



Articles of Association  
of the  
Verband der Züchter  
des Holsteiner Pferdes e. V.



**Articles of Association:**

**A. CONSTITUTION**

**B. BREEDING PROGRAMME**

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## **A. CONSTITUTION**

### **A1 NAME, SEAT, 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 seat in Elmshorn.
2. The Verband is entered into 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 [Animal Breeding Act] recognised by the competent authority in the state of Schleswig-Holstein.

### **A2 SCOPE OF FUNCTION**

1. The Verband’s function is to promote public interest in the Holsteiner breed and to encourage the breeding, keeping and marketing of the Holsteiner through advice and practical support.
2. This function is fulfilled in particular by:
  - 2.1 maintaining a studbook on the breed origin of the Holsteiner warmblood horse and setting the standards for the breed
  - 2.2 designing and implementing a breeding programme for the Holsteiner warmblood horse in accordance with our articles and animal breeding regulations.
  - 2.3 communication with breed societies keeping affiliate studbooks
  - 2.4 ensuring identification of all horses registered into the studbook
  - 2.5 issuing equine passports incl. zootechnical certificates or registration certificates and the corresponding certificates of ownership
  - 2.6 submitting the required information on the germinal product donors in the appropriate parts of zootechnical certificates for germinal products to the germinal product establishments
  - 2.7 identification of all foals to be registered
  - 2.8 advising all members on matters relating to breeding and keeping Holsteiner horses
  - 2.9 keeping stallions for breeding/ insemination purposes
  - 2.10 carrying out gradings, performance tests, breeding value evaluations, breed shows and promotional events

- 2.11 promoting the sale of breeding and sport horses, especially through auctions and promotional campaigns for the Holsteiner, among other things by running a competition stable and via specialised media
- 2.12 encouraging the next generation of breeders
- 2.13 promotion of health by collecting and evaluating data
- 2.14 promoting and complying with animal welfare according to animal welfare regulations

### **A3 AREA OF ACTIVITY**

- 1. The geographical area 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, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Sweden, Slovakia, Slovenia and Spain, as well as the contractual states Switzerland and Norway.  
  
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 A3 section 1, as well as Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Monaco, Peru, Russia, South Africa, Turkey, Ukraine, the United Arab Emirates and the United Kingdom.  
  
The breeding district North America covers the territory of Canada, Mexico, and the United States of America. The delegate assembly determines the scope of activity for the members.
- 1.3 The breeding districts are legally dependent subdivisions.
- 2. In the breeding districts, annual general meetings are carried out (A7) where delegates (A11) 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.

## **A4 MEMBERS**

1. The Verband has full members/breeders and honorary members. All full members are breeders.
- 1.1 A full member may be any natural person, partnership under the Civil Code or legal entity which makes a written application to the Verband and fulfils the requirements of the animal breeding regulations/TierZG in its current version and acknowledges the Verband Articles of Association in its current version.
- 1.2 Members are assigned to a breeding area according to their place of business.
- 1.3 Partnerships under the Civil Code (breeding partnerships) may be formed by up to two Verband members (section 1), one of whom must be nominated to the Verband as authorised for sole representation, and to whom declarations may be issued with effect against both. Breeding partnerships have single voting rights.
- 1.4 Persons who have particularly promoted the Verband may be named honorary members by the delegate assembly at the suggestion of the executive board; an honorary member who has already held the office of chair may be named honorary chair in the same way; honorary members or chairs are exempted from membership fees.
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. On principle, the Verband becomes active only for members. In justified individual cases, the Verband is also entitled to act for non-members upon a decision by the board.

## **A5 BECOMING A MEMBER**

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

## **A6 TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP**

Membership shall expire

1. by resignation, which is only possible at the end of the financial year and must be declared to the Verband at three months' notice by registered letter,
2. for natural persons upon their death, for partnerships and legal entities upon their complete termination,
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 arrears with their payment obligations to the Verband

for longer than three months. If the expulsion is planned for reasons other than default on payment, the executive board must consult the member in question beforehand, providing the reason for expulsion. Expulsion shall be declared by the executive board and communicated by written letter. The member concerned may lodge an objection against this decision within one month, on with the delegate assembly shall decide. Expelled members must pay the full contribution for the current financial year.

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

#### **A7 MEMBERS' RIGHTS AND DUTIES**

1. The members/breeders have the right
  - 1.1 to be accepted as members,
  - 1.2 to participate in the breeding programme with their breeding stock,
  - 1.3 to have their purebred breeding horses and their purebred offspring registered in the main section of the breed's studbook, provided that the registration requirements are met and the full members participates in an approved breeding programme,
  - 1.4 to receive zootechnical certificates for their breeding horses participating in the Verband's breeding programme.
  - 1.5 to receive confirmation of registration certificates for their breeding horses that participate in the Verband's breeding programme and are registered in a special section,
  - 1.6 to participate in performance tests and breeding value assessments in accordance with the breeding programme and to be provided with the current results,
  - 1.7 on the mating and selection of their breeding animals,
  - 1.8 to exercise ownership rights to their breeding animals,
  - 1.9 to use the Verband's facilities and services, as long as they are not in default on their payment obligations,
  - 1.10 to participate in the definition and further development of the breeding programme in accordance with the articles of association,
  - 1.11 to appeal against decisions made by the Verband in the implementation of the articles of association and the breeding programme and
  - 1.12 to view contracts or agreements between the Verband and third parties at the office and in compliance with data protection regulations, insofar as these relate to their breeding interests.
2. Members that are natural persons are entitled to vote at their meetings once they have turned 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. In exceptional cases, general meetings may be held outside of the breeding district.
- 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 executive board.
- 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 A general meeting is always competent regardless of the number of members present; resolutions shall require a simple majority of the votes submitted. 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. Group elections are permissible following an unanimous resolution passed by the members.
- 2.5 Delegates and their deputies, as well as a chair and their deputy and two additional officers shall be elected in each district for a term of four years. If the chair, deputy chair, or an officer is dismissed prematurely or if the office ends before the end of the regular term (for example due to resignation or death), the term of office of the chair, deputy chair or officer newly elected instead shall only be for the duration of the term the replaced chair, deputy chair or officer was originally elected. The resolutions of the general meeting must be recorded and the minutes signed by the chair.
- 2.6 A general meeting may not only be held in person, but also virtually in exceptional and individual cases. The executive board decides on this at its own dutiful discretion after consultation with the chair of the breeding district in question and informs the members of this as part of the invitation. Virtual general meetings shall take place in an online forum only accessible to members of the breeding district in question. Members must log in with their details and a separate password. This password is only valid for one virtual members' meeting. Members who have registered their email address with the Verband will receive their password in a separate email, the other members will receive the password by letter. It is sufficient to send the password two days before the general meeting to the last email address known to the Verband or two weeks before the meeting to the last known postal address. The members are obliged to keep the password secret. Disclosure to third parties is not permitted.
- 2.7 Notwithstanding Section 32 (2) BGB, a resolution passed by the members of a breeding district is also valid without a general meeting in exceptional or individual cases if all members of the breeding district have been involved, at least 35% of the members have cast their votes in text form by a set deadline and the resolution has been passed with the required majority. The executive board shall decide on such a resolution by



"circulation procedure" at its own discretion after consultation with the respective chair of the breeding district. Members who have registered their email address with the Verband will receive the draft resolution by separate email; other members will receive the draft resolution by letter. The deadline for submission may not be earlier than two weeks after the draft resolution has been sent to the members. It must be submitted to the respective chair of the breeding district in which the vote is to be counted by two scrutineers appointed by the executive board on the day after the deadline set. The result will then be announced on the official website of the Verband.

3. The members/breeders are obliged
  - 3.1 to comply with the articles of association and the resolutions of the Verband's bodies,
  - 3.2 to support the Verband at all times in pursuing its objectives according to these articles of association and on request to provide information, allow parentage testing and to bear the costs and reimburse any damages incurred due to incorrect information,
  - 3.3 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,
  - 3.4 to pay a regular contribution as well as fees levied for individual activities, as decided by the delegate assembly on the basis of the cost recovery principle, meaning that services in the extended breeding area may be associated with higher fees due to the greater expenses associated with them,
  - 3.5 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 the membership expires, if it has not already been offset against existing liabilities,
  - 3.6 to pay an acceptance fee of €100 instead of a loan if the member joined on or after 01/01/2021, as a contribution to the running and further development of the Verband's facilities,
  - 3.7 to pay levies if a corresponding delegate resolution is made so that the Verband can achieve particular goals. This contribution may not be higher than four times the last membership fee.
  - 3.8 To help breed for health, members provide health data on their horses to set up a database. Veterinarians will therefore submit health data collected by them for central storage and processing. This information will be processed 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 analyse the provided DNA (blood/hair) and to publish the results.

## **A8 RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF THE ASSOCIATION**

The Verband 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 expel members/breeders who fail to comply with the articles of association or who fail to fulfil their statutory obligations from the breeding association;
4. obliged, in accordance with A18 of the articles of association, to settle disputes 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 the members are observed while ensuring equal treatment of all members;
6. obliged to keep breeding records and documentation for at least 10 years provided no other statutory provisions exist;
7. obliged to allow, on request, all regular members to come to the office 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;
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 of origin, on the Verband's website and to update it in the event of amendments.

## **A9 ORGANS AND BODIES OF THE ASSOCIATION**

The organs of the Verband are

- the executive board (including advisory board)
- the delegate assembly

The bodies of the Verband are

- the breeding committee

- the stallion owners' delegation
- the stallion licensing committee and the objection committee
- the inspection and registration committee

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

## **A10 EXECUTIVE BOARD (INCL. ADVISORY BOARD)**

### **EXECUTIVE BOARD**

1. The executive board is elected by the delegate assembly. It comprises five members, the chair, the deputy chair and three other members.

A member can only become a member of the executive board 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 executive board shall 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 entire board.

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

If a board member is dismissed prematurely or if the office ends before the end of the regular term (for example due to resignation or death), the term of office of the board member newly elected instead shall only be for the duration of the term the replaced board member was originally elected. In justified exceptional cases this rule can be set aside following a decision by the delegate assembly.

In the event of A10 no. 2 paragraph 4 (premature dismissal or premature termination of the executive board office for other reasons before the regular term of office), the new executive board member to be elected for the term of office in accordance with A10 no. 2 paragraph 4 (duration of the term for which the replaced executive board member was originally elected) shall be elected directly by the delegate assembly on the proposal of a district chair. The election requirements under A 10 no. 1 paragraphs 2 and 3 do not have to be met.

3. The chair shall call and chair the delegate assembly as well as the meetings of the executive board, the breeding committee and the stallion owners' delegation.

4. The executive board is responsible for all matters which do not explicitly fall within the delegate assembly's area of responsibility.
- 4.1 The executive board must in particular make suggestions to the delegate assembly for the appointment of committee and commission members, after consulting with the chairs of the breeding districts,
- 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 following the breeding committee's suggestion on the registration of stallions (B 10 section 10.2.1),
- 4.7 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 appoint judges for all breed events,
- 4.9 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),
- 4.11 appoint an animal welfare officer,
- 4.12 draw up and update arbitration rules,
5. The executive board 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 executive board may be dismissed by the delegate assembly before their term of office has expired with a two-thirds majority of submitted votes.
7. The members of the executive board 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 association. 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 executive board is obliged to provide compensation to a third party for damage caused in the course of their duties as a member of the executive board, they may request that the Verband release them from the liability, unless they 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].

### **ADVISORY BOARD**

9. The advisory board shall on request provide the executive board and the breeding district chairpersons with external expert advice on pursuing the purposes set out in these articles of association. It shall be composed of three to five advisory board members working or having 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.
10. The executive board has the right to propose members of the advisory board. The chairs of the breeding districts may, however, propose possible advisory board members to the executive board at least four weeks before the date of the delegate assembly. The executive board must discuss these proposals before the delegate assembly. At the proposal of the executive board, the members of the advisory board will then be confirmed by the delegate assembly for a term of three years by a simple majority. The advisory board shall elect its own chair.
11. Each member of the advisory board may resign from their position early without giving reasons by means of a written declaration to the executive board. They must take the interests of the Verband into account here and should comply with a notice period of six months.
12. Each member of the advisory board may be dismissed by a resolution of the executive board if there is good cause to do so.
13. 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.
14. A meeting of the advisory board shall take place at least twice a year, led by the chair of the advisory board. The meeting shall be called by the chair in writing with a notice period of at least three weeks, and the agenda sent out. All members of the executive board have access to the meetings of the advisory board, the same applies to the breeding director and executive director (A16 Section 1) as well as the executive directors of both limited liability companies (A16 Section 2.1 and A16 Section 2.2). The members of the executive board must be informed of the meetings of the advisory board.

## A11 DELEGATE ASSEMBLY

1. The delegate assembly is the Verband's general meeting in the sense of the Civil Code (BGB). It is as such the highest organ of the Verband. It is composed of the executive board, the chairs of the breeding districts and the delegates. The chairs of the respective breeding districts are the - born - first delegates. The other delegates are elected in the individual breeding districts. Any breeding district is entitled to elect one delegate per seventy registered breeding horses or a fraction thereof. 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 or replace delegates who have resigned. The deputies shall step in in the order of the number of votes they have received in the election. 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' proposals must reach the Verband executive board at least three weeks before the date of the delegate assembly. These proposals 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. Proposals 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.

A delegate assembly may not only be held in person, but also virtually in exceptional and individual cases. The executive board decides on this at its own dutiful discretion after consultation with the chairs of the breeding districts and informs the delegates of this as part of the invitation. Virtual delegate assemblies shall take place in an online forum only accessible to members of the delegate assembly. Delegates must log in with their details and a separate password. This password is only valid for one virtual delegate assembly. Delegates who have registered their email address with the Verband will receive their password in a separate email, the other delegates will receive the password by letter. It is sufficient to send the password two days before the delegate assembly to the last email address known to the Verband or one week before the delegate assembly to the last known postal address. The delegates are obliged to keep the password secret. Disclosure to third parties is not permitted.

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 A constitution and B 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 the members of the executive board.
  - 4.3 pursuing legal claims against members of the executive board.
  - 4.4 dismissing members of the executive board 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 recurring obligations for the Verband.
  - 4.7 setting contributions and fees, member loans and levies, appointing two cash auditors for a term of two years.
  - 4.8 releasing the executive board in relation to its activities in the previous financial year.
  - 4.9 deciding on all complaints made against the executive board's rules of procedure.
  - 4.10 nominating and expelling honorary members at the executive board's 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 executive board 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 executive board and the breeding districts, represented by their chairs.
  - 4.12 approving the Good Governance Guidelines drawn up by the executive board (see [www.holsteiner-verband.de](http://www.holsteiner-verband.de) – bottom of the home page).
  - 4.13 approving the arbitration rules drawn up and updated by the executive board.
- 5.1 The delegate assembly shall be called by the chair if at least 20% of the delegates make a written proposal.
- 5.2 The delegate assembly shall be competent if at least half of delegates are present. The resolutions must be recorded; the minutes must be signed by the chair.

On principle, the decisions of the delegate assembly shall be made by a majority of submitted votes, unless another mode has been decided upon.

Abstentions are considered votes non cast.

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.

Group elections are permissible following an unanimous resolution passed by the delegates.

- 5.3 A delegate who does not attend the delegate 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 in original form by mail, by fax or by e-mail as PDF by the beginning of the delegate assembly.

## **A12 BREEDING COMMITTEE / STALLION OWNERS' DELEGATION**

### **1. Breeding Committee**

#### 1.1 The breeding committee consists of:

- the chair of the Verband
- 2 other members of the executive board
- 4 members of the stallion licensing committee
- 1 member of the objection committee
- 2 members of the inspection and registration committee
- the breeding director

#### 1.2 The committees and the executive board shall determine their representatives in the breeding committee by vote with a simple majority.

#### 1.3 In individual cases, the chair may bring in expert advisers to the meetings of the breeding committee.

#### 1.4 The breeding committee is tasked with advising the executive board on all breeding matters, and may invite external experts on particular questions. The breeding committee is competent if at least half of its members are present and shall decide with simple majority.

### **2. Stallion Owners' Delegation**

#### 2.1 The stallion owners' delegation consists of

- members who own at least one stallion activated in the Verband's breeding records in Stallion Book I as well as the executive director of the Verband stallion keeping GmbH (A16 section 2.1).
- the chair or another officer on the executive board.
- the breeding director.



- 2.2 The stallion owners' delegation may submit proposals to the breeding committee regarding breeding matters and to the executive board regarding other matters.
- 2.3 Votes among the members owning at least one stallion activated in the Verband's breeding records in Stallion Book I and the executive director of the Verband stallion keeping GmbH 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 two weeks.
- 2.4 The stallion owners' delegation shall make three suggestions to the delegate assembly for the election of members of the licensing and objection committees, respectively.

### **A13 STALLION LICENSING COMMITTEE/ OBJECTION COMMITTEE**

1. The stallion licensing committee consists of four full committee members, specifically:
- a) 2 Verband members
  - b) 1 Verband member from the stallion owner's delegation
  - c) 1 successful competition rider, who need not be a Verband member  
and  
the breeding director.

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

- 1.1 The full and the replacement members are elected by the delegate assembly.
- on a) the nominations are brought forward by the executive board and the breeding districts, represented by their chairs.
  - on b) the nominations are brought forward by the stallion owners' delegation.
  - on c) the nominations are brought forward by the executive board and the breeding districts, represented by their chairs.  
The four persons receiving 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.
  - on d) breeding director by virtue of office

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 a four year term, while the other breeders' representative (Verband member) shall be elected two years later for a four year term.
- on b) the representative of the stallion owners is elected at the same time as the other breeders' representative after two years for a four year term.
- on c) a competition rider is elected at the same time as the first breeders' representative for a four year term.

The full members shall elect from among them a chair and a deputy chair.

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

- 1.3 Members are elected for a four year term. A member can be elected or re-elected until they reach the age of 75.
  - 1.4 The committee is competent when at least three members (including the breeding director, in case of on-farm licensing at least two members) are present. If the votes are tied, the vote of the chair, or else the deputy chair's, shall be decisive
  - 1.5 A committee member has a conflict of interest if and when a horse they have bred, reared, prepared for licensing or owns is presented for inspection; these reasons for exclusion also apply to spouses, life partners and offspring. In such a case, the replacement member shall step in, or the replacement member under 1a. is exchangeable.
2. Objections against a licensing decision (B 15 section 15.6) shall be decided on by an objection committee, consisting of four full members and the breeding director. The breeding director has no vote:
    - a) 2 Verband members from the Verband's area of activity according to these articles
    - b) 1 Verband member from the stallion owners' delegation
    - c) 1 expert, who need not be a member of the Verband.

A replacement member shall be appointed for every full member. The delegate assembly shall elect the four full members and the replacement members.

- on a) the nominations are brought forward by the executive board and the breeding districts, represented by their chairs
- on b) the nominations are brought forward by the stallion owners' delegation
- on c) the nominations are brought forward by the executive board and the breeding districts, represented by their chairs

The four persons receiving 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 interest 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 a four year term, while the other breeders' representative (Verband member) shall be elected two years later for a four year term..
  - on b) the representative of the stallion owners is elected at the same time as the second breeders' representative after two years for a 4 year term.
  - on c) an expert is elected at the same time as the first breeders' representative for a four year term.
- 2.1 The full members shall elect from among them a chair and a deputy chair. The chair is supposed to be from a) (Verband member/breeder).
  - 2.2 The breeding director shall set the date for the meeting and if necessary the re-presentation 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 shall be decisive.

- 2.4 A committee member has a conflict of interest if and when a horse they have bred, reared, prepared for licensing or owns is presented for inspection; these reasons for exclusion also apply to spouses, life partners and offspring.
- 2.5 The objection committee's term of office corresponds to that given in section 1.3 (A13).

#### **A14 INSPECTION AND REGISTRATION COMMITTEE**

1. The inspection and registration committee consists of up to 28 members, namely 27 elected full members and the breeding director by virtue of position, and, if the latter is unavailable, a member of staff (Verband employee) authorized by the breeding director.
2. The full members shall be elected by the delegate assembly based on the executive board's suggestions. The executive board's suggestions are based on the persons named by the breeding districts. The members receiving the most votes shall be appointed as full committee members.
3. On principle, the committee is competent if at least two of its members are present. In the case of on-farm inspections, a committee member appointed by the breeding director, the breeding director, or a member of staff (Verband employee) authorized by the breeding director may also carry out the inspection and registration alone.
4. A committee member has a conflict of interest and must refrain from participating in the decision if they are the breeder, producer and/or owner of the mare/foal to be inspected. This also applies if these reasons for conflict of interest apply to spouses and offspring.

#### **A15 MEMBERS' PERSONAL DATA**

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 processed and used in order to keep breeding records and carry out the 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 FN associated breed societies and the Vereinigten Informationssysteme Tierhaltung (vit).

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 breed societies as well as publication within the scope of breeding events and performance tests.

2. Each member agrees that details on their name and residence as well as master data, all the scores, bonits and breeding values of their 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"].

## **A16 EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS AND BREEDING DIRECTOR**

### **Verband Executive Director and Breeding Director**

1. To fulfil its duties on its behalf, the Verband employs one or more executive director/s as well as a breeding director. The positions of executive director and breeding director can be held by the same person.

1.1 The executive director shall be responsible for all matters of the Verband in accordance with these articles of association with the exception of those tasks assigned to the appointed breeding director.

The executive director is responsible to the executive board for budget management in his area of responsibility and must submit an annual report at the delegate assembly. The executive director shall exercise the rights and duties of the employer within the meaning of labour and social law regulations.

1.2 The breeding director is responsible in particular for the following scope of duties according to A 9-14 and B 1-22 of the articles of association, in particular

- a. breed related work and studbook management according to the provisions of animal welfare and animal breeding regulations;
- b. implementation of the breeding programme.

The breeding director is responsible to the executive board for his scope of duties and reports to the delegate assembly.

### **GmbH Executive Directors**

2. The Verband is the sole shareholder in two limited liability companies with their registered office in Elmshorn, which are active in the following areas:

2.1 horse breeding and keeping, especially the keeping of stallions for breeding/ insemination purposes (stallion services) as well as the rearing and training of 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, associated marketing campaigns and the other transactions and services connected with this.

2.3 The executive directors of both limited liabilities companies have an obligation to the executive board and the delegate assembly to run their companies properly. They must prepare a report for the delegate assembly which takes place 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.

## A17 AUDITS AND INTERNAL AUDITS

After the executive 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.

Deputy auditors may be elected up to the number of internal auditors elected by the delegate assembly. At least one deputy shall be elected.

## A18 ARBITRATION BOARD

1. The executive board shall draw up and update arbitration rules, which must be approved by the delegate assembly. These rules determine by whom the members of the arbitration board are appointed.
2. The arbitration board is responsible for settling all disputes
  - 2.1. between and among members/breeders of the Verband und
  - 2.2. between Verband and its members/breeders, which have their basis in the execution of the breeding programme or in the case of membership in the Verband's activities and tasks according to these articles of association or relate to an individual member's basic decisions affected in the range of their Verband membership.
3. The arbitration board shall consist of three persons, two arbiters and a chair.
4. Place of arbitration is Elmshorn.
5. Proceedings shall be conducted in German.
6. The law applicable to the matter shall be German law and directly applicable EU law, with the exception of UN sales law.
7. The arbitration board may impose the following disciplinary actions: reprimand, fines, temporary prohibition on exercising 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 **Arbitration Rules of the Verband der Züchter des Holsteiner Pferdes e.V.**
9. Appeals against the decisions of the arbitration board may be brought to the delegate assembly.

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

### **A19 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 three-quarters majority 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 is sufficient.
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.

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## **B. Breeding Programme for the Holsteiner Horse Population**

The breeding programme is an integral part of the Articles of Association of the Verband der Züchter des Holsteiner Pferdes e.V.. The Holsteiner horse essentials with the necessary information in accordance with regulation (EU) 2016/1012 /EU Animal Breeding Regulation) Annex I, part 2 and 3 are published on the Verband website and include the following sections; B4 - B10, B12, B15 - B17 and B20.

### **B1 FUNDAMENTALS**

The breed association works in accordance with the provisions of regulation (EU) 2016/1012 as well as the relevant provisions of European law, the animal breeding, animal welfare and veterinary regulations of the federal and state governments.

As a member of the German Equestrian Federation (Deutsche Reiterliche Vereinigung e.V., FN), the breed association adopts the provisions of the Breed Association Regulations (Zuchtverband-sordnung/ZVO) in accordance with the FN statutes in the Articles of Association of the Holsteiner Verband, consisting of constitution and breeding programme.

Furthermore, the work is also based on the guidelines and recommendations of the FN. The breed association therefore stipulates that it complies with the “Guidelines for Animal Welfare in Equestrian Sport” of the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture, the “Ethical Principles of the Horse Lover” and the “Resolution on the Attitude Towards Riding Horses/Ponies” of the FN, as well as the “Guidelines for Riding and Driving” of the FN when handling and training horses.

If the FN specifies changes to the guidelines and resolutions that affect the breeding programme, these must be announced immediately by the Verband to the members and the responsible authorities and, if necessary, approved by the responsible authority.

Further basis are the contractual regulations of the Verband with the commissioned third parties named in the breeding programme.

The Verband shall carry out the breeding programme under its own responsibility and authority following approval by the competent recognition authority. The breeding programme includes all measures that are suitable for achieving breeding progress with regard to the breeding objective. This includes in particular the assessment of selection criteria (assessment of external appearance, performance, fertility and health), the determination of breeding values and entry in the various studbook sections and classes on the basis of the assessed criteria, age and/or sex. When assessing the breeding value, the results of other breed associations or bodies may also be taken into account in addition to the results of the breed's own population.

### **B2 INFORMATION ON THE STUDBOOK OF ORIGIN**

- 2.1 The Verband der Züchter des Holsteiner Pferdes keeps the studbook on the origin of the Holsteiner horse breed. The Holsteiner Verband breeding programme includes all measures suited to promote progress with regard to the breeding objective and the characteristic traits of the Holsteiner breed, in so far as they conform to animal breeding regulations.
- 2.2 The Holsteiner horse as a breed has been bred by farmers for centuries. This breed originates in the marshes on the river Elbe and on the west coast of Schleswig-Holstein. The original breeding goal for this working horse included typical qualities such as the characteristic breed type, expressive and with bone, frame, and substance, which was achieved



through selective breeding to Thoroughbreds. At this time, Holsteiner horses had a primarily 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 impressive luxury carriage horses due to their expressive type and the high-stepping and ground-covering gaits typical for the Holsteiner horse. But also farmers knew about the Holsteiner's willingness to perform and hardiness and the difficult soil conditions of the Holstein marshes ensured a particular high level of selection. As early as in 1883, Georg Ahsbahs, Sommerlander Riep, established systematic breeding records in the horse breeding associations of the Holstein marshes, collecting and archiving the mare families. The mare lines which are still valid and continued today have emerged from this archive and form the basis of today's Holsteiner breeding.

2.3 In the mid-twentieth century the breed evolved from a working horse into a sport horse. The Holsteiner horse was refined again, mostly by using English Thoroughbred stallions, which found an outstanding basis for successful cross-breeding in the diligently bred Holsteiner mare population. Its existing breed characteristics such as willingness to perform, hardiness and jumping ability meant the Holsteiner sport horse very quickly gained a foothold in the horse show scene.

The rankings produced by the World Breeding Federation for Sport Horses (WBFSH) show Holsteiner horses in a leading position as show jumpers and sport horses. In the disciplines dressage and eventing, Holsteiner horses compete at the highest level as well. These successes are based on the solidly bred Holsteiner mare base in combination with English Thoroughbred improvement stallions and the selective use of French sport horse performance genes. Breeding trials with the selective use of exceptional performance stallions have been carried out, as well.

### **B3 GEOGRAPHIC AREA AND POPULATION SIZE**

The geographic area of activity according to Annex I Part 2 No. 1 e) of the EU Animal Breeding Regulation covers the Federal Republic of Germany and 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 and Spain, as well as the contractual states Switzerland and Norway.

Moreover, the geographic area covers the states Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Columbia, Mexico, Monaco, Peru, Russia, South Africa, Turkey, Ukraine, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America.

As of 1 January 2024, the breeding population of the Holsteiner horse amounts to 5.252 registered broodmares and 209 activated stallions. The number of members is 5.012.



type:

The typical Holsteiner horse is an athletic and expressive riding horse with long lines, apt to excel in sport, particularly in jumping. The Thoroughbred influence should be present in a dry and expressive head, well-formed neck and well-defined muscling. Breeding stallions and brood mares should embody clearly discernible sex type.

Particularly undesirable are a coarse, plump or unathletic appearance, a coarse head, fleshy contours and, in breeding stock, lack of male or female expression.

conformation:

Desired is a balanced conformation suited for riding purposes – in particular show jumping.

This includes:

- a long neck tapering towards the head,
- a clean throat latch area,
- a big, sloping shoulder,
- well-defined withers blending smoothly into the back,
- a functional, swinging back fulfilling the requirements of an athletic sport horse, combining carrying power and balance, when moving
- long, muscular croup, a body with a balanced division into front, mid-section and hindquarters.

Also desired is

- a dry, well-defined foundation well-suited to the body with correct, big joints and medium-length pasterns and well-formed hooves that can be expected to allow for long-time use.
- Also correct conformation of the limbs, i.e. straight when seen from behind, and in side view straight front legs and hind legs with strong hocks with appropriate angulation.

Undesired is

- a generally unbalanced body structure, in particular
  - a short, heavy, or low-set neck,
  - a small, steep shoulder,
  - mutton withers,
  - a back adversely affected in its functionality, failing to meet the requirements of an athletic sport horse
  - an overly straight croup with high-set tail, crooked tail carriage, insufficient depth of heart girth and drawn up flanks with short false ribs;

also undesirable are

- incorrect limbs;

this includes:

- small, narrow or tied-in joints, weak cannon bones and short, steep or overly long, soft pasterns as well as too small hooves, particularly with contracted heels.

Also undesirable are misalignments of the limbs, in particular toe-out, toe-in, base-wide, base-narrow, back at the knee, too straight, or sickle hocked, cow-hocked or bow-legged conformation.

movement:

Features of movement:

- typical knee action of the front legs with a lot of thrust from behind at the trot
- ground-covering walk
- up-hill and long striding canter

Basic gaits:

Desired are active, rhythmic and ground-covering basic gaits (4-beat walk, 2-beat trot, 3-beat- canter). The walk should be free of tension, energetic, and elevated with the feet properly lifted and put down.

The trot should have the knee action typical of the Holsteiner horse. Trot and canter should be elastic, swinging, light-footed, with natural up-hill carriage and balance. The impetus from actively working hindquarters pushing off energetically from the ground should be transferred through a freely swinging back to the front legs, which should reach freely forward from the shoulder. The canter in particular should be jumped forward with a clear up-hill tendency.

jumping:

Desired is scopey, elastic and deliberate jumping indicating calmness and intelligence.

When jumping, it is desirable for the horse to visibly gather himself for a powerful and quick take-off, fold his legs very quickly (foreleg held as horizontal as possible over the jump), and jump with a rounded back with clearly visible withers and lowered neck, stretching out his hind legs (bascule). The flow of movement and the rhythm of the canter should be maintained in the overall sequence.

Undesirable is in particular uncontrolled or indecisive jumping with dangling legs, with the head held high over the jump, along with a stiff or hollowed back, which impedes the flow of movement and the rhythm of the canter.

nature and temperament:

Desired is an uncomplicated, well-adjusted and reliable horse with strong nerves, easily handled, yet possessing great willingness to work which gives an alert,

intelligent impression and demonstrates a good nature and even temperament in appearance and behaviour.

performance aptitude:

performance qualities

- good riding horse qualities
- willingness to perform
- pleasant and cooperative disposition
- exceptional jumping ability and technique
- quick reactions and reflexes

health:

also desired are health (requirements B15.2.2), physical and mental resilience and natural fertility.

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

summary:

Desired is a rideable and versatile horse, willing and able to perform, which should be primarily suited for show jumping but also with an aptitude for the disciplines of dressage and eventing.

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

## B6 SELECTION CRITERIA

### 6.1 Pedigree

#### Stallions

##### Main section

- Stallion book Holstein I and stallion book Holstein Ia (HB I, HB Ia)

The sire and the dam's sire must be licensed and registered stallions of the own breeding population (stallion book Holstein I, stallion book Holstein Ia). The other sires in the maternal line (3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> generation) must be licensed stallions. In case of stallion dams, the second and third dam on the dam's side must be registered in the mare book or mare book Holstein I, at least. The other ancestors in the maternal bloodline (back to the 5<sup>th</sup> generation) must be mares registered in the main section of the Verband (H, S, V1, SB I, SB HG).

On principle, outside blood improvement breed ancestors (B7.1) must meet the registration requirements for the breeds listed in B7.

Outside blood stallions of the breeds listed in B7 which are licensed by the Verband can be registered directly into the stallion book Holstein I.

- Stallion book Holstein Global (HB HG)

Stallions of the breeds listed in B7 can be registered if:

the sire, as well as the sires of dam, second dam and third dam are on principle registered in stallion book I of a breeding population which can be included into the breeding programme in accordance with B7.

- Stallion book Holstein II (HB II)  
The sire and the dam's sire must be registered stallions of the own breeding population (stallion book Holstein I, stallion book Holstein Ia).  
Moreover, descendants of breeding stock registered in the special section (pre-book) can be registered if the pre-book ancestors have been bred to main section registered stock over two generations.
- Foal book (HB F)  
Sire and dam are registered in the main section for stallions and mares, respectively.

#### Special section

- Pre-book (VB)  
Sire and dam are registered in the studbook.
- Foal book pre-book (VB HF)  
Sire and dam are registered in the studbook, at least one of them in the main section.

#### Mares

##### a. **Mares born up to and including 1994:**

#### Main section

- Main mare book Holstein (H)  
The dam must be registered in the main mare book or mare book of the Holsteiner Verband. The second dam must be registered in one of the sections of the Holsteiner Verband studbook (H, S or pre-book). The sire as well as the sires of the dam, second dam, and third dam must be registered in the Verband stallion book Holstein I (4 generation pedigree).  
In case of stallion dams, the second and the third dam must be registered in the Holsteiner Verband mare book, at least. The other dams in the female line (up to the 5<sup>th</sup> generation) must also be Holsteiner Verband registered mares.
- Mare book (S)  
The dam must be registered in the Holsteiner Verband main mare book Holstein, mare book or pre-book I. The sire as well as the sires of the dam, second dam, and third dam must be registered in the stallion book Holstein I of the Holsteiner Verband (4 generation pedigree).
- Pre-book I (V 1)  
The sire and the dam must be registered in the main section of the Holsteiner Verband; they must have a pedigree established in accordance with the rules of the studbook and have been identified in accordance with the specifications of the studbook.
- Mare book Holstein Global (SB HG)  
Mares which do not meet the main section's pedigree requirements according to B6.1, can be registered in the Verband mare book Holstein Global. The requirements for registration are stated under B6.1b).

Special section

- Pre-book II (V 2)  
Mares which cannot be registered in the main section.

**b. Mares born in 1995 or after:**

Main section

- Mare book Holstein I (SB I)

The sire as well as the sires of the dam, second dam, and third dam must be registered in the Holsteiner Verband stallion book Holstein I.

In case of stallion dams, the second and third dam must be registered in the main mare book Holstein, the mare book or the mare book Holstein I. The other dams in the female line (up to the 5<sup>th</sup> generation) must also be mares registered in the main section (H, S, V1, SB I, SB HG).

On principle, outside blood ancestors must meet the registration requirements for the breeds listed in B7.

Outside blood mares of the breeds listed under B7 can be registered into mare book Holstein I provided that they carry:

- 100% Holsteiner genes, but with the sire holding a Holsteiner pedigree certificate and/or other male ancestors holding Holsteiner pedigree certificates in the ascending maternal line (back to 4<sup>th</sup> generation), which are not registered in the Holsteiner Verband stallion book Holstein I, but have been licensed by an WBFSH affiliated breed society according to B7.1.

or

- 50% Holsteiner genes, meaning that the sire carries Holsteiner genes (Holsteiner pedigree certificate), is Holsteiner Verband-licensed and has been registered into stallion book Holstein I. On principle, the other male ancestors (back to the 4<sup>th</sup> generation) must be licenced by a WBFSH affiliated breed society according to B7.1.

or

- 50 % Holsteiner genes, meaning that the dam is a Holsteiner Verband-registered mare (H, S, V I, SB I) and the sire is on principle licensed by a WBFSH affiliated breed society according to B7.1.
- A mare carrying a high percentage of Holsteiner genes (at least 50%) and fulfilling comparable requirements in terms of pedigree through her dam carrying 50% Holsteiner genes or because she carries a bloodline particularly valuable for breeding, can be ruled eligible for registration by the executive board upon the breeding committee's recommendation.

- Thoroughbred mares can be registered in the Holsteiner Verband mare book Holstein I.

Thoroughbred mares cannot be bred to Anglo-Arabian or English Thoroughbred stallions in compliance with the Holsteiner Verband breeding programme.

Mares registered in this way may:

- produce female offspring eligible for mare registration (B10.4), if sired by a stallion registered in the Verband stallion book Holstein I or in stallion book HG,

- produce male offspring eligible for Holsteiner Verband licensing (B.15) and registration into the Verband stallion book (B10), if sired by a stallion registered in the Verband stallion book Holstein I or in stallion book HG.
  
- Mare book Holstein Global (SB HG)  
Mares which do not meet the pedigree requirements for the main section in accordance with B6.1a or B6.1b, can be registered in the Holsteiner Verband mare book Holstein Global, provided that:  
the sire as well as the sires of the dam, the second dam, and the third dam are on principle registered in stallion book I of a breed listed in B7.
  
- Mares registered in this way may:
  - produce female offspring eligible for mare registration (B10.4), if sired by a stallion registered in the Holsteiner Verband stallion book Holstein I,
  - produce male offspring eligible for Holsteiner licensing (B.15) and registration into the Verband stallion book (B10), if sired by a stallion registered in the Verband stallion book Holstein I.
  
- Mare book Holstein II (SB II)  
Sire and dam must be registered in the main section of the Holsteiner Verband. Moreover, descendants of breeding stock registered in the pre-book can be registered, if the pre-book ancestors have been bred to main section registered stock over two generations.
  
- Foal book (SB F)  
The parents are registered in the Holsteiner Verband main section for stallions and mares, respectively.

Special section

- Pre-book (VB)  
Mares not eligible for registration in the main section.
  
- Foal book pre-book (VB SF)  
The parents are registered in the studbook.

**6.2 The Evaluation of the External Appearance.**

Stallions and mares shall be evaluated when they are licensed/registered into 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 in order to avoid hardship cases or risks to health.

The sub criteria shall receive the following marks:

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	



Only full marks are possible, with the exception of mature stallions, for the inspection of which half marks can be used in accordance with B15.4.2 .

### 6.2.1 Stallions

Licensing and stallion book registration

In the course of the licensing, the following traits relating to external appearance, movement, and jumping/dressage are evaluated and graded by the licensing committee:

#### I. Conformation

- a) type (breed and sex type)
- b) top-line (head, neck, withers, back, croup, tail)
- c) front legs (correctness of front limbs)
- d) hind quarters (correctness of hind limbs)

#### II. Movement

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

#### III. Jumping/dressage

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

These traits are each awarded a mark and the average is calculated. The marks are recorded in the stud book.

The marks on conformation (I.) and movement (II.) are stated on the zootechnical certificate.

Three-year-old and older stallions are also presented under the rider, with the results taken into account within the range of II. and III.

For older stallions, with the key focus of training confirmed by results in dressage at S level, the jumping evaluation (III.) is replaced by the dressage evaluation.

Stallions fifteen years old or older (veteran stallions) need no longer be presented in jumping/dressage. Their performance evaluation takes into account in particular the

- evaluation of pedigree
- own performance in competition
- offspring performance (breed and sport)

### 6.2.2 Mares

a. Mares born up to and including 1994:

For registration into the main mare book, mare book, and pre-book I, the seven criteria of external appearance (type, top-line, width/depth, front leg, hind leg, correctness of gaits and thrust/swing) are graded and receive marks according to the scale (B6.2).

b. Mares born in 1995 and after:

For registration into the studbook for mares, the seven criteria of external appearance (type, top-line, front legs, hindquarters, walk, trot and canter) are graded and receive marks according to the scale (B6.2).

### 6.3 **Health and Soundness**

Breeding stock is required to be healthy and fertile. General health and soundness as well as sexual and hereditary health should be taken into account here.

## **B7 BREEDING METHOD**

The characteristics of the breed are generally preserved by pure breeding, in the sense that primarily Holsteiner stallions and mares participate in the breeding programme. However, the incorporation of genes from other populations, which are expedient to promote the breeding goal while maintaining the breed characteristics, is not excluded.

### 7.1 **Improvement Breeds**

There are different kinds of improvement breeds, those used to increase the amount of Thoroughbred blood and/or those used to improve performance qualities, in particular jumping performance, in the Holsteiner breed.

- English Thoroughbred (xx)  
English Thoroughbreds (xx) may be used in Holsteiner breeding if they meet the genealogical requirements of the relevant breed standard and the performance requirements according to B16 or are licensed by a WBFSH affiliated breed society.
- Anglo-Arabian Thoroughbred (x)  
Anglo-Arabian Thoroughbreds (x) may be used in Holsteiner breeding, if they meet the genealogical requirements of the relevant breed standard and the performance requirements according to B16.
- Outside blood stallions  
To make use of the genetic potential of certain performance sires with exceptional sport or breed achievements from other warmblood populations for the advancement of the Holsteiner horse, stallions of the following breeds may be used for breeding:

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

## **B8 REGULATIONS FOR KEEPING THE STUDBOOK**

The studbook is kept and maintained at the office of the breed department in Kiel, or a data processing facility. Under the stipulations, the Holsteiner Verband uses the service of the economic association Vereinigte Informationssysteme Tierhaltung (vit) for data processing. The studbook is kept by the Verband in accordance with animal breeding law based on data submitted by the breeders and information obtained through performance testing and breeding value evaluation. Vereinigte Informationssysteme Tierhaltung (vit) work on behalf and in fulfilment of the Verband's instructions and provide it with the studbook data.

To comply with the requirements of animal breeding law, the studbook must contain at least the following information for each registered horse:

1. name and address and – if available – email address of the full member (breeder) as well as the owner and if applicable, the person, where the animal is kept
2. latest date dam was covered
3. date of birth as far as known, breed, sex, colour, markings, and, if applicable distinguishing marks
4. 15-digit Universal Equine Life Number, code of the country of birth
5. active identification (microchips and, if applicable, breed and number brand)
6. studbook division (section, category) into which the horse has been registered
7. parents with colour, life number (15-digit UELN as far as known or a 15-digit FN registration number and studbook division (section, category))
8. all previous generations of ancestors known to the breed society with life number (15-digit UELN as far as known or a 15-digit FN registration number)
9. date of issue of equine passport including zootechnical certificate
10. evaluation of outer appearance with date and all results known to the Holsteiner Verband of performance tests and the latest estimated breeding values with date and test form, if available
11. exhibition results and awarded premiums
12. date and (if known) cause of deactivation
13. result of parentage verification (DNA or blood typing) with date
14. information on twin birth
15. in breeding stock resulting from embryo transfer, the genetic parents as well as their blood type or DNA profile (ISAG standard) necessary to verify identity and parentage of their offspring as well as the carrier mare.
16. in breeding stock whose semen is to be used for artificial insemination, the determination of their blood type or their DNA profile in accordance with the ISAG standard, as necessary to verify identity and parentage of their offspring
17. results of genetic tests according to the breeding programme
18. decisions on entries and changes in the studbook with date

Horses of other eligible breeds registered in a main section must be identified in the studbook. In addition, all changes to the information, in particular data relevant to pedigree and performance, must be documented in accordance with the legal requirements for numbers 1 to 18 listed above.

## B9 STUDBOOK DIVISIONS

In the studbook, stallions and mares are listed separately in different sections and categories. The subdivision into sections is based on information as to pedigree, the subdivision into categories is based on the horses' qualities.

9.1 The studbook for stallions is divided into the following sections and categories:

main section

- stallion book Holstein I (HB I)
- stallion book Holstein Ia (HB Ia)
- stallion book Holstein Global (HB HG)
- stallion book Holstein II (HB II)
- foal book (HB F)

special section

- pre-book (VB)
- foal book pre-book (VB F)

9.2 The studbook for mares is divided into the following sections and categories:

A. For mares born up to and including 1994:

main section

- main mare book Holstein (H)
- mare book (S)
- pre-book I (V 1)
- mare book Holstein Global (SB HG)

special section

- pre-book II (V 2)

B. for mares born in 1995 and after:

main section

- mare book Holstein I (SB I)
- mare book Holstein Global (SB HG)
- mare book Holstein II (SB II)
- foal book (SB F)

special section

- pre-book (VB)
- foal book pre-book (VB F)

9.3 Stallions registered into the Verband stallion book prior to 18 September 1990 are considered to be registered in stallion book Holstein I under the provisions of these Articles of Association.

9.4 Only horses that meet the relevant requirements and have been identified according to the rule of the breed registry are entered in the various sections and categories of the studbook. Registrations into a section/category of the breed registry is documented on the pedigree certificate or certificate of registration.

## **B10 PROVISIONS FOR ENTRY INTO THE STUDBOOK**

### **10.1 General Principles**

A breeding horse is entered into the relevant section and category of the breed registry in accordance with the specifications of ordinance VO (EU) 2016/1012, section 1 and if the horse has been identified beyond any doubt by the Verband in accordance with the stipulations of these Articles of Association. Upon registration, the requirements as to pedigree and selection criteria of the relevant category must be fulfilled.

Upon request, breeding stock from other populations or rather breed societies shall be transferred with the pedigree data registered there and entered into the appropriate category of the Holsteiner horse breed registry based on performance details.

Entry into to the breed registry shall be cancelled by the Holsteiner Verband, if at least one requirement for registration is not met.

Entry into the breed registry shall be revoked by the Holsteiner Verband, if at least one requirement for registration has subsequently ceased to exist or if a condition was attached to the entry and the beneficiary has not fulfilled it or not fulfilled it in due time.

A change to a breed registry entry, such as the reclassification of a horse into another category shall be made if the Verband subsequently becomes aware that the requirements for registration were not met or have subsequently ceased to apply.

Any change will be clearly indicated as such and communicated to the member. All pedigree documents originally issued will be seized, but not destroyed.

For breeders that have been excluded or have resigned, breed registry entries shall be suspended.

#### **10.1.1 Activation of stallions**

- a) Activation is limited to one year at a time. Activation shall occur according to the following provisions.
- b) Registered stallions shall be reported for stallion book activation by 31 December of a given year to the office of the breeding department, Kiel, in writing. Stallions reported for activation in stallion book Holstein I and Ia shall be published in the official Verband magazine and on the Verband website along with their stallion station in the upcoming breeding season. Stallions not reported in time shall have no claim to publication. If a stallion was not activated for the year he was used for breeding, his offspring shall generally not be issued zootechnical certificates.
- c) After the stallion has been reported for activation, the stallion keeper shall receive upon request the Verband's covering certificates/ Foal/No Foal Reports, to be used by the breeder to report the birth of a foal.

#### **10.1.2 Basic principles for registration of mares**

- a) Mares which have died before their registration into the Verband breed registry or are otherwise no longer available for registration, may subsequently be entered into the Verband registry of ancestors if they fulfil the pedigree requirements for registration into one of the categories of the studbook for mares (H, S, V1 or SB HG or else SB I, SB II, VB or SB HG).
- b) Subsequent changes to registration  
If a mare has been entered upon incorrect assumptions, the entry shall be corrected.
- c) Re-boniting  
Mares can be re-bonited once, namely after they have been again presented to

the inspection and registration committee.

d) De-activation of mares

If a mare is no longer bred, the owner must deactivate her by the end of the year with the breeding stock report for the upcoming breeding season. The Verband must be notified immediately if a mare has to be deactivated due to death or euthanasia.

e) Re-activation of mares

The owner may reactivate a deactivated mare at any time, retaining her previous registration status. Reactivation must be in writing and is subject to a fee.

f) Transfer of ownership of mares

Following written proof of a mare's new owner, the transfer of ownership shall be entered in the Verband's breed registry immediately, provided that:

- the new owner is or becomes a member of the Verband
- the mare is entered in one of the categories of the breed registry.

## 10.2 Registration of Stallions

### 10.2.1 Registration into stallion book Holstein I

a) A stallion can be registered into stallion book Holstein I at the earliest in his third year of life if he has been licensed by the Verband. Final registration in the stallion book Holstein I shall only take place if the requirements under B16 - stallion performance test - have been fulfilled.

b) A stallion can only be registered into the stallion books Holstein I, Holstein Ia, Holstein Global and Holstein II, if he has met the pedigree requirements in accordance with the articles of association (B6) at the time of licensing or registration and the stallion to undergo registration has been identified according to the studbook rules.

c) The stallion must have received the necessary marks at a Holsteiner Verband grading in accordance with B15. At three-year-old, the height at withers must be at least 164cm. Thoroughbred stallions must be at least 162cm at the withers to meet the height requirements.

d) The dam should have passed performance testing in accordance with B16.4.

e) Stallions holding a Holsteiner zootechnical certificate and outside blood stallions licensed by a WBFSH affiliated breed society in accordance with B7.1 featuring extraordinary stud quality for the Holsteiner horse, can be registered into stallion book I under the following conditions:

- stallions to be used in the Holsteiner breeding programme on the basis of a resolution by the executive board following a recommendation of the breeding committee,

or

- stallions listed on the FEI/WBFSH world ranking (from 2003) on one of the following positions:

- jumping, dressage, or eventing horses and/or sires on 1<sup>st</sup>-50<sup>th</sup> position.  
reference date for checking the list is 30 September of the given year

or

- stallions meeting the following performance requirements:
  - a show jumping stallion must have results in competition (at least 3 times placed 1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> at 160cm level).

- a dressage stallion must have results in competition (at least 3 times placed 1<sup>st</sup> -5<sup>th</sup> in S\*\*\*\* Grand Prix classes or placed 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> in the final of the World Championship of the 5-, 6-, or 7-yr-old dressage horses) or furnish proof of at least 8 sons licensed by WBFSH affiliated breed societies in accordance with B7.1.

Stallions registered in this way need not be presented at a Holsteiner Verband grading. Pedigree and performance data can be transferred from the responsible breed society. These stallions may sire:

- female offspring eligible for mare registration (B10.4),
- male offspring eligible for Holsteiner Verband licensing (B15).

- f) Outside blood stallions registered by a WBFSH affiliated breed society in accordance with B7.1 who do not meet the conditions named under B10.2.1e, may be used in the Holsteiner Verband breeding programme once they have been licensed by the Verband if the following provisions are met:

Only suitable stallions with stud qualities considered way above average whose genetic transmission is expected to have a positive impact on the Holsteiner population should be used for breeding.

The following principle must be heeded prior to breeding the stallion:

- the stallion must have passed stallion performance testing (in accordance with B16.3.1) according to German standard (ZVO) with above average results.

#### 10.2.2 Registration into stallion book Holstein Ia

Following the completed dissolution of the American Holsteiner Horse Association (AHHA), the stallions registered in their stallion book of the Holsteiner horse by 31 December 2017 which have completed performance testing in accordance with AHHA requirements shall be transferred to the Verband stallion book Holstein Ia, after their owners have become Holsteiner Verband members. It is a closed category of the main section which is to be dissolved when these stallions are no longer used for breeding.

Stallions entered in stallion book Holstein Ia can sire:

- female offspring eligible for mare registration (B10.4),
- male offspring eligible for Holsteiner Verband licensing (B15).

#### 10.2.3 Registration into stallion book Holstein Global

Other stallions may be entered into stallion book Holstein Global provided that:

- the stallion belongs to a riding horse breed listed in B7.1.
- the stallion is already licensed by a WBFSH affiliated breed society in accordance with B7.1 and at least three years of age.
- results of a comparable stallion performance test can be provided.
- information on the stallion's achievements at stud/in competition can be provided.

Offspring by these stallions are registered in the foal book, provided that they are out of Holsteiner-registered mares (H, S, V I, SB I).

10.2.4 Registration into stallion book Holstein II

Any three-year-old and older Holsteiner stallion meeting the pedigree requirements according to the articles of association (B6) can be registered upon the owner's written request. The stallion to be registered must be identified according to the studbook rules.

The breeding director shall carry out the registration.

In addition to that, offspring of breeding stock registered in the special section (pre-book) can be entered, provided that

- in the evaluation of the external appearance according to B6.2.1 (I. conformation, II. movement) they have received at least the mark 5 on each of the seven sub-criteria according to the scale of grades (B6.2) and at least 6 on type. The average mark must be at least 6.0.

10.2.5 Registration into the foal book

In their year of birth, all male foals both parents of which are entered in the main section of the breed registry, shall be registered in the foal book.

10.2.6 Registration in the special section (pre-book)

Any three-year-old and older stallion embodying Holsteiner breed type, but not eligible for registration into stallion book Holstein I, Holstein Ia, HG and Holstein II, can be registered upon the owner's written request. The stallion must be presented for identity verification and achieve an overall grade of at least 5.0 on the evaluation of outward appearance in accordance with B6.2.1 (I. conformation, II. movement). The breeding director shall carry out the registration.

10.2.7 Registration into the foal book pre-book

In their year of birth, all male foals the parents of which are entered in the breed registry, shall be registered in the foal book pre-book.

10.3 **Registration of Mares Born up to and Including 1994**

The inspection and registration committee is competent (A14). Mares are entered in the main sections of the breed registry if the pedigree requirements stipulated by the articles of association applicable at the time of the dam's registration are met (according to B6) and the mares to be registered have been identified in accordance with studbook rules. Registration into the main section of the breed registry is only possible if a valid pedigree certificate or registration certificate is submitted at the time of the inspection.

10.3.1 Registration into the main mare book

3-year-old and older Holsteiner mares may be registered in the main mare book under the following conditions:

- The outward appearance must be graded in seven sub-criteria according to B6.2.2 and receive at least the mark 5 according to the scale of grades (B6.2) on each of them, with type receiving at least the mark 6. The marks must add up to at least 42 points.
- Recording of height at withers, girth, and cannon bone circumference; height at withers must be 160cm, at least.



10.3.2 Registration into the mare book

3-year-old and older Holsteiner mares may be registered in the mare book under the following conditions:

- The outward appearance must be graded in seven sub-criteria according to B6.2.2 and receive at least the mark 4 according to the scale of grades (B6.2) on each of them, with type receiving at least the mark 5. The marks must add up to at least 35 points.
- Recording of height at withers, girth, and cannon bone circumference; height at withers must be 158cm, at least.

10.3.3 Registration into mare book Holstein Global

Mares which do not meet the pedigree requirements according to B6, may be entered into the Verband breed registry Holstein Global. The conditions for registration are listed under B10.4.1.

10.3.4 Registration into pre-book I

3-year-old and older mares may be registered in pre-book I under the following conditions:

- The outward appearance must be graded in seven sub-criteria according to B6.2.2 and receive at least the mark 4 according to the scale of grades (B6.2) on each of them, with type receiving at least the mark 5.
- Moreover, offspring of breeding stock entered in pre-book II can be registered, provided that in the

grading of their outward appearance in seven sub-criteria according to B6.2.2 they received at least the mark 4 according to the scale of grades (B6.2) on each of them, with type receiving at least the mark 5. Height at withers, girth, and cannon bone circumference are recorded and the height at withers must be 158cm, at least.

10.3.5 Registration into pre-book II (special section)

3-yr-old and older mares embodying Holsteiner type, but not eligible for registration into one of the books listed above may be entered. The mares must be presented for identity verification and their outward appearance must be graded in seven sub-criteria according to B6.2.2 and receive at least the mark 4 according to the scale of grades (B6.2) on each of them, with type receiving at least the mark 5. The breeding director shall carry out the registration.

10.4 **Registration of Mares Born 1995 and After**

The inspection and registration committee is competent (A14). Mares are entered in the main sections of the breed registry if the pedigree requirements stipulated by the articles of association applicable at the time of the dam's registration are met and the mares to be registered have been identified in accordance with studbook rules.

Registration into the main section of the breed registry is only possible, if a valid pedigree certificate or registration certificate is submitted at the time of the inspection.

Registration into the main section of the breed registry is only possible, if a valid zootechnical certificate (pedigree certificate) or registration certificate is submitted at the time of the inspection.

#### 10.4.1 Registration into the mare book Holstein I

##### Holsteiner mares

All 3-year-old and older Holsteiner mares born in 1995 and after may be entered in the mare book Holstein I. The conditions for registration are:

- For dams to stallions the provisions in B6.1 apply.
- The outward appearance must be graded in seven sub-criteria according to B6.2.2. Based on their quality, the mares can be awarded a prize according to B21 (district premium/ Verband premium/ state premium).
- Height at withers is recorded.

##### Outside blood mares

- a) Thoroughbred mares can be entered in the Verband mare book Holstein I (B6.1). The outward appearance must be graded in seven sub-criteria as per B6.2.2 in accordance with the scale of grades (B6.2) and height at withers must be recorded. The mare owner must submit a written application with the necessary documents to the Verband.
- b) Outside blood mares which do not meet the pedigree requirements according to B6 and are registered with a WBFSH affiliated breed society in accordance with B7.1 can be entered in the breed registry Holstein I for mares, if they meet the following requirements:
  1. career earnings in equestrian sport of 10,000 euros, at least.
  2. carry 50 percent Holsteiner genes, at least.

The outward appearance must be graded in seven sub-criteria as per B6.2.2 in accordance with the scale of grades (B6.2) and height at withers must be recorded.

For their offspring to be eligible for Verband stallion licensing (B15) and Verband stallion registration (B10), the mares registered in this way must fulfil the following additional requirements:

- at least 42 points upon registration
- type graded with the mark 6, at least
- none of the sub-criteria graded with the mark 4 or less
- height at withers 160cm, at least

#### 10.4.2 Registration into mare book Holstein Global

Mares which do not meet the pedigree requirements according to B6 and are registered with a WBFSH affiliated breed society can be registered into the Verband mare book Holstein Global. The requirements for registration are:  
The outward appearance must be graded in seven sub-criteria in accordance with B6.2.2. Height at withers is recorded.

For their offspring to be eligible for Verband stallion licensing (B15) and Verband stallion registration (B10), the mares registered in this way must fulfil the following additional requirements:

- at least 42 points upon registration
- type graded with the mark 6, at least
- none of the sub-criteria graded with the mark 4 or less
- height at withers 160cm, at least
- examination of the dam's pedigree with respect to a comparable registration status (B6.1) by the breeding committee

#### 10.4.3 Registration into the mare book Holstein II

Three-year-old and older mares can be entered in the mare book Holstein II if they meet the following requirements:

- descend from pre-book registered breeding stock meeting the pedigree requirement according to B6
- their outward appearance has been graded in seven sub-criteria according to B6.2.2 and received at least the mark 5 according to the scale of grades on each of them, with at least the mark 6 on type. The marks must add up to 42 points, at least. Height at withers is recorded.

#### 10.4.4 Registration into the foal book

In their year of birth, all female foals both parents of which are entered in the main section of the breed registry, shall be entered in the foal book.

#### 10.4.5 Registration into the special section (pre-book)

Three-year-old and older mares embodying German riding horse type are registered. The mares must be presented for identity verification and their outward appearance graded in seven sub-criteria according to B6.2.2 and received at least the mark 4 according to the scale of grades (B6.2.) on each of them, with at least the mark 5 on type. The marks must add up to at least 35 points. Height as withers is recorded. The breeding director shall carry out the registration.

#### 10.4.6 Registration into the foal book pre-book

In their year of birth, all female foals both parents of which are entered in the breed registry with at least one parent in the mail section, shall be registered in the foal book pre-book.

### **B11 MARE FAMILY REGISTER AND REGISTRATION NAME**

- 11.1 The mare families (stem numbers) which have been maintained and recorded by the Verband up to this point shall be continued via their foals and printed on the zootechnical certificates (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 breed registry.
- 11.2 Mares entered into the main mare book Holstein, mare book or mare book Holstein Global or, for those born in 1995 and after, into the mare book Holstein I, II and Holstein Global for mares as well as stallions entered into the stallion book Holstein I or II are given a name in addition to the number. A stallion is named with the same initial as his sire. The

initials of mares' registration names depend on their year of birth and are allocated in alphabetical order.

- 11.3 The Verband is competent for naming the breeding horses. In case of mares, the owner's suggestions can be followed.
- 11.4 The name assigned upon registration into a studbook must be retained. A name once assigned to a stallion may only be used again for his full brother (with the corresponding suffix II and so forth). If the same name is given to more than one mare, they are additionally identified by consecutive numbers. When a stallion demonstrably no longer has any offspring in competition, the name may be reused.

## **B12 EQUINE PASSPORT, ZOOTECHNICAL CERTIFICATE, CERTIFICATE OF OWNERSHIP**

By submitting the Foal Report, the breeder applies for an equine passport including zootechnical certificate to be issued for the foal as well as its identification and identification marking.

The equine passport including zootechnical certificate serves as a document for the identification of horses in accordance with the Livestock Traffic Ordinance and must be issued for all registered foals. The Holsteiner Verband which carries out a breeding programme for the Holsteiner horse approved under animal breeding laws and into whose breed registry the horse is entered, issues the equine passport including the zootechnical certificate in accordance with Articles 30 and 32 of Regulation (EU) 2016/1012 in conjunction with the Commission Implementation Regulation (EU) 2021/963 at the request of the horse owner or on the basis of the foal report by the breeder.

As the breeding programme for the Holsteiner horse stipulates performance tests and/or breeding value estimations, the following information is provided in the equine passport including zootechnical certificate for the breeding horses:

- all performance testing results and/or
- up-to-date results of estimated breeding values

Alternatively, reference can be made to a website where these results are published if the website is stated on the zootechnical certificate.

Genetic defects and peculiarities must be stated in the equine passport in accordance with the breeding programme and are published as part of the stallions' estimated breeding values.

In addition to that, it must be recorded in the equine passport and the studbook whether or not the horse is intended for slaughter.

### **12.1 Equine Passport**

Only the horse's keeper/owner entered in the Verband studbook is entitled to be issued the equine passport including zootechnical certificate, certificate of registration and/or certificate of ownership. The equine passport and the certificate of ownership belong to the horse and remain the property of the issuing breed society/ body and can be confiscated for important reasons, e.g. if they contain incorrect or incomplete information. The owner of the horse in the sense of the German Civil Code is entitled to the certificate of ownership. The breeder is obliged to hand over the equine passport including zootechnical certificate, certificate of registration and/or certificate of ownership on request. If the horse is kept by another person, the equine passport must be handed over to the new keeper. The Verband must be notified of this change. Upon change of ownership, the equine passport as well as the certificate of ownership must be handed over to the new

owner. Any change of ownership of registered breeding horses must be reported immediately to the breeding department in Kiel by sending in the equine passport. All changes regarding breeding data, deactivation due to death or sale, changes in colour and markings, performance testing results must be reported to the Verband office by the horse owner immediately and without special request. In the event of death, euthanasia, theft, loss or slaughter of the horse for the purpose of disease control, both the equine passport and the certificate of ownership must be returned to the issuing breed society/body, unless the equine passport is destroyed under official supervision at the abattoir. If a horse presented for registration into the Holsteiner Verband breed registry fulfils the registration requirements but its equine passport does not contain a zootechnical certificate, the corresponding section of the equine passport will be completed in the course of the studbook entry.

#### 12.1.1 Registration number, live number (UELN)

As a foal, each horse receives a number which is issued for life. No changes can be made. This also applies if the horse in question is reclassified into another category of the studbook. In the event the horse was already registered with another German breed association, the existing registration number is transferred upon registration into another category of the Verband studbook. The life number is made up as follows:

##### **Before 2000**

276321210016890

276	country code (276 = DE = Germany)
3	life number issued prior to 2000 (originally 9-digit)
21	breed association code (21 = Holstein)
21	repetition of breed association code due to originally 9-digit life number
00168	serial number of the birth cohort, with the brand number the last two digits of the serial number, and the code for horses issued a certificate of birth I and II and the number brand as the last three digits of the serial number for horses with a certificate of birth
90	year of birth

##### **Beginning in 2000**

276421000016800

276	country code (276 = DE = Germany)
4	life number issued from 2000 (15-digit)
21	breed association code (21 = Holstein)
0000168	serial number of the birth cohort, with the brand number the last two digits of the serial number, the code for horses issued a pedigree certificate I and II and the number brand as the last three digits of the serial number for horses with certificate of registration
00	year of birth

#### 12.1.2 Identification

Identification in accordance with the Livestock Traffic Ordinance (Vieh-VerkV) is carried out by describing the colour and markings of the horses in as

much detail as possible, by assigning a life number (for registered stallions and mares also a name), by branding a foal brand and/or number B12.1.3 and by injecting an ISO transponder with a 15-digit number code in compliance with the legal provisions applicable in the individual countries.

#### 12.1.3 Branding rules

Foals are only branded if this is permitted by the animal welfare legislation applicable for the individual countries of the geographic area of activity.

a) The following requirements apply for branding:

On principle, horses are only given thigh and number brands in the year of birth. Branding is carried out by authorized Verband representatives, when the foal is inspected at the dam's feet prior to weaning to describe colour and markings. Foals to be issued a certificate of registration receive a three-digit number brand on the left thigh.

b) Thigh brand

Foals receive a thigh brand if they fulfil the requirements to be issued an zootechnical certificate (pedigree certificate) or a certificate of registration. This brand is placed on the left thigh.

c) Active identification

All foals branded in accordance with B12.1.3b) shall on principle receive a two-digit number brand below the thigh brand. The number is composed of the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> digit of the life number (before 2000) and the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> digit of the life number (beginning in 2000), that is the two last digits of the consecutive number of the birth cohort.

Example:

Foals with an zootechnical certificate (pedigree certificate)  
Holsteiner brand

Foals with a certificate of registration  
3-digit number brand

#### 12.1.4 Copies/duplicates

Equine passports including zootechnical certificates can be re-issued in accordance with the provisions of Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/963.

Duplicates of zootechnical certificates (pedigree certificates), birth certificates as well as equine passports (including zootechnical certificate) and certificates of ownership can only be issued at the request of the person who has lost the original document/s upon presentation of an affidavit with a notarised signature confirming the loss of the original document/s. This can only be done by the breed association which has issued the original document/s and must be numbered and clearly labelled as duplicate/s.

#### 12.1.5 Issue of identification documents for equids imported into the Union

The registration of the existing identification documents for equids imported into the Union or, if applicable, the issue of an equine passport including zootechnical certificate is carried out in accordance with Article 36 of Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/963.

## 12.2 Zootechnical Certificate

The zootechnical certificate for a breeding horse can be issued as pedigree certificate I or pedigree certificate II, in accordance with the provisions of the breeding programme. Zootechnical certificates (pedigree certificates I and II) are issued in combination with an equine passport which serves to identify the horse.

		<b>dam</b>	<b>main section mares</b>			<b>special section mares</b>
		<b>H, S, V1, SB I,</b>	<b>SB HG</b>	<b>SB II</b>	<b>VB</b>	
<b>sire</b>						
<b>main section stallions</b>	<b>HB I HB Ia</b>	zootechnical certificate (pedigree certificate I)	zootechnical certificate (pedigree certificate I)	zootechnical certificate (pedigree certificate II)	certificate of registration	
	<b>HB HG</b>	zootechnical certificate (pedigree certificate I)	X	zootechnical certificate (pedigree certificate II)	certificate of registration	
	<b>HB II</b>	zootechnical certificate (pedigree certificate II)	zootechnical certificate (pedigree certificate II)	zootechnical certificate (pedigree certificate II)	certificate of registration	
<b>special section stallions</b>	<b>pre-book</b>	certificate of registration	certificate of registration	certificate of registration	X	

Zootechnical certificates (pedigree certificates I and II) and certificates of registration (formerly birth certificates) document a horse's pedigree and performance. They belong to the horse and remain the property of the issuing breed association; upon change of ownership they must be handed over to the new owner and upon the death of the horse returned to the breeding department in Kiel. An zootechnical certificate duplicate can only be issued for a fee upon request and upon presentation of an affidavit with a notarised signature confirming the loss of the original zootechnical certificate. It must be clearly labelled as such.

Zootechnical certificates are generally only issued in the year of birth if the identity has been verified by DND/ blood typing. As a precondition for the issue of an zootechnical certificate or for replacing a certificate of registration already issued by the Verband with a pedigree certificate I or II, both parents must be registered within the foal's year of birth.

### 12.2.1 Zootechnical certificates

The Verband issues zootechnical certificates (pedigree certificates I and II):

- a) Zootechnical certificates (pedigree certificate I)
  - For foals by Verband stallion book Holstein I registered sires out of Verband main mare book Holstein, mare book and pre-book I registered dams born up to and including 1994.
  - For foals by Verband stallion book Holstein I registered sires out of Verband mare book Holstein I registered dams born in 1995 and after.
  - For foals by Verband stallion book Holstein I registered sires out of stud book Holstein Global registered dams and accordingly by stallion book Holstein Global registered sires under B6.1 out of Verband mare book Holstein I registered dams.
- b) Zootechnical certificates (pedigree certificate II)
  - the sire is registered in stallion book Holstein II in the year of the mating or at the latest in the foal's year of birth (by 31 December of the given year) and the dam is registered in mare book H, S, V1, SB I, SB II or S HG in the year of the mating or at the latest in the foal's year of birth (by 31 December of the given year) or
  - the sire is registered in stallion book Holstein I or stallion book HG in the year of the mating or at the latest in the foal's year of birth (by 31 December of the given year) and the dam is registered in mare book II in the year of the mating or at the latest in the foal's year of birth (by 31 December of the given year).

The Holsteiner brand is displayed on the cover of the zootechnical certificates (pedigree certificates I and II).

- c) Zootechnical certificates (pedigree certificates I and II) are issued if the following requirements are met:
  - Both parents must be registered in the appropriate section of the breed registry in the year of mating or at the latest in the calendar year of the foal's birth
  - the Foal/no Foal Report must have been received within 28 days of foaling
  - the parentage must have been verified by DNA typing
  - the foal must be identified at the dam's feet by the breeding director or his/her authorized representative.
- d) The zootechnical certificate (pedigree certificate I) contains the following information:
  - name of breed association
  - place and date of issue
  - breed and life number/international life number of horse
  - name and address of breeder and of owner
  - date dam was covered
  - date of birth, sex, colour and markings
  - identification (brand with two-digit number)
  - names, life numbers (UENL), colour and breed of parents, and names, life numbers and breed of further generations
  - code for DNA parentage verification



- the designation of the respective breed registry section where the breeding animal and its parents and grandparents are registered
  - the signature of the responsible breed director or deputy and the date of issue
  - the most recent performance testing results with date and type of test and the horse's genetic evaluation or the website, if any, where the results are published
  - record of licensing and insemination permit
  - performance designations
  - breed show results
  - genetic defects and genetic peculiarities
- e) The zootechnical certificate (pedigree certificate II) contains the following information:  
The zootechnical certificate (pedigree certificate II) contains the same information as the zootechnical certificate (pedigree certificate I) as well as the additional information:
- the sire's classification in HB II and/or the dam's classification in SB II.
  - indication in section V breed information in the equine passport: "By the time the passport was issued, the horse's sire and/or dam did not/not yet fulfil the requirements for entry into HB I/HB HG and/or mare book H, S, VI, SB I, SB HG".
- Any new owner of activated and Verband-registered breeding horses must be recorded. The zootechnical certificate (pedigree certificate I or II) is the precondition for registration into the appropriate section of the breed registry.

#### 12.2.2 Conditions for the issue of zootechnical certificates

- a) The Foal Report must be filled in and signed by the mare owner and received by the breeding department office in Kiel within 28 days of the birth. Foal reports not received in due time shall incur an increased effort fee.
- b) The stallion service and insemination reports must be submitted to the breeding department office in Kiel by the stallion keepers by 30 September of the given year. No pedigree certificates will be issued for offspring by stallions whose stallion service reports have not been received by the Verband in due time.
- c) Any notification not in compliance with B14b (original of the stallion service certificate/Foal Report card issued by the stallion keeper) shall not be recognized by the Verband and will not be processed.

#### Zootechnical certificates for germinal products

Zootechnical certificates in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2016/1012 are also issued upon dispatch of germinal products if the donor animal is registered in the Holsteiner Verband breed registry. For this purpose, the templates of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2017/717 in conjunction with Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/602 are used and the derogation under Article 31 paragraph 1 of Regulation (EU) 2016/1012 is utilised.

The zootechnical certificate for semen and egg cells consists of two or three sections, with section A issued by the breed association. Sections B and, if applicable, C, are issued by the insemination station/ embryo transfer facility.

The zootechnical certificate for embryos consists of four sections, with section/s A and/or B issued by the breed association. Sections C and D are issued by the embryo transfer facility.

Annex 1 of the breeding programme lists the germinal product establishments authorised by the Holsteiner Verband to issue zootechnical certificates for germinal products. The zootechnical certificate issued by the germinal product establishment must accompany the germinal product.

If a zootechnical certificate cannot be drawn up in accordance with the procedure described above, the derogation under Article 31 paragraph 2 (b) of the Regulation (EU) 2016/1012 may be applied. According to this, other documents (e.g. copies) may accompany the germinal products if they contain the information specified in the relevant parts and chapters of Annex V. With this procedure, traceability of the copies made by the germinal product establishments, e.g. the zootechnical certificates completed by the breed association for the donor animals must be guaranteed at all times. Unique document numbers must be assigned. The germinal product establishment authorised for this derogation are also listed in Annex 1 of the breeding programme.

Annex 1: List of approved germinal product establishments (under Article 97 in conjunction with Article 94 (1) b of Regulation (EU) 2016/429), authorized under Article 31 paragraph 1 of Regulation (EU) 2016/1012 to issue zootechnical certificates for germinal products.

federal state	approval number	germinal product establishment	type of germinal product	authorising breed association / organisation	date of authorisation	notes
Schleswig-Holstein	DE KBP 044-EWG	<p>representative for all other insemination stations /ET-facilities: (see link: <a href="https://tsis.fli.de/Home/BMEL/List.aspx?ref=323">https://tsis.fli.de/Home/BMEL/List.aspx?ref=323</a>)</p> <p>Verband der Züchter des Holsteiner Pferdes Besamungsstation Elmshorn</p> <p>Westerstraße 93 25336 Elmshorn Phone 04121 / 49 790 Fax7 04121 / 93 629</p> <p>e-mail <a href="mailto:hengststall@holsteiner-verband.de">hengststall@holsteiner-verband.de</a></p> <p>website <a href="http://www.holsteiner-verband.de/de/hengsthaltung">www.holsteiner-verband.de/de/hengsthaltung</a></p>	semen	<p>Verband der Züchter des Holsteiner Pferdes</p> <p>Steenbeker Weg 151 24106 Kiel Phone 0431-3059960 Fax 0431-336142</p> <p>e-mail <a href="mailto:zucht@holsteiner-verband.de">zucht@holsteiner-verband.de</a></p> <p>website <a href="http://www.holsteiner-verband.de">www.holsteiner-verband.de</a></p>	03.09.1997	

### 12.3 **Certificate of Registration (Section 43 subsec.1 clause 2, Sec. 45)**

Horses registered into the special section of the studbook shall receive a certificate of registration. The certificate of registration is titled “Certificate of Registration for a Horse Registered in Special Section – no Zootechnical Certificate According to the EU Animal Breeding Regulation”.

12.3.1 A certificate of registration is issued if the requirements for a zootechnical certificate (pedigree certificate I or II) are not met. The issue of a certificate of registration requires at least one parent to be registered in the main section of the Verband registry. The foal is branded a three-digit number on the left thigh.

A certificate of registration is issued subject to these conditions:

- the Foal Report must have been received within 28 days after the birth,
- the identity of the foal has been confirmed at the feet of its dam by the breeding director or an authorised person or otherwise ensured.
- the parentage has been verified by DNA typing.

12.3.2 Where possible, the certificate of registration contains the same pedigree information as the zootechnical certificate (pedigree certificate I or II).

### 12.4 **Certificate of Ownership**

The certificate of ownership is issued using the identical life number (UELN) and in addition to the equine passport including zootechnical certificate and contains at least:

- life number (15-digit UELN) of the horse
- name of the horse – if applicable
- breed
- sex
- colour
- date of birth
- name and address of breeder
- active identification (transponder number and if applicable breed and/or number brand)
- three generation pedigree (if applicable)
- name, address and seal of issuing breed society
- date of issue and signature of signatory

## **B13 IDENTITY AND PARENTAGE VERIFICATION**

The Verband used the following methods of parentage verification:

- a) DNA typing according to the ISAG standard
- b) Parentage analysis by a DIN EN ISO/IEC 17025:2005 accredited genetic laboratory
- c) DNA profile matching

The Holsteiner Verband routinely carries out parentage checks. The Verband or the breeding director appointed by it is entitled to carry out additional measures to verify the parentage at any time by using recognized procedures in accordance with a) and b), in particular if the previously stated parentage has not been confirmed.

- 13.1 Any 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 equine passport for the foal shall only be issued after the stated parentage 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 be issued a certificate of registration by the Verband.  
The costs of routine parentage verification shall be borne by the breeder and the stallion keeper as stipulated by the Verband's fee schedule.  
In the event that parentage verification reveals no clarification is possible due to inaccurate information provided by the breeder, the breeder shall bear all the costs of the procedure. In the event of wilfully false information, the Verband's executive board may impose a fine of up to five times the costs incurred or decide to expel the breeder.  
The documents pertaining such proceedings shall be kept at the Verband office for at least ten years.
- 13.2 The Verband may request 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 are borne by the horse's owner.  
  
The FN shall also maintain a central DNA file at VIT (Verden data centre) for the results of all German horses tested. The breeders are obliged to notify the Verband of all DNA data of their horses and to make them available for the FN's central database.
- 13.3 When stallions are presented for licensing and registration, the applicant must on principle submit a DNA/blood type card of the stallion's dam and sire.  
This provision comes into force with the 1991 autumn stallion grading at the earliest. In addition, at the time of licensing or registration the Verband will order parentage verification of the stallion on question by DNA/ blood typing. In all cases, the costs shall be borne by the person applying for licensing or registration.
- 13.4 In case of deviations from the stated parentage, attempts are made to determine the correct parentage of the possible parents. If this is clarified, the actual parentage is corrected in the breed registry as well as in the equine passport including zootechnical certificate and the studbook entry is adjusted on the basis of the new parentage.  
If the parentage cannot be clarified, the pedigree shall be revoked. Breeding horses registered in the main section of the studbook will be transferred to the special section of the studbook. The details in the studbook as well as the equine passport including zootechnical certificate shall be corrected accordingly.  
Any discrepancies found in the course of parentage verification are recorded and stored by the Verband for at least 10 years, same as all other records pertaining to parentage verification.
- 13.5 In the event a breeder fails to fulfil the obligation to verify the parentage within a period specified by the Verband or the parentage proves incorrect, the pedigree of the horse in

question will be immediately revoked. In the event of wilful or grossly negligent breach of duty in securing parentage, the member may be expelled by the Verband. Incorrect pedigrees will be corrected in the studbook. This applies irrespective of the time or extent of the identified error and includes the pedigree data itself same as the resulting amendments in the studbook.

## **B14 STUDBOOK DOCUMENTATION**

In order to ensure proper breed management by the Verband, each full member is obliged to cooperate in accordance with the Articles of Association and the legal provisions of this breeding programme.

The duties of the breeders include in particular:

a) Documentation within the breeding operation

All breeders shall keep a stable book for the breeding stock in their herd (in writing or computerised) in which all the relevant information on the horse in question including pedigree as well as all current data is entered in accordance with the legal provisions and the breeding programme. Every breeder is obliged to submit the stable books to the breeding director or a duly authorised person for inspection on request. To ensure proper studbook management it is necessary to provide Holsteiner Verband representatives with information and to allow them to inspect the breeding records including the stable books.

The breeding records shall be kept promptly and accurately. Commissioning a third party with keeping the breeding records does not release the breeder from liability for the accuracy of the entries. Corrections shall be made by crossing out and must be dated and signed. Breeding records must be stored for at least five years from the date of the last entry.

b) Foal/no Foal Report

1. The mare owner must notify the Holsteiner Verband breeding department, Kiel, of the birth of a foal within 28 days using the original Foal/no Foal Report card or online through the website. The Foal/no Foal Report form/ online report must be completed correctly and in full and signed/confirmed, with the mare owner liable for the accuracy of the stated information. Reports not received in due time shall be taken note of in the registry and shall incur a late fee.
2. Even if a mare does not produce a foal or the foal dies before, during or shortly after birth, the Foal/no Foal Report must be completed giving the reason and submitted to the Verband breeding department by the mare owner.
3. The Foal Report must contain at least:
  - name and number of foal's dam
  - name and number of foal's sire
  - sex of foal
  - foal's date of birth
  - foal's place of birth
  - foal's colour and markings

- name and address of mare owner as well as of foal owner
- signature of mare owner at the time of foal's birth
- if applicable information on abortion, death after birth and possible foal anomalies

c) Duties of the stallion keeper

The Holsteiner Verband stallion keepers are obliged to keep their stallions in a way that excludes any violation of the Articles. In case of violations, the breeding director must immediately inform the executive board which will then decide on appropriate measures in accordance with these Articles. This also applies if the stallion keeper provides the mare owner with incorrect information, disregards hygiene regulations or in any other way disregards principles of proper stallion keeping. The stallion keeper is obliged to inform the mare owner about the known genetic status of the stallion with regard to genetic defects relevant to suffering in accordance with the breeding programme.

The stallion owner and/or keeper is responsible to the Verband for the proper execution of the stallion services/ inseminations and their recording. In particular, the stallion keeper must fulfil the following duties:

- Keep a stallion service/ insemination register.
- Deliver a covering /insemination certificate to the mare owner for the mare owner's own studbook records.
- Submit the stallion service /insemination report to the office of the breeding department in Kiel by 31 October of the breeding year.
- Written declaration to comply with the stipulated limitations on the use of stallions in knowledge of the statutory consequences of a violation.
- Written contractual obligation to recognise the applicable provisions of the Verband when using a stallion at stud (live cover/ insemination).
- To provide information about the stallion service/ insemination register and disclose the relevant documentation to the breeding director at any time.
- To immediately notify the Verband office breeding department in Kiel of any change of ownership or stallion station or the death of a stallion.
- Accept the publication of data relevant to the breeding value of all currently or previously owned stallions.
- Accept the use and publication of information from parentage verification DNA typing (blood/hair) for scientifically recognized methods of breeding value estimation.
- Participation in the Verband breeding programme in accordance with the current fee schedule.
- To inform the breeder about the genetic status of the chosen stallion with regard to known and relevant genetic defects or particularities. The stallion keeper is obliged to provide this information.

d) Stallion service report/covering certificate

The stallion keeper is obliged to keep a stallion service register (covering/ insemination list) for each stallion listing all dates a mare is covered/inseminated. The stallion service report must contain at least:

- name and life number of the mare
- name and life number of the stallion
- description of the mare's colour

- all dates of service/insemination
- the consecutive stallion service report number (consecutive number)
- name and address of mare owner
- signature of stallion keeper or duly authorised person

The owners of the serviced/inseminated mares are issued a covering certificate by the stallion keeper which comes with the Foal/ no Foal Report to be submitted later. The covering certificate must contain the following information:

- name and life number of the mare
- name and life number of the stallion
- description of the mare's colour
- all dates of service/insemination
- name and address of mare owner
- signature of stallion keeper

The stallion keeper undertakes to use the Verband's specifications for the stallion service report (covering/ insemination list) and the covering certificate with Foal/ no Foal Report, or, if these documents are computerised, to work in accordance with the Verband's specifications. Only entries in accordance with the Verband's specifications will be processed by the competent office of the breeding department in Kiel.

e) Duties of the breeder regarding the information on the covering certificate

The breeder is responsible for the accuracy of the information on the covering certificate, the Foal/ no Foal Report and other certificates to be completed, submitted or stored by the breeder. The breeder must check any stud book documents and forms including the zootechnical certificates (pedigree certificates) for correctness of information after they have been sent by the Verband. Incorrect information must be immediately reported to the Verband, which will then make the necessary corrections with a note of correction. Corrections by the breeder are not permitted.

## B15 SELECTION EVENTS

The grading is the Verband's first selection level for stallions.

### 15.1 **General**

The grading is a performance test on the basis of which the Verband licensing committee decides on the use of a stallion for breeding as part of the breeding programme as a pre-requisite for registration into stallion book I. The decision takes into account the scores for conformation, movement and jumping (B6.2.1).

### 15.2 **Application and Admission Requirements**

15.2.1 The application for the licensing of a stallion must be submitted to the Verband's breeding department in Kiel within the published time limit. The licensing fee must be paid together with the application.

15.2.2 To be eligible for licensing, the stallion must meet the following conditions:

- at the time of the grading the stallion must be at least two-and-a-half years old
- the stallion must have been presented at a pre-selection site with a positive result

- the stallion must meet the pedigree requirements for entry in stallion book Holstein I according to B6.1
- the zootechnical certificate /pedigree certificate must be at hand
- height at withers at the time of grading must be at least 162 cm for two-and-a-half year olds and 164 cm for stallions 36 months or older.
- Thoroughbred stallions meet the height requirements by standing at least 162 cm at the withers.

To be eligible for licensing and to undergo licensing the stallion must be:

- free from health defects which adversely affect his fitness for stud purposes and his breeding value,
- free from genetic defects relevant to suffering,
- free from any condition formerly known as statutory major deficiencies/ vices,
- free from anomalies of the teeth and testes,
- free from any surgical procedures undergone for physical correction,
- not excluded from admission following the evaluation of radiographs of his limbs by a committee consisting of at least three equine veterinary practitioners appointed by the executive board after consultation in the breeding committee (this provision applies to stallions born in 1997 or later),
- no carrier of EVA (Equine Virusarteritis),
- free from any influence of banned medication or doping substances which can be determined in individual cases by random samples ordered by the stallion licensing committee. The veterinary examinations and medication checks shall be carried out by veterinarians authorized by the board of directors.

15.2.3 The stallions' identity must be verified before the grading. Stallions without proper identification are excluded from the grading event. The identity verification records required by B13.3 must be submitted.

### 15.3 Realisation of the Licensing

15.3.1 Young stallions in the sense of this provision are two-and-a-half year old stallions.

15.3.2 On principle, the Verband holds at least two stallion gradings per year.

15.3.3 A Neumünster or Elmshorn grading followed by an auction where only young stallions in the sense of this provision are eligible. To be admitted, the young stallions must fulfil the requirements stated in B15.1 and B.15.2 as well as the following:

- an equine passport issued by the Holsteiner Verband
- have undergone pre-selection

The young stallions must register to undergo pre-selection. The registration date will be published. The selection committee shall be composed of:

- the chair 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

Any committee 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 event.

The stallions are judged applying the criteria under B6.2.1. The committee shall decide on the presentation of the stallions in the areas of conformation, movement, and jumping. The minimum average mark to be eligible for the Neumünster event must be 7.3.

The stallion producer is informed of the result in writing immediately after the end of the pre-selection. In the event he does not agree with the decision, the stallion may be presented again to other members of the selection committee. These members are appointed by the executive board from other members of the stallion licensing committee and the members of the objection committee. Stallions that have been given a corresponding recommendation by the selection committee may also be presented again at this date.

15.3.4 A stallion grading at Elmshorn, where all stallions which meet the requirements in accordance with B15.2 are eligible. There is no pre-selection.

15.3.5 The executive board may arrange further licensing events in the event of special necessity.

15.3.6 In exceptional cases, the stallion keeper may apply to the executive board for on-farm stallion licensing:

The stallion has already been licensed by a WBFSH affiliated breed society according to B7.1 and has proof of stallion performance testing at age-appropriate level. In this case, a committee consisting of minimum two members of the licensing committee (in accordance with A14.4) is assembled. The costs of the procedure are born by the stallion keeper.

15.3.7 For stallion grading events in the breeding district North America, a committee consisting of at least two members of the stallion licensing or inspection committee (A13 and A14) can be appointed.

## 15.4 **The Licensing Status**

15.4.1 The licensing status shall be:

- Licensed
- Not licensed
- Not licensed for the time being

15.4.2 The status shall be "licensed" if the stallion is graded for the criteria (a-h)

### I. conformation

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

II. movement

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

III. jumping/flat work

- h) free jumping or jumping under the rider (technique and ability), for older stallions alternatively flat work under saddle (movement and rideability)

according to B6.2.1 and awarded the minimum total mark 7.5.

The total mark is the average grade from the three areas, I. conformation, II. movement and III. jumping/flat work. The area grades are average grades of the individual criteria (a-h) in the relevant areas. In area I. conformation, type (a) must have been graded at least 7.0 according to the scale of grades (B6.2).

Mature stallions (15 years or older) must have an overall grade from the areas I., II. + III. of at least 7.0. In area I. conformation, type (a) must have been graded at least 6.5 according to the scale of grades (B6.2).

The licensing status shall be “not licensed for the time being” if the stallion does not meet the requirements, but is expected to do so in the future. Along with the licensing status, a time limit shall be set by the end of which the stallion may be presented for licensing again. The stallion has to undergo the entire licensing process anew.

15.4.3 The stallion is licensed on the condition that the stallion fulfils or is going to fulfil the performance requirements of the breeding programme according to B16.2 for entry in the Verband stallion book I according to B10.2.

15.4.4 The owner of the stallion shall be informed in writing of the licensing status. If the status is “not licensed” or “not licensed for the time being” the owner of the stallion may request the licensing protocol from the Verband in writing at the time of the licensing decision. The status "licensed" shall be entered in the zootechnical certificate/ pedigree certificate.

15.5 **Medication Checks**

Stallions that have received banned substances according to the lists and implementing regulations of the currently valid Performance Testing Order (LPO, part C Legal Order – FN Anti-Doping and Controlled Medication Regulations for Equestrian Sport ADMR) or have been subjected to forbidden methods or been manipulated in any way in order to influence performance, ability to perform, or willingness to perform, shall be not eligible for licensing/pre-selection and may be subsequently excluded. The stallion licensing committee is authorised to order random medication checks at any time. The medication checks are carried out according to the implementing regulations of the currently valid Performance Testing Oder (LPO, part C Legal Order – FN Anti-Doping and Controlled Medication Regulations for Equestrian Sport ADMR) .

In the same way stallions shall not be eligible for licensing/ pre-selection and may be subsequently excluded if evidence of a banned medication, a forbidden method or a

forbidden manipulation to influence performance in accordance with clause 1 has been found by the same or another breed or horse sport association within three months (12 months in case of anabolic steroids) prior to presentation for licensing/ pre-selection.

## 15.6 **Rescission, Withdrawal, Objection**

The approval shall be rescinded if a condition for its issuing has not been present. If the persons involved can be accused of fraudulent misrepresentation, incorrect and incomplete information or gross negligence, the breeding license is rescinded, i.e. the stallion has the same status as if a positive licensing decision had never been issued.

The approval shall be withdrawn if one of the conditions is subsequently no longer met. It can be withdrawn if a condition is attached to it and the beneficiary has not fulfilled it or not fulfilled it on time. In the event of withdrawal, there is no reversed transaction. The owner of a stallion may lodge an objection against the licensing decision with the Verband office. The objection must be justified in writing. The objection period is two weeks after notification of the licensing decision. The competent body of the breed association shall decide whether to accept the objection. If the objection is accepted, the competent body shall decide on the composition of a new grading commission. The place and time of the re-presentation of the stallion will also be decided. In the event of positive evidence of medication or manipulation, the licensing decision is revoked and the associated studbook entry is withdrawn. The owner of the stallion may lodge an objection to this revocation of the licensing decision in writing to the responsible body of the breed association at the Verband's address. The objection period is two weeks after notification of the decision. The objection must be substantiated within a further week. An advance on costs is to be determined by the breed association and must be enclosed or provided at the latest by the end of the deadline for providing reasons.

## 15.7 **Disciplinary Proceedings**

15.7.1. If the Verband comes to the conclusion after carrying out a medication check in accordance with B 15.5 that a violation of the ban on administration of doping substances or forbidden substances according to the ADMR cannot be ruled out, it shall initiate disciplinary proceedings against those responsible.

The competent body for conducting the proceedings is the Arbitration Board (A 18).

15.7.2. "Responsible" in the sense of B15.7.1 are

- the stallion keeper
- the stallion producer.

Stallion keeper is any natural person or legal entity

- who owns or co-owns the stallion
- has breeding rights for the stallion in question and is listed as exhibitor in the stallion catalogue based on the registration form

and/or

- has registered or has been registered as exhibitor and is listed as exhibitor in the stallion catalogue without owing/ co-owning and without any rights to use the stallion.

Stallion producers are natural persons or legal entities charged and involved with preparing, training, and/or presenting the stallion, and/or who have carried out the corresponding preparation, training and/or presentation of the stallion.

- 15.7.3. In the event of an offence, with forbidden doping or banned substances present, a fine shall be imposed on both the stallion owner and the stallion producer, unless those responsible can prove individually that they are not at fault. The extent and scope of the burden of demonstration and proof, as well as a minor degree of fault leading to a reduction of the fine are based on the provisions of the ADMR and the relevant commentaries, all of which are published in the LPO (Performance Testing Order of the German Equestrian Federation FN) and to which reference is made.
- 15.7.4. The fine can be as much as 50,000 euros.

## **B16 PERFORMANCE TESTING**

Stallions and mares can undergo performance testing with the Holsteiner Verband, with the tests carried out either by the Verband or by other organizations or testing facilities. The Verband concludes contracts with the testing facilities or organizations commissioned to carry out tests, which form the basis for the organization and conduct of the commissioned tests. The Holsteiner Verband monitors compliance with the contractual agreements and the correctness of the performance tests as part of a controlling process.

### **16.1 General**

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

16.1.1 To estimate a stallion's or mare's genetic transmission, the Verband may make use of the following information to estimate breeding values:

- a) own performance testing results,
- b) offspring's performance testing results
- c) evaluation of foals upon inspection for registration,
- d) other relatives' performance testing results.

The Verband may commission the FN or other bodies with the estimation of breeding values (B18). The regulations referring to this are published on the Verband homepage.

16.1.2 Performance testing results will only be recognized if they are carried out according to the regulations of animal breeding laws or the Performance Test Ordinance (LPO) of the German Equestrian Federation e.V. (FN) or the regulations of the Federation Equestre Internationale (FEI). Performance testing results will also only be taken into account if they are recognised by the Verband's board of directors after consultation in the breeding committee.

Results achieved at national equestrian sport events and horse performance shows abroad are recognized insofar as they can be regarded as equivalent tests.

**16.2 Stallion Performance Testing, Version Effective as of 1 January 2023**

The tests are carried out in accordance with the generally recognized rules of equestrian sport, the Special Regulations in accordance with B.18 of the ZVO and the HLP Guidelines for Stallion Performance Tests (ZVO, annex 4 - HLP Guidelines). They are performance tests in the sense of the Animal Breeding Act (TierZG) and can be carried out on station, in competitive equestrian sport or as a combination of aptitude testing and testing on station or as a combination of aptitude testing and competitive equestrian sport test. For stallion performance testing, the General Rules of the HLP Guidelines for Stallion Performance Testing (ZVO, annex 4 – HLP Guidelines) bindingly apply. Stallion performance testing results are published on [www.hengstleistungspruefung.de](http://www.hengstleistungspruefung.de).

**16.2.1 Stallion Aptitude Testing (short)**

Aptitude testing is carried out over an interrupted period of three days according to the ZVO HLP Guidelines for Stallion Performance Tests and the BMEL [Federal Ministry for Food and Agriculture] Guidelines for Aptitude Testing of German Riding Horse Stallions. Aptitude testing (short) is offered and carried out accordingly for dressage-oriented as well as jumping-oriented three-year-old stallions. The stallions are presented by their own riders as well as a test rider in various parts of the test and judged accordingly (ZVO, annex 4 – HLP Guidelines). The Special Regulations for German Riding Horse Stallion Aptitude Testing (short) of the ZVO Performance Test Guidelines for Stallion Performance Tests (annex 4 - Performance Test Guidelines) bindingly apply. The weighted final mark 7.5 is the passing score for this test.

**16.2.2 50-day Stallion Performance Testing**

The test at station for 3- to 7-year-old stallions is carried out over an interrupted period of at least 50 days according to the HLP Guidelines for Stallion Performance tests (ZVO annex 4 – HLP Guidelines). The Special Regulations for 50-day Stallion Tests of German Riding Horse Breeds of the Performance Test Guidelines for Stallion Performance Tests (ZVO annex 4 - HLP Guidelines) bindingly apply. Carried out with the focus on jumping or dressage, the discipline-specific weighted final mark 7.8 is the passing score for this test.

**16.2.3 Stallion Sport Tests**

Sport tests are carried out over an uninterrupted period of three days in accordance with the HLP guidelines for stallion performance tests of the ZVO. The sport tests are offered for dressage-oriented, jumping-oriented and versatile 4-yr-old stallions (part I) and 5-yr-old stallions (part II) and are carried out with the focus set accordingly. The stallions are presented by their own riders as well as a test rider in various parts of the test and judged accordingly (ZVO, annex 4 – HLP Guidelines). The Special Regulations for German Riding Horse Stallion Sport Tests of the ZVO Performance Test Guidelines for Stallion Performance Tests (annex 4 - HLP Guidelines) bindingly apply. A discipline-specific weighted final mark 7.5 is the passing score for this test.

#### 16.2.4 Competitive Sport Testing

As an alternative to performance testing on station, performance testing is considered completed if the stallions can prove horse show results in competition. Competitive sport testing is carried out in the disciplines dressage, jumping and eventing.

For stallions belonging to German riding horse breeds, the following results achieved in equestrian competitions are taken into account (placings registered according to section 38 (2) LPO):

- 5 placings in jumping classes at S\* (140 cm) or  
3 placings in jumping classes at least at S\*\* (145 cm) or
- 5 placings in dressage at S or  
3 placings in dressage at least at S –intermediaire II or
- 4 placings in eventing at least at CCI2\*-L/ CCI3\*-S (before 2019 CCI1\*/CIC2\*) (or comparable national tests such as GVL/VM) or 3 placings in eventing at least at CCI3\*-S/-L/ CCI4\*-S (or comparable national tests such as GVM/VS) or
- competing in the final of the Bundeschampionat of the German Dressage Horse (5-,6-, or 7-yr-old), German Jumping Horse (5-, 6-, or 7-yr-old), or German Eventing Horse (5- or 6-yr-old) or
- competing in the final of the World Championships for Young Dressage or Jumping Horses, or a final finish within the top 50% at the World Championship of the Young Eventing Horses or
  
- in combination with aptitude testing (short) according to B 16.2.1 beginning with test cohort 2022 or a 14-day aptitude test (up to and including test cohort 2021)
  - proof of having qualified for the Bundeschampionat of the five-year-old German Dressage, German Jumping or German Eventing Horse or
  - proof of having qualified for the Bundeschampionat of the six-year-old German Dressage, German Jumping or German Eventing Horse or
  - proof of at least one placing in jumping classes at S\* (140 cm) or in dressage at S or in eventing at CCI2\*-L/CCI3\*-S (before 2019 CCI1\*/CIC2\*) (or comparable national tests such as GVL/VM).
  
- in combination with a sport test for stallions part I or part II according to B 16.2.3
  - proof of having qualified for the Bundeschampionat of the five-year-old German Dressage, German Jumping or German Eventing Horse or
  - proof of having qualified for the Bundeschampionat of the six-year-old German Dressage, German Jumping or German Eventing Horse or
  - proof of at least one placing in jumping classes at S\* (140 cm) or in dressage at S or in eventing at CCI2\*-L/CCI3\*-S (before 2019 CCI1\*/CIC2\*) (or comparable national tests such as GVL/VM).

#### 16.2.5 Stallion Performance Testing (HLP) Objection Committee

Affected parties have the right to object against any decision taken according to the HLP directives. The FN's HLP objection committee is the responsible body. The code of procedure of the HLP objection committee is an integral component of the HLP directive (ZVO annex 4, A10).

## 16.3 Requirements for Registration into Stallion Book I

### 16.3.1 Final Registration into Stallion Book I

Stallions can be registered at the earliest in the third year of life, after – beginning with testing cohort 2016 – having passed 50-day stallion performance testing according to B16.2.2 and received a weighted “dressage-oriented” or “jumping-oriented” final mark 7.8 at least,

**or**

up to and including testing cohort 2015 – having passed 70-day stallion performance testing and received at least 80 points in the aptitude testing breeding value dressage or jumping and a weighted final mark of at least 7.0 or a “dressage-oriented” or “jumping-oriented” final mark 8.0 or better,

**or**

beginning with testing cohort 2022 – having passed aptitude testing (short) according to B16.2.1 and received a weighted final mark 7.5 or better and having passed the discipline-specific sport test (part I) for “dressage-oriented”, “jumping-oriented” or “versatile” stallions at four-year-old according to B16.2.3 with the required final mark 7.5 as well as having passed the discipline-specific sport test (part II) for “dressage-oriented”, “jumping-oriented” or “versatile” stallions at five-year-old according to B16.2.3 with the required final mark 7.5,

**or**

beginning with testing cohort 2022 – having passed aptitude testing (short) according to B16.2.1 and received a weighted final mark 7.5 or better and having passed the discipline-specific sport test (part II) for “dressage-oriented”, “jumping-oriented” or “versatile” stallions at five-year-old according to B16.2.3 with the required final mark 7.5,

**or**

beginning with testing cohort 2016 – having passed 14-day aptitude testing and received a weighted final mark 7.5 or better or a “dressage-oriented” or “jumping-oriented” final mark 8.0 or better and having passed the discipline-specific sport test (part II) for “dressage-oriented”, “jumping-oriented” or “versatile” stallions at five-year-old according to B16.2.3 with the required final mark 7.5,

**or**

beginning with testing cohort 2022 – having passed aptitude testing (short) according to B16.2.1 and received a weighted final mark 7.5 or better in combination with testing in competitive equestrian sport according to B16.2.4,

**or**

up to and including testing cohort 2021 - having passed 14-day aptitude testing and received a weighted final mark 7.5 or better or a “dressage-oriented” or “jumping-oriented” final mark 8.0 or better in combination with testing in competitive equestrian sport according to B16.2.4,

**or**

up to and including testing cohort 2015 - having passed 30-day aptitude testing and received at least 80 points in the aptitude testing breeding value dressage or jumping and a weighted final mark of at least 7.0 in combination with testing in competitive equestrian sport according to B16.2.4,

**or**

beginning with testing cohort 2022 –having passed the discipline-specific sport test (part I) for “dressage-oriented”, “jumping-oriented” or “versatile” stallions at four-year-old according to B16.2.3 with the required final mark 7.5 as well as having passed the

discipline-specific sport test (part II) for “dressage-oriented”, “jumping-oriented” or “versatile” stallions at five-year-old according to B16.2.3 with the required final mark 7.5,

**or**

beginning with testing cohort 2022 –having passed the discipline-specific sport test (part I) for “dressage-oriented”, “jumping-oriented” or “versatile” stallions at four-year-old according to B16.2.3 with the required final mark 7.5, in combination with testing in competitive equestrian sport according to B16.2.4,

**or**

beginning with testing cohort 2022 –having passed the discipline-specific sport test (part II) for “dressage-oriented”, “jumping-oriented” or “versatile” stallions at five-year-old according to B16.2.3 with the required final mark 7.5, in combination with testing in competitive equestrian sport according to B16.2.4,

**or**

having achieved the results required according to B16.2.4 in dressage, show jumping or eventing competitions,

- English Thoroughbred stallions also fulfil the requirements regarding own performance,  
- if they have been assigned a minimum weight of 70 kg on the flat or at least 75 kg over hurdles/fences

- if they have been assigned a minimum weight of 65 kg on the flat or at least 70 kg over hurdles/fences with at least 20 starts over three racing seasons.

- Anglo Arabian Thoroughbred stallions fulfil the performance requirements

- if they have completed stallion performance testing in comparison with warmblood stallions and passed with a result of at least 7.0. The requirements of B16 or rather according to ZVO (annex 4 – HLP guidelines) must be fulfilled in the stallion performance test.

Stallions that have already successfully passed aptitude testing (short) or 14-day aptitude testing, but cannot provide any further proof of performance under saddle due to permanent loss of use, can also fulfil the performance tests requirements if their genetic transmission is above-average according to (ZVO 17.7).

Performance tests in accordance with annex (ZVO 17.8) can be recognized as proof of performance.

### 16.3.2 Temporary Registration into Stallion Book I

Stallions are registered which

- are three-year-old and have been licensed according to B10.2.

This temporary registration is valid for the breeding season as a three-year-old stallion.

- are four-year-old and have passed the discipline-specific sport test (part I) for “dressage-oriented”, “jumping-oriented”, or “versatile” stallions according to B16.2.3 at four-year-old with the required final mark 7.5, irrespective of a temporary registration into stallion book I as a three-year-old stallion.

This temporary registration is valid for the breeding season as a four-year-old stallion.

Stallions that have successfully passed aptitude testing (short) or 14-day aptitude testing at three-year-old and are prevented from providing proof of performance under saddle for a stallion book I update at four-year-old due to temporary loss of use, may be granted a one-time extension for one breeding year upon application to the breed association.



For 5-year-old and older stallions, temporary registration into stallion book I is generally not possible. Exceptions to this rule are 5-year-old stallions who have already successfully passed aptitude testing (short) or, in 2021, 14-day aptitude testing as a 3-year-old and have passed the sport test for licensed stallions (part I) as a 4-year-old and cannot provide proof of performance under saddle for an update in stallion book I at the age of 5 due to temporary loss of use. Upon application to the breed association, these stallions may be granted a one-time extension for one breeding year. The extension for 5-year-old stallions can only be granted if it has not been granted at four-year-old already.

#### 16.4 **Mare Performance Testing**

Performance of mares is assessed by means of performance testing (field and on-station tests) in accordance with the Breed Association Regulations (ZVO section 200 g) of the German Equestrian Federation (FN) and the Verband Guidelines on Mare Performance Testing, the current version of which is published on the Verband homepage. As part of this guideline it is also required that all measures of the testing facilities (field and on-station) are controlled by the Verband.

##### 16.4.1 Test on Station

The performance test on station is carried out over an uninterrupted period of at least 14 days under the responsibility of the Verband. It consists of a training phase (preliminary test) and a final test (performance test).

##### 16.4.2 Field Test

Performance testing in the field is carried out as a one-day test. The technical execution of the field test is carried out on behalf of the Verband.

### **B17 BREEDING VALUE ESTIMATION**

All data collected via performance testing as part of the implementation of the breeding programme must be made available to the breed association immediately and free of charge by Verband members and commissioned third parties. Data may also be transferred directly to the agency responsible for estimating breeding values (Vereinigte Informationssysteme Tierhaltung (vit)).

The Vereinigte Informationssysteme Tierhaltung (vit) carry out breeding value estimates after a plausibility check of the reported data and on the basis of the recorded characteristics and in accordance with a procedure approved by the competent authorities or in accordance with a procedure corresponding to the specifications of the breed association in coordination with the resolutions of the respective umbrella organization (FN).

- 17.1 Breeding value estimations are carried out according to generally recognized and scientifically proven methods. Differences in performance not based on genetics are to be eliminated as far as possible. The Holsteiner Verband or its authorized agencies are responsible for carrying out breeding value estimations.

17.2 FN- Breeding Value Estimation for German Riding Horses

The Verband authorizes the German Equestrian Federation (FN) to carry out the FN breeding value estimation which is carried out on behalf of the FN by the VIT data processing centre (w.V.) in Verden.

Breeding value evaluation of dressage and jumping aptitude in German riding horses is carried out on an annual basis. The breeding value estimation model is based on performance and pedigree data.

The following breeding values will be published:

- young horse classes show jumping/dressage
- competition classes show jumping/dressage
- highest achieved level show jumping/ dressage

**B18 AUTHORIZED BODIES**

<b>authorized body</b>	<b>Activity</b>
Vereinigte Informationssysteme Tierhaltung (vit)	breed registry breeding value estimation for Holsteiner mares and stallions
FN breed department, Warendorf	breeding value estimation for German riding horses data centre coordination
FN breed department, Warendorf	stallion performance tests

**B19 CONTROLLING**

The organisations commissioned by the Holsteiner Verband to carry out performance testing and breeding value estimations are regularly audited by the Verband in order to ensure the reliability of the performance testing and the breeding value estimations. The controlling procedures used for this purpose are regulated in agreements with the organisations.

**B20 USE OF REPRODUCTIVE TECHNIQUES**

20.1 **Artificial insemination**

20.1.1 Insemination of fresh or frozen semen is possible:

- at a Verband-approved station

or

- through on-farm insemination at the breeder’s facility.

Station managers and breeders must tolerate inspection of their insemination station and breeding facility by the Verband to ensure that the proper procedure and the necessary records are in place. A stallion used for artificial insemination may not be used for live cover in the same season.

20.1.2 Insemination permit

The Verband will only approve the use of a stallion for artificial insemination if he is registered in one of the Verband stallion books.

To be issued an insemination permit, the stallion keeper must apply in writing to the Verband office breeding department in Kiel.

The permit is only issued if the stallion keeper undertakes in a separate agreement with the Verband to comply with all its relevant resolutions.

20.2 **Embryo transfer and cloning**

20.2.1 Embryo transfer

Foals from embryo transfer will only be issued zootechnical certificates if the embryo transfer has been reported to the Verband by the mare owner in writing beforehand and the following data have been collected according to the provisions of animal breeding law:

- a) identification of genetic parents, recipient, and embryo
- b) date of insemination
- c) dates of collection and transfer of the embryo.
- d) name, address, registration number of embryo collection unit.

Horses born from embryo transfer shall be identified by the addition of ET in the zootechnical certificate (pedigree certificate I and II) as well as in the catalogues published by the Verband.

20.2.2 Cloning

Horse cloning is not considered a desired breeding method by the Verband. The Verband will not register cloned horses.

**B21 AWARDS**

21.1 **Foal inspections and awards**

Suckling foals shall be inspected by the inspection committee. All foals are to be presented with their dams and shall receive two marks according to the scale of grades (B6.2) (type/conformation and movement). This allows for an early evaluation of the offspring by stallions used at stud with regard to 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 marked at least 7 in both criteria according to the grading scale (B6.2).

21.2 **Mare awards**

21.2.1 District premium (BP)

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

- Both parents are registered in the Verband studbooks (sire: HB I, Holstein Global, dam: SB I (H, S), Holstein Global.
- The overall marks must total 47 points, with the mark for type at least 7 according to the scale of grades (B6.2) and none of the sub-criteria graded 3 or less according to the scale of grades (B6.2). The height at withers must be 160 cm at least.

- The premium designation is recorded on the mare's zootechnical certificate (pedigree certificate I or II) and the abbreviation (BP) is carried after the mare's name.

#### 21.2.2 Verband premium (VP)

This designation is given to 3- and 4-year-old mares which embody outstanding quality at breeding district mare inspections by fulfilling the following requirements:

- the pedigree requirements for a dam to a stallion (B6.1b)
- the overall marks must total 52 points, with the mark for type at least 8 according to the scale of grades (B6.2).
- or
- have successfully completed mare performance testing with an average score of at least 8.5 while the overall marks upon mare inspection must total 50 or 51 points, with the mare's mark for type graded at least 7 according to the scale of grades (B6.2).
- none of the sub-criteria must have been graded 4 or less according to the scale of grades (B6.2). Height at withers must be 160 cm at least.
- participate on principal in the annual Verband mare show.
- District premium status mares registered at 3- or 4-year-old with a total score of 50 or 51 points can later receive the "Verband premium" designation upon written application if the following requirements are met:
  - passed mare performance testing with an average score of at least 8.5
  - or
  - 4-yr-old: placed in young horse jumping class at A, ridden class, young dressage horse class at A, cross country class at A (minimum score 8.5)
  - or
  - 5-yr-old: placed in young horse jumping class at L, young dressage horse class at L, or cross country class at L (minimum score 8.5),
  - or
  - 6-yr-old: placed in young horse jumping class at M, young dressage horse class at M, or cross country class at M (minimum score 8.5).
- The premium designation is recorded on the mare's pedigree certificate and the abbreviation (VP) is carried after the mare's name.

#### 21.2.3 State premium (SP)

Verband premium mares which have successfully undergone mare performance testing (average grade 7.0 or better), with inspection marks totalling 52 points at least and type graded 8 according to the scale of grades (B6.2), are eligible to carry the title "state premium mare" according to the provisions of the Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Areas, European Affairs and Consumer Protection of Schleswig-Holstein.

Verband premium mares which have not undergone mare performance testing may be subsequently awarded the title state premium mare upon the owners written application, if the following conditions are met:

- 4-year-old: placed in young horse jumping class at A, ridden class, young horse dressage class at A or young horse cross country class at A,

or

- 5-year-old: placed in young horse jumping class at L, young horse dressage class at L or young horse cross country class at L

or

- 6-year-old: placed in young horse jumping class at M, young horse dressage class at M or young horse cross country class at M

The premium designation is recorded on the mare's zootechnical certificate (pedigree certificate I and II) and the abbreviation (SP) is carried after the mare's name.

- 21.3 Awards and prizes won at regional and national mare shows can be recorded on the zootechnical certificate (pedigree certificate I or II) on request.

## **B22 FINAL PROVISIONS**

- 22.1 This breeding programme was resolved on by the delegate assembly held on 13 December 2023 and shall replace the breeding programme version of 08 June 2023. It will enter into force upon entry into the register of associations at Pinneberg local court (VR 691 EL).
- 22.2 In the event individual provisions of this breeding programme are invalid, all other provisions shall remain valid.