



WBFSH

WORLD BREEDING FEDERATION
FOR SPORT HORSES

2024 ANNUAL REPORT to the General Assembly Cascais (POR)

WBFSH Office

By Nadine Brandtner

This report consists of:

- 1. Introduction**
- 2. Membership decisions 2023 to be ratified**
- 3. Membership application 2024**
- 4. Application for associate membership 2023**
- 5. Other office activities**
 - a. Annual reports
 - b. Rankings
 - c. General Assembly
 - d. Events
 - e. Webinars
 - f. Welfare Statement
 - g. Anniversary Campaign
 - h. Website and IT development
 - i. Other projects
 - j. Coordination of meetings

1) Introduction

The WBFSH office is run by the WBFSH general manager and assistant. It handles day to day operations, press, planning and preparation for the General Assembly, as well as membership applications and coordination of various projects.

Membership applications are assessed and processed by the Office and presented it to the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee makes a recommendation to the Board in relation to the applications. The Board decides on applications, which are subject to ratification at the Annual General Assembly.

2) Membership decisions 2023 to be ratified

The Baltic Horse Breeders Association was granted full membership in 2023. Their membership is due for ratification by the General Assembly 2024.



3) Membership applications 2024

To be accepted into Membership horse studbooks must meet the following criteria:

- a) Have a breeding programme that includes the major objectives of breeding sport horses that are functional for at least one of the Olympic disciplines of show jumping, dressage and/or eventing.
- b) Be a horse studbook that is a studbook of members and controlled by these members in a democratic fashion.
- c) Register and record horses using the UELN system.
- d) Be a legal entity that operates according to the general standards expected of reputable horse studbooks.
- e) Be recognised as a horse studbook by the relevant authority in the country in which it is based. In the European Union the horse studbook must be recognised under the relevant European Union legislation by the relevant Competent Authority in the Member State and proof of such recognition must be provided.
- f) Be of sufficient size to be viable and operate an effective horse identification, registration and breed improvement programme. As a general guide the horse studbook should be registering at least 100 foals annually. However, in exceptional circumstances, less than 100 foals could be acceptable.
- g) In the case where the studbook name refers to another original studbook, the relationship between the studbooks must be clearly stated and agreed upon.

The WBFSH secretariat received three applications for membership in 2024.

1. Luso-Warmblood (LW)

Summary of application:

The Luso Warmblood (LW) Horse Stud Book is for horses that are a cross between purebred and/or decedents of Lusitano Horses (PSL) and horses registered in warmblood stud books. It is an accepted breeding in Portugal, with EU recognition in accordance with paragraph 1 of article 4 of regulation EU2016/1012 of the European Parliament. It previously applied for membership in 2022. Associate membership was offered, with the reasoning that the studbook was not established enough to demonstrate that it is viable. However, it met all other membership criteria. It was recommended that the studbook re-apply for membership once it is more established. As a general rule, studbooks should be operational for a minimum of 3-5 years before applying for full membership.

Studbook summary:

The foal numbers of the last four years are reported as follows, indicating that the studbook is small but stable:

- 2020 – 29 (as per annual report 2023)
- 2021 – 39 (as per annual report 2024)
- 2022 – 38 (as per annual report 2024)
- 2023 – 40 (as per annual report 2024)



WBFSH

WORLD BREEDING FEDERATION
FOR SPORT HORSES

Conclusion:

As all membership criteria are now met, the executive committee recommended to the board that full membership should be granted. The board agreed with the recommendation. The membership of the Luso-Warmblood will be ratified by the general assembly in 2025.

2. AES-Netherlands

Summary of application:

AES-Netherlands is a daughter studbook of the Anglo-European Studbook (originates in the United Kingdom). It was established in 2020, in anticipation of impacts of Brexit on Anglo-European studbook registrations in the EU, and is officially recognised by “Rijksdienst voor Ondernemend Nederland” since 1st April 2020, according to EU legislation 2016/1012. The daughter studbook AES-Netherlands follows the same breeding principles as the mother studbook, having laid out breeding programs for jumping, dressage and eventing. Horses from the studbook have the UELN 528036.

The studbook carries out inspections and evaluations for mares, young stock and stallions, focusing on functionality, capacity, temperament, and correct conformation, to select horses suitable for the sport and for durability. Parentage verification by DNA testing is recommended but not mandatory, unless the foal is not presented at foot of the biological dam. Stallions are selected according to different licensing statuses (registered, licensed, approved or elite).

Studbook summary:

At time of application the total number of members was 1650, and the total number of horses 5791
Foal numbers:

- 2019 – 125 foals (these horses were registered retrospectively, i.e. not in their first year of birth. As they were Dutch-born, they were not eligible for entry into the mother studbook)
- 2020 – 295 foals
- 2021 – 1766 foals
- 2022 – 1744 foals
- 2023 – 1709 foals

The significant number of foals is due to registrations that the AES UK would ordinarily have made in the EU. Consequently, the foal numbers of AES UK have decreased correspondingly.

Conclusion:

As all membership criteria are met, the executive committee recommended to the board that board that full membership should be granted. The board agreed with the recommendation. The membership of AES-Netherlands will be ratified by the general assembly in 2025.

3. Cheval Dressage Français (CDF)

Summary of application:

The breeding goal of the studbook is to cross warmbloods with Lusitanos, to produce dressage horses. Registered horses must have at least 12,5 % Lusitano blood. All WBFSH members



studbooks are recognised for the breeding program. The studbook was officially recognised on by the Ministry of Agriculture in France on 17th June 2020. It is a recognised studbook under EU legislation 2016/1012. It previously applied for membership in 2021. Associate membership was offered, with the reasoning that the studbook was not established enough to demonstrate that it is viable. However, it met all other membership criteria. It was recommended that the studbook re-apply for membership once it is more established. As a general rule, studbooks should be operational for a minimum of 3-5 years before applying for full membership.

Studbook summary:

In 2024, at the time of application, the CDF had 135 CDF-registered mares, 65 stallions (of which 6 are approved). Foal numbers are small but increasing:

- 2020 – 40 foals
- 2021 – 31 foals
- 2022 – 55 foals
- 2023 – 90 foals
- At the time of application there have been 80 foals registered for 2024.

Conclusion:

As all membership criteria are now met, the executive committee recommended to the board that full membership should be granted. The board agreed with the recommendation. The membership of the Cheval Dressage Français will be ratified by the general assembly in 2025.

4) Application for associate membership 2024

The status of associate is open to horse studbook organisations that do not meet the requirements for membership and to other horse-related organisations that have objects consistent with WBFSH and subscribe to the aims of the WBFSH. Studbooks that meet the requirements for membership are not eligible to become associates.

Associate may avail themselves of various services provided by the WBFSH and attend the General Assembly but shall not be eligible to vote or participate in the studbook rankings, in the World Championship for Young Horses, in the Young Breeders Championships, or in activities confined, by decision of the Board, to members.

There were no applications for associate membership in 2024.

5) Other office activities

a) Annual reports

Annual reports were sent out to the members on 4th April 2024. Several reminders were sent to a number of studbooks that failed to submit by the deadline. The total number of members in the WBFSH (full and associate) was reported at 86 for 2024.



b) Rankings

The office coordinates all the rankings (breeders, studbooks, sires). The final breeder and studbook rankings will be announced at the General Assembly in Portugal. The Sire rankings will be published, as every year, in November.

c) General Assembly

The office deals with organisational aspects of the general assembly in association with the host studbook. In 2024 the hosts of the General Assembly were a collaborative effort of the Lusitano Studbook, the Portuguese Sport Horse and the Luso-Warmblood.

A request for bids to host the GA-2025 was sent to the members on 17th May 2024. The office coordinated with candidates and processed the bids to present to the board.

d) Events

The World Breeding Championships for dressage, jumping and eventing took place in Ermelo (NED), Lanaken (BEL) and Lion d'Angers (FRA) respectively. The office assisted in communications and liaison with OC on various matters for the dressage and jumping championships. Due to the Olympic Games, the Dressage Championship took place in September this year.

The second edition of the WBFSH Studbooks Jumping Global Champions Trophy took place at Longines Tops International Arena (Valkenswaard NED) from 26-29 September 2024. The office was involved in organisational activities, as well as drafting of the program and schedule, marketing and communication.

At the Dressage World Breeding Championships and the WBFSH Studbooks Jumping Global Champions Trophy, the office organised and coordinated the WBFSH stand, which was found to be useful for networking opportunities.

e) Webinars

A webinar on the documentation for transport of genetic material was held on 25th April, presented by Dr Alf Füssel. The office coordinated all preparations for the webinar, including announcement, invitation, online registration. 131 people registered. There were 37 participants from 15 countries and 15 studbooks. There were 34 views of the recorded webinar on YouTube within 24 hours of uploading.

f) Anniversary Campaign

In 2024 the WBFSH celebrated its 30th anniversary. A campaign was created by the Department of Marketing, Promotions and Communications. The activities of the campaign were coordinated and carried out by the office, and included:

- Monthly history segments (sent by newsletter and published on the WBFSH website news)
- Series of Anniversary interviews with a selection of prominent people in the industry (published on YouTube, sent by newsletter and published on the WBFSH website news)
- Creation of an Anniversary book



g) Welfare Statement

The office coordinated vital steps in the execution of the project of the WBFSH to produce a well-fare statement, for providing studbooks with evidence-based information relating to good breeding practices for ensuring the welfare of the horse. This encompassed a close cooperation with the WBFSH executives and Hartpury University (Prof Jane Williams and Janet Forbes). The results of the project are to be presented at the GA-2024.

h) Website and IT development

The office worked in close cooperation with Equine Register, on further developing the WBFSH website. The project for more in depth IT development and a central database was continued. A pilot phase with test data was initiated in July 2024. The progress of the project will be presented to the General Assembly in Portugal by Equine Register

i) Other projects

The office worked in close cooperation with the Department of Development and Kaasandra Chee (assistant to the project) on preparing the outline and collection of statistics for the next State of the Industry Report.

j) Coordination of Meetings

The office coordinated and planned various meetings, both online and in-person. Activities included drafting of agenda and collation of enclosures, finding venues and booking meeting rooms, producing minutes and follow-up lists. In-person meetings were held throughout the year (14th/15th May Executive Meeting in London GBR; 17th/18th July Joint Meeting in Amsterdam NED; 26th September Joint Meeting in Valkenswaard NED)

Balen, 17th September 2024