



# WBFSH

WORLD BREEDING FEDERATION  
FOR SPORT HORSES

## 2024 ANNUAL REPORT to the General Assembly Casais (POR)

WBFSH Department of Breeding

By Bérengère Lacroix

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This report consists of:

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### 1) Introduction

The department leads initiatives for breeding development and to safeguard the industry through use of “Good Breeding Practice”, which gives the opportunity to share knowledge and to recognise excellence in the WBFSH member studbooks.

### 2) Activities

#### Annual Breeding Report 2024: Summary of OPU-ICSI Survey Conclusions

Based on the survey responses from 47.5% of our members, the following key conclusions have been drawn regarding the use of OPU-ICSI (Ovum Pick-Up - Intracytoplasmic Sperm Injection) in breeding:

#### 1. Impact on Genetics, Ethics, and Economy:

A significant 79% of respondents expressed concerns that OPU-ICSI could impact genetics, ethics, and the economy of breeding. Only 2% believe there is no impact, highlighting widespread apprehension about this technique’s broader implications.

#### 2. Regulation and Authorization:

While OPU-ICSI is authorized, it remains minimally regulated by authorities and/or Stud Books, revealing a regulatory gap that could lead to inconsistent application and outcomes.

#### 3. Usage of the Technique:

Although not yet a common reproductive technique, OPU-ICSI may gain popularity as genetic advancements and market demands grow. This indicates potential future trends toward increased use.

#### 4. Registration and Distinction:

Few Stud Books currently distinguish foals born via ET (Embryo Transfer) from those via ICSI in their databases and passports. However, 69% either record or plan to record data on foals produced through OPU-ICSI, demonstrating a rising awareness of the need to track reproductive origins.



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#### **5. Measuring the Impact:**

Key concerns include health, conformation-malformation, and performance, with no major alerts currently reported for foals born through OPU-ICSI, suggesting that significant issues have yet to be identified.

#### **6. Limiting Usage:**

Half of the Stud Books surveyed believe the use of OPU-ICSI should be limited, while 32% remain uncertain, reflecting a divided stance on the acceptability and regulation of the technique.

#### **In summary**

OPU-ICSI is recognized as a technique with significant implications for the genetics, ethics, and economy of breeding. Although its use could grow, concerns about its impact are prevalent, and a notable portion of Stud Books advocate for limiting its application.