeper a covering certificate coupled with the subsequent foal/no foal report form. The covering certificate must contain the following information:
  - the mare's name and life number
  - the stallion's name and life number
  - a description of the mare's colour
  - all breeding dates
  - the mare owner's name and address
  - the stallion keeper's signature
  
3. The stallion keeper undertakes to use the stallion service report (breeding/insemination list) and the covering certificate with the foal/no foal report form according to the Verband's template, or, if these documents are produced electronically, to work according to the Verband's template. Only registrations according to the Verband's template will be processed in the responsible offices, breeding department, Kiel.

## **Section 42**

### **FOAL/NO FOAL REPORT**

1. The birth of a foal must be reported to the Verband's breeding department, Kiel, within twenty-eight days with the original foal/no foal report form or online. The foal/no foal report form /online report must be filled out accurately and completely and must be signed/confirmed, with the person filling it out being liable for the accuracy of all the details it contains. Late reports shall be identified in the breed registry and shall be subject to a late fee.
  
2. If a mare does not have a foal or if the foal dies before, during or shortly after birth, the foal/no foal report must still be filled out with the reason given and forwarded by the mare owner to the Verband, breeding department.
  
3. The foal/no foal report must at least include:
  - the name and number of the foal's dam
  - the name and number of the foal's sire
  - the sex of the foal
  - the foal's date of birth



- the foal's place of birth
- the foal's colour and markings
- name and address of the mare owner and the stallion owner
- signature of the mare owner at the time of the foal's birth
- any details on miscarriage, death after birth and possible anomalies in the foal

**Section 43**

**ANIMAL BREEDING CERTIFICATE**

1. The animal breeding certificates and pedigree certificates I and II shall be prepared in connection with an equine passport, which serves to identify the horse. Horses registered in the special section of the studbook shall receive a certificate of registration (birth certificate). The certificate of registration is headed "certificate of registration for a horse registered in a special section – no animal breeding certificate according to EU animal breeding regulation".

		<i>dam</i>		<b>main section</b>		<i>special section</i>
		<b>sire</b>		<b>H, S, V1, ZB I, ZB HG (mares)</b>	<b>ZB II (mares)</b>	<b>V 2 (mares)</b>
<b>main section</b>	<b>HB I</b>		pedigree certificate I	pedigree certificate II	certificate of registration	
	<b>HB HG</b>		pedigree certificate II	pedigree certificate II	certificate of registration	
	<b>HB II</b>		pedigree certificate II	pedigree certificate II	certificate of registration	
<b>special section</b>	<b>pre-book (stallions)</b>		certificate of registration	certificate of registration	<b>X</b>	

Animal breeding certificates according to EU Regulation 2016/1012 shall be issued when breeding material is submitted, if the donating animal is registered in the Association's breed registry.

The animal breeding certificate for sperm and egg cells consists of two sections, whereby the breeding organisation completes Section A. Section B shall be completed by the insemination station/embryo transfer facility.

The animal breeding certificate for embryos consists of three sections, whereby the breeding association completes Section A and/or Section B. Section C is completed by the embryo transfer facility.

2. Pedigree certificates I and II and certificates of registration (previously: birth certificates) are documents relating to a horse's pedigree and performance. They belong to the horse and remain the property of the issuing breeding association; in the event of a change of ownership they should be issued to the new owner and returned to the breeding department, Kiel in the event of the horse's death. A second copy of a breeding certificate may be issued for a fee on request, but only on submission of a solemn assurance that the original breeding certificate has been lost, with a notarially certified signature. It must be clearly labelled as such.
3. Breeding certificates are generally only issued in the year of birth if the horse's identity is verified by DNA/blood typing. As a requirement for the issue of breeding certificates or the exchange of a certificate of registration already issued by the Verband into a pedigree

certificate I or II, both parents must be registered within the foal's year of birth.

## **Section 44**

### **PEDIGREE CERTIFICATE**

1. The Verband issues pedigree certificates I and II:

1.1. Pedigree certificate I

- For foals by sires registered in the Verband's Stallion Book I and out of mares registered in the Verband's Main Mare Book, Mare Book and Pre-Book I born by 1994.
- For foals by sires registered in the Verband's Stallion Book I and out of dams registered in the Verband's "Stud Book I for Mares" born from 1995.
- For foals by sires registered in the Verband's Stallion Book I and out of dams registered in the Holstein Global stud book, or by outcross stallions according to Section 31 sub-section 3 and out of dams registered in the Verband's stud book I for Mares".

1.2 Pedigree certificate II

- the sire is registered into stallion book II in the year of breeding or at the latest in the year the foal is born (up to and including 31 December of the year) and the dam is registered into stud book H, S, V1, ZB I, ZB II or ZB HG in the year of breeding or at the latest in the year the foal is born (up to and including 31 December of the year), or
- the sire is registered into stallion book I or stallion book HG in the year of breeding or at the latest in the year the foal is born (up to and including 31 December of the year) and the dam is registered into stud book II in the year of breeding or at the latest in the year the foal is born (up to and including 31 December of the year).

The pedigree certificates display the Holsteiner brand on their cover .

Pedigree certificates with a corresponding identification shall be issued for offspring of horses from the Holstein Global stud book.

2. The pedigree certificate shall be issued if the following requirements are met:

- both parents must be registered in the corresponding section of the breed registry in the year of breeding or at the latest in the calendar year of the foal's birth (see special conditions for offspring by outcross stallions Section 31.1.10)
- the foal/no foal report must have been received within twenty-eight days of foaling
- the parentage must have been verified using DNA procedures
- the foal must be identified at the dam's feet by the breeding director or his/her representative.

3.1 The pedigree certificate I shall include the following details:

- a) name of the breeding association
- b) location and date of issue
- c) the horse's breed and life number/international life number
- d) the name and address of the breeder and the owner

- e) the dam's breeding date
- f) date of birth, sex, colour and markings
- g) brand (brand with two-digit number)
- h) name, life numbers (UELN), colour and breed of the parents and name, life number and breed of previous generations
- i) identification for DNA parentage verification
- j) The relevant designation of the breed registry section in which the breeding horse and its ancestors are registered
- k) the signature of the person responsible for the breeding work or his/her representative as well as the date of issue
- l) the most recent performance testing results with data and test form and the breeding value estimate of the horse or, if available, the website where the results are released.
- m) notes on licensing and insemination permit
- n) performance awards
- o) breed show results
- p) If the horse has been registered in a sub-section of the special section of the breed registry, the breeding certificate should be captioned "Breeding certificate for a breeding animal registered in a special section".
- q) genetic defects and genetic peculiarities.

3.2 The pedigree certificate II shall contain the following details:

The pedigree certificate II contains the same details as the pedigree certificate I plus the following information:

- the sire's classification as HB II and/or the dam's classification as ZB II.
- identification in article V Breed Information in the equine passport: "When the passport was issued, the sire and/or the dam of the horse did not or not yet fulfill the requirements for registration into HB I/HB HG and/or stud book H, S, V1, ZB I, ZB HG."

The registration of each new owner of active breeding horses registered with the Verband must be recorded. The pedigree certificate is required for registration in the relevant section of the breed registry.

## **Section 45**

### **CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRATION**

1. Certificates of registration shall be issued if the conditions for a pedigree certificate I and II have not been fulfilled.
  - 1.1 A certificate of registration is issued if at least one parent is registered in the Verband's main section. The foal shall receive a three-digit number brand on its left thigh.
  - 1.2 The issue of the certificate of registration requires that:
    - the foal/no foal report was received within twenty-eight days of foaling
    - the foal was identified at the dam's feet by the breeding director or his/her representative or its identity has otherwise been ensured.

- parentage has been verified using DNA procedures.
2. The certificate of registration contains where possible the same pedigree information as the pedigree certificate I and II.

## **Section 46**

### **CONDITIONS FOR THE ISSUE OF BREEDING CERTIFICATES**

1. The foal/no foal report must be completed and signed by the mare owner, and be received by the Verband's offices, breeding department, Kiel within twenty-eight days of the birth. For foal/ no foal reports not received in due time, a fee shall be paid for the increased administration costs.
2. Stallion service reports must be submitted to the Verband's offices, breeding department, Kiel by the stallion keeper by 30/9 of the relevant year. No pedigree certificates shall be issued for offspring sired by stallions whose stallion service reports were not submitted to the Verband in time.
3. Reports not corresponding to the form of Section 42 sub-section 1 (original copy of the covering certificate/ foal/no foal report issued by the stallion keeper) shall not be recognised by the Verband and therefore shall not be processed.

## **Section 47**

### **AMENDMENT OF BREEDING DATES**

All amendments to breeding dates, de-activation due to death or sale, changes of colour and markings, results of performance tests must be reported to the Verband's offices by the horse owner immediately and without a special request being made.

## **Section 48**

### **CHANGE OF OWNERSHIP**

A change to the ownership of registered breeding horses must be immediately reported to the breeding department in Kiel. This must be done by submission of the pedigree certificate.

## **Section 49**

### **IDENTIFICATION**

Identification according to the Viehverkehrsverordnung (ViehVerkV [Livestock Movement Ordinance]) shall be achieved by as thorough a description as possible of the horses' colour and markings, issue of a life number (also a name for registered stallions and mares), branding with a foal brand and/or a number according to Section 52 and the injection of an ISO transponder with a fifteen-digit number code in accordance with the conditions applicable in individual countries.

## Section 50

### REGISTRATION NUMBER (LIFE NUMBER)

Each horse shall receive a number as a foal which is issued for life. No changes can be made. This remains true even if the horse is re-classified into another section of the breed registry. If a horse was already registered with a German breeders' association, the registration number shall also be transferred on registration in another section of the Verband's breed registry.

The life number is composed as follows:

#### up to 1999

276321210016890

276

Country code (276 = DE = Germany)

3

Life number issued before 2000 (originally nine-digit)

21

Association identification number (21 = Holstein)

21

Repetition of association identification number because it was originally nine-digit

Life number

00168

serial number of the birth cohort, including the brand number as the two last digits the serial number, the code for horses with a birth certificate I and II as well as the number brand as the last three digits of the serial number for horses with a birth certificate.

90 Year of birth

#### from 2000

276421000016800

276

Country code (276 = DE = Germany)

4

Life number issued from 2000 (fifteen-digit)

21

Association identification number (21 = Holstein)

0000168

serial number of the birth cohort, including the brand number as the two last digits of the serial number, the code for horses with a birth certificate as well as the number brand as the last three digits of the serial number for horses with a birth certificate.

00 Year of birth

## Section 51

### REGISTRATION NAME

1. Mares registered in the Main Mare Book, Mare Book or Holstein Global stud book or from 1995 in Stud book I, II and Holstein Global for Mares as well as stallions registered in Stallion Book I or II shall also receive a name in addition to the number. For stallions, this shall have the same initial letters as the sire's. For mares, the initial letters of the registration name shall depend on the year of birth; they shall be issued in alphabetical order.
2. The Verband is responsible for issuing the names of breeding horses. For mares, the owner's name suggestions may be taken into account.
3. The name issued on registration in a breed registry must be retained. The name issued to a stallion may no longer be used for any other than his full brother (with the

corresponding suffix of II etc.). If the same mare name is issued multiple times, these shall also be identified with a serial number.

If it is proven that none of a stallion's offspring are being used in competitive sport, these names may be used again.

## **Section 52**

### **BRANDING RULES**

#### 1. Branding of foals

##### 1.1 The brand is issued subject to the following requirements:

The thigh brand and the number brand are generally issued in the year of birth. The branding is carried out by employees of the Verband if the foal is inspected for colour and markings with its dam prior to weaning. Foals for which a certificate of registration is issued shall receive the three-digit number brand on their left thigh.

##### 1.2 Thigh brand

Foals shall receive a thigh brand if they fulfil the requirements for the issue of a pedigree certificate (Section 45) or a certificate of registration (Section 45 sub-section 1.1). This brand is made on their left thigh.

##### 1.3 Active identification

All foals branded according to sub-section 1.2 shall generally receive a two-digit number brand under their thigh brand. The number is composed of the sixth and seventh digit of their life number (up to 1999) and the twelfth and thirteenth digit of their life number (from 2000), that is the two last digits of the serial number of the birth cohort.

##### Example:

##### For foals with a pedigree certificate

Holsteiner brand

##### Foals with a certificate of registration

Three-digit number brand

## **Section 53**

### **DNA/BLOOD GROUP SEROLOGICAL PARENTAGE VERIFICATION**

#### 1. Each foal reported to the Verband which is presented for registration and for branding must be subject to DNA parentage verification.

The foal's breeder shall receive the documents required for DNA parentage verification from the Verband immediately after reporting the birth. The breeder is obliged to initiate parentage verification immediately after receiving the documents.

The horse passport for the foal shall only be issued after the parentage submitted has been confirmed.

If the parentage is not confirmed, the breeder shall be obliged to support the Verband in clarifying.

If the foal's sire cannot be confirmed, the foal shall receive a birth certificate from the Verband.

The costs of routine parentage verification shall be borne by the breeder and the stallion keeper according to the provisions of the Verband's fee schedule.

Should it turn out in the course of parentage verification that clarification is not possible due to inaccurate information provided by the breeder, the breeder shall bear all the costs of the procedure. The Verband's board of directors may impose a fine of up to five times the costs incurred on breeders who submit intentionally false information, or resolve to expel them.

The documents associated with such proceedings shall be retained for at least ten years at the Verband's offices.

2. The Verband may demand the results of a DNA/blood group serological parentage verification for any registered horse or horse presented for registration. A DNA/blood group file shall be deposited with the Verband. The costs shall be borne by the horse's owner.

The FN shall also maintain a central DNA file at VIT (Rechenzentrum Verden) for the results of all investigated German horses. The breeder is obliged to share all his or her horses' DNA data with the Verband and to provide them for the FN's central file.

3. When stallions are presented for licensing, a DNA/blood type file for the stallion's dam and sire should generally be submitted by the applicant. This provision shall come into effect at stallion licensing for autumn 1991.

Parentage verification by DNA/blood typing shall also be arranged for the stallion in question on the date of licensing and/or registration by the Verband. The costs shall be borne in each case by the person who applied for the licensing or registration.



Version July 2020

## Final Provisions

1. These articles of association shall replace the articles of association in the version of 11 December 2019.  
It was resolved on at the delegate assembly of 09 July 2020 and shall enter into force on the day of entry into the register of associations at Pinneberg Local Court (VR 691 EL).
2. Should individual provisions of these articles of association be invalid, all other provisions shall remain valid.

This is to certify that the translation of the “Verfassung” [Constitution] is true and accurate.

Rheinberg, 7 December 2020

**Ivonne Dahmen, M.A.**

Authorized translator  
for English and German  
for the District of the  
Higher Regional Court Düsseldorf





