

RULES AND REGULATIONS for BREEDERS ELITE STUDBOOK for IRISH and EUROPEAN SPORTHORSES

THE Breeders Elite Studbook for Irish and European Sporthorses (BE/SIES) is an European Community recognised studbook and also seeking to become a member of the World Breeding Federation of Sport Horses. It is a Limited Company registered in Belfast under no. NI072672.

Its aim is to promote the breeding of the world-class sport horses, using the bloodlines available in the U.K., Ireland and Europe today. This is achieved by a system of continuous grading and performance monitoring. It is the input and collaboration of top people from all Disciplines that dictate the direction and keeps the BE/SIES up to date and in the forefront of modern developments.

The BE/SIES Ltd. is bound by Commission Decision 92/353/EEC and all relevant Horse Passport Regulations.

This document seeks to record the ideal, structure, and methods of the BE/SIES.

Matters which cannot be solved by interpreting the rules to the letter should be resolved by following, as nearly as possible, the spirit of the text to obtain the solution which is fairest to all members/subscribers.

In order to comply with Commission Decision 9/353/EEC the Company declares that there will be no discrimination between subscribers/members.

BE/SIES Ltd. is a Data controller and endeavours at all times to process your personal data in accordance with the Data Protection Act1998.

Any personal details will be kept confidential and secure and will only be used for administration, statistical and analytical purposes, supplying information to the National Equine Database and contacting members/subscribers.

We will not disclose your personal data to third party data controllers other than in connection with the NED, unless in accordance with law or with your permission.

Membership Structure of the Studbook

Membership

- 1) Membership of the studbook will be open to everyone who successfully registers a foal with the studbook, subject to a yearly fee.

Steering Group

- 2) Breeders that are Members of the studbook and have proven their success and quality in the development and breeding of horses which are registered with the studbook may put themselves forward to be nominated and elected to join the Steering Group at the Annual General Meeting by any Member. The Steering Group will guide the development of the studbook and assist the Committee. The number of places available on the Steering Committee will not be limited.

Committee

- 3) Members of the Steering Group may put themselves forward to be nominated and elected by their Steering Group peers to become members of the Committee. Nominations will be accepted at the Annual General Meeting or at a meeting of the Steering Group and voted on by a show of hands. The Committee will deal with the promotion and direction of the studbook together with ensuring the standards of the studbook are met at all times. The number of places available on the Committee will be limited to 10.

AGM

- 4) All members will be invited to attend an Annual General Meeting every year.
- (1) At every AGM there will be an opportunity for Members to nominate fellow Members to join the Steering Committee subject to them meeting the eligibility criteria and putting themselves forward for nomination. Once all nominations have been heard each Member will be given one vote based on a show of hands as to their preferred Member to join the Steering Committee. The Members with highest number of votes will be invited to join the Steering Committee.

Retirement of Committee Members

- 5) One third of the Committee Members will be required to retire from their position on the Committee every two years, on a rotational basis, they will however be entitled to put themselves forward for re-election subject to the same rules as for other Committee Members above.

Form and Content of Stud Book

Division of main section of stud book

- 6) An organisation (BE/SIES) must not divide the main section of its studbook except into different classes according to the horses' merits.

Compulsory entry in the main section of stud book

7)

- (1) The BE/SIES must enter a horse in the main section of its stud book if that horse-
- (a) is descended from parents entered in the main section of a stud book of the same breed;
 - (b) has a pedigree established in accordance with the rules of its stud book; and
 - (c) is identified as foal at foot in accordance with the rules of its stud book, which rules must at least include a requirement for a covering certificate.
- (2) Where a horse is eligible for entry in a supplementary section of a stud book in accordance with the criteria set out in regulation 8, a recognised organisation must allow the progeny of that horse to be entered in the main section of its stud book.

Entry in supplementary section of stud book

- 8) Where a horse does not satisfy the criteria set out in regulation 7(1), a recognised organisation may enter that horse in a supplementary section of its stud book if that horse-
- (a) has been identified in accordance with the rules of its stud book;
 - (b) is judged by the recognised organisation to conform to the breed standard; and
 - (c) meets the requirements for the minimum performance set out in the rules of its stud book.

Cross breeding programmes

- 9) Where a horse does not satisfy the criteria set out in the regulation 7(1), a recognised organisation may enter that horse in the main section of its stud book for the purpose of it taking part in a cross-breeding programme which-
- (a) has been approved by that organisation in accordance with the rules of its stud book; and
 - (b) specifies the breeds which are allowed to take part in that programme.

Entry of horses registered in other stud books

10) Where a recognised organisation-

- (a) receives a request from the owner of a horse registered in another stud book to enter that horse in the main section of its own stud book; and
- (b) has divided the main section of its stud book in accordance with regulation 6,

The recognised organisation must enter the horse into the class of its stud book whose criteria that horse meets.

Entry in stud book for an animal imported from another member state

11)

- (1) Where a horse registered in one member state is imported to another member state then, except where a derogation has been agreed by common accord between the two organisations or associations concerned,-
 - (a) the horse must be registered or entered in the appropriate studbook of the member state of destination under the same name; and UELN number.
 - (b) the entry in the studbook of the member state of destination must be accompanied with an indication, in accordance with international agreements, of the initial(s) of the country of foaling.
- (2) Where the constitution of the organisations or associations so permits, the original name of the horse as entered in the first stud book may be preceded or followed by another name on a provisional or permanent basis, provided that throughout the horse's life-
 - (a) the original name is retained in brackets; and
 - (b) the country of birth is indicated by means of the initial(s) recognised by international agreements.

BREED DESCRIPTION

A well-built, sound, athletic sport horse, capable of competing at the highest level of its discipline. Based on indigenous Irish and British horses crossbred with other European breeds.

OBJECTIVES

Encourage the registration of all horses in the UK and N. Ireland

- Breed the best possible competition horses.
- Support and inform owners and breeders
- Provide services to riders
- Encourage co-operation and interchange of knowledge between owners, breeders and riders

HOW

By providing media to inform through Facebook and seminars at annual stallion showcase.

- Utilising the knowledge and skills of top riders in Dressage and Show Jumping and Eventing.
- Registration of all stock onto the National Equine Database NED when re-installed.
- Applying for membership in order to obtain Eligibility of BE/SIES registered stock for the WBFSH Championships
- Young stock grading shows.
- In-Breed competitions
- Stallion grading shows connected with Horse Sport Ireland and British Equestrian Federation performance

Results and BHS and BSJA records where applicable

GRADING CRITERIA

- Soundness and ability Including a full set of X-rays.
- Conformation and movement and grading results of offspring
- Competition prowess and ability of offspring
- Reproductive ability
- Pedigree and studbook status (Full, Reception Register or Breeders Elite Studbook Section)

THE STUDBOOK

Comprises:

- Main/Full studbook for mares, geldings and young stock
- Main/Full studbook for stallions
- Auxiliary studbook for mares, gelding and young stock
- Auxiliary studbook for stallions
- Foundation studbook for mares, geldings and young stock

- Since July 2013 the Auxiliary and Foundation sections have amalgamated into the 'Reception Register'.

Main/Full Studbook - In the case of mares, geldings and young stock, the main/full studbook is for those with 3 or more generations of pedigree on both sides and by an EU-recognised stallion.

Auxiliary studbook - For mares, young stock and geldings with less than three generations of pedigree on both sides; or with three generations on both sides but not by an EU recognised stallion.

Foundation studbook – For mares, young stock and geldings with no documented pedigree.

Auxiliary and Foundation studbooks are now one-and-the-same under the new name of 'Reception Register'. Entry rules maintain the same.

STALLION GRADING SYSTEM

The concept of grading stallions without rejecting them out of hand (providing they are sound), is totally new to any European studbook. The reason behind this is that people in the U.K. and Ireland have had the freedom to use any horse for breeding purposes good, bad or indifferent. The best policy must be to register and grade them all, monitor their prowess (or lack of it) and re-grade accordingly.

STALLION GRADES

- Failed
- Private
- Licensed
- Approved
- Life approved
- Elite

At the stallion's first grading show his initial grade is assessed on his conformation, performance ability, movement and pedigree. Unsound horses are excluded. In case of a dispute concerning soundness, Newmarket decides. A grade can change over time according to his performance and that of his progeny. At two and a half and three and a half years old the stallion can be failed, passed for private use or Registered/Licensed. At four years or over they can be assessed under saddle, either jumping or dressage, in an attempt to upgrade to Licensed. When graded at four years old they then have three years in which to prove themselves in open competition under Horse Sport Ireland and British Equestrian Federation. Meanwhile the quality and performance of their offspring will be monitored. Based on this data a stallion can then be up or down graded.

PRIVATE STALLIONS in Reception Register.

Advised to be for owners use only and not stand at public stud, although all offspring will be registered SIES Reception Register with their pedigree for as far as we can verify this. This is a section to facilitate all those who wish to breed horses without grading schemes or inhibitions and taking all risks and credits themselves.

LICENSED

For good performance stallions deserving a better chance to prove themselves through their offspring. Offspring can be registered in the full studbook or auxiliary studbook.

APPROVED

Can cover unlimited number of mares after they have proved themselves at top level of their discipline and are considered to be the same quality as Approved stallions on the Continent.

LIFE APPROVED

Stallions that have proven performance and progeny of desired standard

ELITE

Stallions that have consistently performed at the highest (International) level, and whose offspring are consistently well above average.

NOTE: Non-performance at 7+ will result in down grading or exclusion.

The grading for the stallions is by the BE/SIES Studbook Manager or BE/SIES Representatives authorised to grade stallions.

Upgrading or downgrading can only be done by the Stallion Grading Committee, either during the Stallion Show, or at a special meeting (Annual Review). Downgrading must take place if any stallion has a poor performance record at seven years old. Upgrading can happen if a stallion performs in such a way that he can be expected to be an asset to the breed population. The minimum level of performance required at seven is:

- 1.30 mtr – 1.40 mtr Show jumping
- Advanced Medium Dressage
- Top Half Intermediate Eventing

These are minimum levels and do not guarantee up grading or prevent down grading. Several other factors are to be considered as well. Grading results of offspring, number of offspring, in what sort of competitions (members cups or B&C's) did the stallion win prizes, etc.

The performance figures for the seven year olds are obtained by the BE/SIES from the offices of the Disciplines. If a stallion is either up or downgraded the owner is notified by post. In exceptional cases a year's amnesty may be given. If the owner feels that there are extenuating circumstances for his stallion's poor performance he should notify the BE/SIES in writing, including any supportive evidence.

If the stallion is put on a years amnesty of downgrading the owner will be informed in writing. Stallion grades, as a result of the annual review are available to all members on the stallion list, which can be obtained from the office or Internet. All stallions MUST undergo a full five -stage vetting before the stallion grading show. X-rays must be included.

YOUNGSTOCK GRADING SYSTEM

The grades available for young stock in all studbooks are as follows:

- Third Grade - Green rosette (lowest)
- Second Grade - Red rosette
- First Grade- Purple rosette (highest)

The Young stock Grading Shows have the following five classes:

- a) Foals born in current year. Colts or Fillies
- b) Yearling filly or colt.
- c) Two year old filly
- d) Three year old fillies and geldings
- e) Broodmares

Entry fees per horse are detailed in the section on BE/SIES charges. BE/SIES registration is mandatory for all animals entering grading shows.

Adult mares can take part in grading shows as but should be graded by then through their sports discipline. These sports results will be taken into account.

RULES FOR YOUNG STOCK GRADING

- 1) The BE/SIES accepts no financial liability in respect of the grades given at grading shows.
- 2) The judges and officials act in a voluntary capacity and have no financial responsibility for their decisions.
- 3) The judges are bound to explain their decisions and are also required to inform and assist exhibitors either privately or in public at their discretion.
- 4) Judges will be looking for sound, athletic well-built horses with paces and conformation to suit their chosen discipline. Dressage, show jumping or eventing. The origins are of lesser importance, as it is sport horses in the true sense of the word they will be looking for.
- 5) A horse must be registered in one of the BE/SIES studbooks before it can be entered for a grading show
- 6) In order to enter a grading show the horse must be registered as described above, an entry form must be complete and an entry fee paid.
- 7) Grading of the mares: Performance Only for Breeders Elite and at inhand grading shows the performance records of a mare will be assets together with her movement and conformation etc.
- 8) First Grade horses qualify for the National Championship/ if there is one.
- 9) There is currently no minimum height for broodmares although they must be over 14.2 hands (148 cm).

- 10) Dress. It is not mandatory for the handler to be dressed in white as on the Continent. As a British/Irish studbook, British/Irish standards and tradition should be adhered to. Also white tape in the plaits of mane is not desired.
- 11) The bridle should consist of a plain snaffle.

REGISTRATION RULES

- For a horse registered in one of the EC studbooks to be accepted into the main or full studbook its original studbook papers showing at least 3 generations of pedigree and a markings diagram, must accompany the application.
- No new pedigree paper will be issued. The original papers will be over stamped to safeguard the numbers and authenticity of the originals.
- Duplication is to be avoided. In case of fire theft or loss of passports or papers a new markings diagram must be submitted together with a signed declaration
- All registrations will be dealt with according the EC directive on horses.
- For acceptance into the Foundation studbook papers are not required.
- All foals born in 1998 and thereafter will be issued with a passport.
- All foals must be registered whilst still with the mare and must be Micro chipped. The markings form must be completed, signed and stamped by a veterinarian or a BE/SIES appointed qualified layman.
- Late registrations after weaning must be parentage tested by means of blood type or DNA testing. Costs of which are to be carried by the applicant. Every horse must be Micro chipped before registration.
- Horses from non-EC countries can apply for registration and may be accepted if considered suitable to our aims and targets.
- When a horse dies its papers must be returned to the BE/SIES office and must not remain in circulation.

STALLION REGISTRATION AND GRADING

- 1) Stallion to be graded must attend a stallion grading show in the year they are to stand at stud or before.
- 2) Stallion owners can apply for an extra-ordinary grading at home if they have all the required facilities and are prepared to pay the extra fee of £300- 600 depending on distances and circumstances.
- 3) Stallions which have proved themselves at International level and have a clean bill of health must at least attend a grading show and parade in front of the judges and public in order to obtain approval.
- 4) Stallions entered for grading must undergo a full five-stage vetting plus X-rays. A vet's certificate stating that the stallion is free from any hereditary unsoundness, together with completed markings form must accompany the entry form for the stallion grading.
- 5) All subsequently graded stallions must be DNA tested.
- 6) The BE/SIES will accept stallions for grading from any EC recognised studbook and may choose to accept stallions from unrecognised or non-European studbooks.
- 7) Stallions must achieve a high level of performance to be fully approved for life.

- 8) A stallion that is approved in another EC studbook, will be entered into the BE/SIES grading system as Licensed. If their stallion fulfils the SIES performance requirements he can be subsequently upgraded to Approved and their offspring will be registered as such.
- 9) A stallion which is not approved in an EC studbook will be entered in the BE/SIES studbook as failed until he might be graded with the BE/SIES.
- 10) A stallion can always attend subsequent grading shows to appeal against a previous grade.
- 11) A stallion can be graded for a discipline of its choice – dressage, show jumping or eventing. Eventing stallions are best served by competing to advanced level first before entering a grading.
- 12) Competitions at the BE/SIES Stallion Performance show are open to both those to be graded and previously graded stallions as well as stallions registered with the SJAI or British Show Jumping Association (BSJA).
- 13) These competitions are run under SJAI or BSJA rules and as such horses must be registered with the SJAI or BSJA in order to compete.
- 14) Stallions 7 years and older that have already been Approved and have performed at 1.50 metre or higher, or are deemed expected to contribute, can be Approved on entry to the studbook. They will however be required to be seen paraded at the next Stallion Grading Show.
- 15) Offspring of stallions can only be registered if accompanied by a covering certificate or the correct AI documentation. Covering certificates are provided by the BE/SIES, photocopies will not be accepted. The stallion owner is bound to verify the mare's ID or studbook papers against her markings and to fill in and sign the covering certificates correctly. The white copy is handed to the mare-owner, the green copy returned to the BE/SIES, the yellow copy should be retained by the stud for their reference. Covering certificates from other sources are accepted provided the ID markings for the offspring are verified and signed by a veterinarian, stamped and dated and Micro chipped.
- 16) By entering a stallion grading, the owner agrees to subject his horse to the opinion of the judges and accepts that their opinion is fair and without prejudice. Their verdict on the day is final.
- 17) Random blood tests will be carried out to prevent malpractice.
- 18) The BE/SIES is compelled by the EC rules to accept registrations from other EC related studbooks.
- 19) The BE/SIES reserves the right to refuse entry into the studbook, competitions and grading shows, to people who have behaved in a dangerous or slanderous manner.
- 20) Untrue projections of the status of a stallion, to the general public can lead to expulsion from the studbook.
- 21) Non-payment of stallion contributions will result in exclusion from the studbook.

- 22) All covering certificates are numbered. Every year, new certificates with new numbers will be issued upon receipt of the stallion contribution. Left over covering certificates must be returned to the BE/SIES at the end of the stud year and are invalid.
- 23) BE/SIES covering certificates can only be used for BE/SIES graded stallions. Misuse will not be tolerated and subsequent foals will not be registered.
- 24) The green copy of the covering certificates must be returned to the BE/SIES office by 1st November of each year.
- 25) Fraud in any form will be met by expulsion from the BE/SIES. This includes untrue or misleading advertisement of stallions (e.g. presenting 'Registered' stallions as 'Fully Graded').

COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE

Complaints must be offered in writing to the BE/SIES office.

Acknowledgement of the complaint will be issued by return or at least within 5 working days followed up by a letter explaining how the complaint will be dealt with or constitute a direct answer.

STUD BOOK MEMBERSHIP FEES

- Registration of a foal/youngster
- Late registration mare/gelding
- Change of Ownership in passport
- DNA testing including registration
- Entry for young stock grading.
- Microchips

STALLION MEMBERSHIP FEES

- Entry for grading show
- Registration of a stallion on grading
- DNA test for stallion
- Annual stallion contribution
- Extraordinary stallion grading

All prices are listed excluding VAT

BREEDERS ELITE PHILOSOPHY

In every breed or population there is only a relatively small number of animals able to bring about improvements in a particular direction; 80% or more need to be improved upon. These horses are not eligible to be entered into the Breeders Elite breeding program, but could, if required, be registered in other areas of the studbook.

Many Countries do not have an organised system to record and improve sport horses for instance other Common Wealth countries, America, Eastern Europe. For these countries Import possibilities into Europe will be hampered.

It also will give British Breeding an edge and recognition on the global market.

It will not be in direct competition with other stud books, it will complement, support and unite breeders all over the World.

PHILOSOPHY FOR BRITAIN AND IRELAND

At present there is a tendency amongst the big foreign studs to 'off-load' semen from their moderate stallions in England and Ireland.

The average Irish/English breeder cannot be expected to look past the colourful marketing brochures and has no other means of assessing the real breeding value of these stallions. Most of these stallions are incapable of improving the breeds abroad and their influence in the UK must be questioned.

Therefore there is a need to have a closer look at all the approved Continental stallions.

Only the best of the best are good enough to bring about a drastic improvement in our breeding as our mares generally lack most of the qualities needed to breed top class show jumpers.

The very best stallions from other societies will be selected by our judging panel and recommended to our members; and invited to join Breeders Elite with dual registration.

The judging panel will consist of top breeders and producers from the Continent and the UK – people who have their finger on the pulse of International equestrianism.

Through 'Breeders Elite' we will aim to bring the best mares together with the best stallions from the UK/Eire and abroad.

There is a large cross section of performance mares which, after or during a successful competitive life, do not gain the recognition they deserve from existing stud books for the simple reason that these stud books grade their mares on conformation, movement and pedigree only. Breeders Elite studbook proposes a system (below) that will not only give due recognition and credit to these mares, but will also highlight the very best of them. After all, proven competition mares are to be preferred as brood mares over show mares with no performance records; indeed, the best could be regarded as mothers of future champion stallions. We believe that performance ability is strongly hereditary, as is the lack thereof. Therefore we must start with mares that have competed themselves, and consolidate their ability with that of the very best proven competition stallions.

Within this group of mares we can then select on conformation as an additional element to the total package. We will disregard all of the un-proven mares and stallions and leave them to the other breeding societies.

The top sections of the Breeders Elite will be superior to any other sport horse studbook sections in Europe as far as verification, identification and information of registration are concerned.

As a studbook containing the best bred competition horses in its home country, it will also be the most suitable studbook to be involved in and support possible breeders cups or futurity schemes.

Breeders Elite aims to attract discerning breeders eager to produce a top quality product with excellent records whilst keeping the price structure as realistically low as possible.

Breeders Elite has no intention of taking horses from other societies. Its aim is to reach out and develop the premier studbook for a category of horses not yet catered for. Breeders Elite will also provide a single platform for the best Irish and British stallions from other societies to be showcased, bringing them to the attention of both new and established breeders.

And, as such, Breeders Elite will help to develop and broaden other studbooks.

3. THE BREEDERS ELITE SYSTEM

By giving breeders access to the insight and knowledge of experts from the Continent, they will thereby avoid duplication of mistakes and mismatching of bloodlines. And, by centralising top performance mares into one studbook, progress will be swift.

Performance mares (Grade A and B in the BSJA for instance) are not as yet organised and centralised into a performance studbook. The simple, unbiased grading of brood mares based upon their competition performance results, and the selection of eligible stallions by our panel of experts, must prove the best way forward.

Stud Book: For competition mares of verified parentage, and those that have been DNA tested, all results will be printed in their passports. Foals out of these mares, if by select or recognised stallions and verified by DNA testing and micro chipping, can be registered in the studbook.

GRADING MARES

Mares must have competed to a certain level and must be DNA profiled. Pedigree is of lesser importance than competition results; all breeding papers must be verified.

Breed characteristics/standards: Purpose bred performance horses from proven performance/competition parentage (dam and sire) utilising only the very best proven horses from any country or recognised studbook.

Performance horses will be graded during or after their competitive career. Performance is the key word, although horses with existing, verified pedigrees are preferred. Mares without such pedigrees do, however, have equal chances to be upgraded if their results in the sport warrant this, thereby creating much-needed new bloodlines. Breeders Elite will register horses from intermediate national level up to international Four Star/Grand Prix. The top sections of Breeders Elite are reserved for international level athletes, providing the only showcase of the best performance mares and stallions in the world.

Rules of Registration: Mares and stallions must be registered with any one of the Olympic discipline governing bodies of their country, namely BSJA, British Dressage and British Eventing in England. All horses must also have a Unique Life Number and be registered on the National Equestrian Database (NED). Foals out of qualified mares will each need to be DNA tested and micro chipped.

Breeders Elite Qualified mares will be divided into 4 grades:

- Level 1 • Mares that have competed internationally
- Level 2* • Mares that have competed at national level
- Level 3* • Mares that have competed at intermediate level
- Level 4 • Mares that have produced offspring of the required quality without necessarily having qualified for the above three levels

Only foals out of these mares and by Breeders Elite approved stallions (see below) will be eligible for registration with the studbook.

*Explanation of Competition Levels:

Level 2 = National Level: Show Jumping – Grade A (1m 40)

Eventing – Advanced

Dressage – Prix St.George

Level 3 = Intermediate: Show Jumping – 1m 20

Eventing – Intermediate

Dressage – Advanced Medium

GRADING STALLIONS

Only the top 10% of stallions in each population are eligible for registration with Breeders Elite. These will be invited to join the studbook, and need to have:

- A top performance record or proven breeding record
- A 5-stage vetting with x-ray report.
- DNA testing

In addition, foreign stallions need to be approved by a recognised studbook.

All imported semen must be of acceptable standard as still to be implicated in Britain. Owners of foreign stallions will be required to pay an initial registration fee as well as annual administration fees.

'Star Spotter' shows can be organised to find potential top sires and to showcase all Breeders Elite stallions. The majority of stallions will be drawn from the highest-ranked animals from other leading continental studbooks.

4. REGISTERS

The Breeders Elite studbook will be divided into three categories of registration:

1. Mare Register
2. Stallion Register
3. Foals and young stock Register

Horses registered as Breeders Elite Mares and Stallions will have been "performance tested" in the competition arena. For a foal to upgrade as a Breeders Elite Mare or Stallion, it will need to compete to the required level.

5. PASSPORTS

Passport to be approved with FEI/EU and automatic entry on National Equine Database

The passport will contain the following:

- Sketch card with markings
- Breeding papers
- Unique Life Number
- DNA code
- Chip bar code
- Vaccination record
- Medication record
- Section 9 and 10
- Other studbook endorsement and grading page

... in other words: the complete works for their lifetime.