



WBFSH

WORLD BREEDING FEDERATION
FOR SPORT HORSES

2025 ANNUAL REPORT to the General Assembly Nottingham Road (RSA)

WBFSH Office

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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.



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2) Memberships

a) Membership Ratifications

Cheval Dressage Français (CDF), AES Netherlands (AES-NL) and Luso-Warmblood (LW) were given full membership at the GA-2024 in Cascais (POR). Their memberships are due for ratification at the GA-2025.

b) New Applications for Full Membership

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

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

- c) 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.
- d) Be a horse studbook that is a studbook of members and controlled by these members in a democratic fashion.
- e) Register and record horses using the UELN system.
- f) Be a legal entity that operates according to the general standards expected of reputable horse studbooks.
- g) 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.
- h) 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.
- i) In the case where the studbook name refers to another original studbook, the relationship between the studbooks must be clearly stated and agreed upon.

In 2025, the WBFSH secretariat received an application for full membership from the **Association of CS Horse Breeders of the Czech Republic / Svaz chovatelů CS koní v ČR, z.s. (SCHCS) – Czech Sport Horse Studbook**.

Summary of application:

The Slovak Warmblood of the Czech Republic was established in 1995. In 2002 it became officially recognised by the Czech ministry of Agriculture as a daughter studbook of the Slovak Warmblood. In June 2023 – The Czech Ministry of Agriculture approved amendments to the Breeding Programme for the **Czech Sport Horse breed**, and the Slovak Warmblood of the Czech Republic now continues as the studbook for the **Czech Sport Horse**.

The studbook operates in the geographical region of the Czech Republic, and has the UELN 203010. It is an open studbook, recognizing a list of approved studbooks (mostly WBFSH members), but also permits cross-breeding with thoroughbreds and Arabian horses. Offspring of CS horses crossed with warmblood breeds that are not from WBFSH studbooks can be registered only based on review and decision of the Studbook Council.

Selections of mares and stallions are carried out by the Breeding Commission.



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Registration and Identification:

Breeding Certificates are provided by the Central Horse Registry to stallion owners and owners of stallion semen doses registered in the Central *Stallion* Registry before the breeding season starts. The original and first copy must be returned to the Central Horse Registry. Second and third copies go to the mare owners. Microchips and DNA testing are mandatory. The Central Horse Registry issues the passports that are sent to the studbook and from there to the foal's owner.

Studbook summary:

- The **foal numbers** of the last four years are reported as follows, indicating that the studbook is small but stable:
 - 2020 – 226
 - 2021 – 201
 - 2022 – 242
 - 2023 – 256
 - 2024 – 261
- Number of **registered horses** at time of application – 6.653 horses
- Number of **members** at time of application – 69 (membership open to anyone)

Conclusion:

All membership criteria are met. The executive committee recommended to the board that full membership should be granted. The board agreed with the recommendation. The membership of the Czech Sport Horse Studbook will be ratified by the general assembly in 2026.

c) New Applications for Associate Membership

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 2025.**

3) Other office activities

a) Annual reports

Annual reports were sent out to the members on 14th April 2025. 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 88 for 2025 (84 full members and 4 associates).



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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 South Africa. 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 2025 the host of the General Assembly was the South African Warmblood Horse Society (SAWHS).

A request for bids to host the GA-2026 was sent to the members on 15th May 2025. The office coordinated with candidates and processed the bids to present to the board. The host and venue for the GA-2026 will be announced at the GA-2025 in South Africa.

d) Website & IT development

The office worked in close cooperation with Equine Register, on further developing the WBFSH website, specifically the members-only access areas. Work on the WBFSH data project continued in close cooperation with the Department of Marketing, Promotion and Communications. Closer collaborations with members have been fostered.

e) 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 (30th June/1st July Executive Meeting in Brussels BEL; 7th & 8th July Joint Meeting in Amsterdam NED; 10th October Joint Meeting in Nottingham Road RSA).

4) Events

a) World Breeding Championships (Dressage, Jumping, Eventing)

The World Breeding Championships for dressage, jumping and eventing took place in Verden (GER), 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, including overseeing eligibility of horses with respect to their studbooks of origin.

b) Longines WBFSH Breeder Awards

The Breeder Awards took place in Bordeaux during Jumping International Bordeaux, on Saturday 8th February. All logistical preparations were carried out by the office, with the breeders received and hosted during the event



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c) Signing of MOU with ISBC

During Jumping International Bordeaux, the WBFSH and the ISBC (International Studbook Committee of Thoroughbreds) signed a Memorandum of Understanding, marking a collaboration of the two breeding umbrella federations, to consult on and exchange ideas on topics of mutual interests and challenges. The first council meeting of this group took place in Bucharest Romania in May 2025.

d) European & African Studbook Committee Conference of Thoroughbred Studbooks

The conference of the EASBC is the biggest group of studbooks under the umbrella of the ISBC. They conference takes place every two years. Nadine Brandtner and Ralph van Venrooij participated as representatives of the WBFSH. A presentation was delivered on the outcome of the first phase of the WBFSH Welfare project.

e) EHN MEP Horse Group Meeting in the EU Parliament

Following on the presentation of the Department of Breeding at the GA-2024 in Cascais (POR), which presented the status of the use of assisted reproductive techniques (ARTs) by breeders of the WBFSH studbooks, and transparency as well as visibility of the implementation of the techniques, the need to improve transparency and traceability was acknowledged by the members at the GA-2024. A proposal was made to the board of the EHN, to address the issue to the EU parliament, for improved transparency and traceability within the EU legal framework. A presentation was made in the EU Parliament by Nadine Brandtner in June 2025. This resulted in a follow-up meeting with the European Commission in September 2025, to explore options to address the topic.

5) Projects

a) Transparency and Traceability of Assisted Reproductive Techniques

To elaborate on the above item 5.d.v, the executive committee and the general manager drafted a pitch to the EHN board, to get the topic onto the agenda of the EHN and the EU MEP Horse Group. Following the successful pitch a presentation for the MEPs was prepared. It was well received, and with the assistance of the EHN, a meeting with the European Commission was arranged. The meeting request was accompanied by a summary document of the presentation and shared with various departments of the European Commission. The World Breeding Championships for dressage, jumping and eventing took place in Verden (GER), Lanaken (BEL) and Lion d'Angers (FRA) respectively. The office assisted in communications

b) State of the Industry Report (SOI)

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 2024/2025 State of the Industry Report, which is due to be published at the GA-2025 in South Africa. Statistics were



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collected from member annual reports, FEI statistics on events and horses registered, as well as auction statistics provided by World Breeding News, which chronicles auctions around the world.

c) Strategic Plan

The strategic plan 2026-2030 was drafted in collaboration with the executive committee, and with added input and support from the Department of Development (Katy Holder-Vale). Various drafts were presented to the executives before presentation to the board for consideration and refining the plan. The plan will be presented at the GA-2025 in South Africa.

d) Welfare Statement

The GA-2024 saw the presentation on the completion of phase 1 of the project. A members' webinar was held in April 2025 to establish key focus areas to concentrate on, based on the 10 welfare principles identified in phase 1. The project was also presented to the European and African Studbook Committee in Bucharest. Public uptake of the project has been very positive. The office encouraged the executive committee to make a proposal to the board for the continuation of the project with a second phase. Planning for this second phase was coordinated by Prof Jane Williams of Hartpury University, and a strong collaboration continues to grow. An outline of the next phase of the project will be presented at the GA-2025 in South Africa.

Balen, 18th September 2025