



WBFSH

WORLD BREEDING FEDERATION
FOR SPORT HORSES

WBFSH General Assembly 2025 (South Africa)

Motion of the Board

WBFSH Welfare Charter

1. Introduction

The World Breeding Federation for Sport Horses (WBFSH) recognises that horse welfare is a fundamental pillar of ethical and sustainable horse breeding. Every studbook member has both the responsibility and the privilege to ensure the horses in their care and within their influence lead lives that reflect the highest standards of welfare.

The WBFSH has commissioned independent, evidence-based research to define welfare priorities across the breeding cycle and to provide guidance that ensures sport horses are bred, raised and managed under conditions that support physical and psychological well-being.

2. Proposal

The Board makes a motion to the members of the General Assembly to sign this Charter. Thereby each member agrees to actively uphold the principles of horse welfare outlined below, and to contribute to a shared commitment to continuous improvement across the global sport horse breeding community.

(Refer to PDF enclosure GA 12.3 of the copy to be signed by the members)



WBFSH Charter of Commitment to Equine Welfare in Breeding

Preamble

The World Breeding Federation for Sport Horses (WBFSH) recognises that horse welfare is a fundamental pillar of ethical and sustainable horse breeding. Every studbook member has both the responsibility and the privilege to ensure the horses in their care and within their influence lead lives that reflect the highest standards of welfare.

The WBFSH has commissioned independent, evidence-based research to define welfare priorities across the breeding cycle and to provide guidance that ensures sport horses are bred, raised and managed under conditions that support physical and psychological well-being.

In signing this Charter, each member studbook agrees to actively uphold the principles of horse welfare outlined below, and to contribute to a shared commitment to continuous improvement across the global sport horse breeding community.

Commitment

As a member of the WBFSH, we hereby commit to:

1. Uphold and Promote Welfare Principles

Prioritise the welfare of individual horses in all breeding-related decisions and practices, in line with the WBFSH's ten Foundation Welfare Principles and Values.

2. Embed Welfare in Breeding Strategies

Incorporate welfare indicators such as health, behaviour, longevity, and genetic diversity – alongside performance – into selection, grading and breeding decisions.

3. Ensure Ethical Management Practices

Promote and apply responsible, age-appropriate training, handling and management practices across all stages of the breeding cycle, from selection through to retirement.

4. Support Evidence-Based Welfare Improvements

Engage with and implement research findings and best practices; promote continuous learning through education, CPD and communication within the studbook's network.

5. Monitor and Evaluate Welfare

Regularly assess and reflect on breeding practices to ensure alignment with current welfare standards; take corrective measures when necessary.



6. Lead by Example

Act as an ambassador for welfare within the sport horse industry, ensuring that breeders and stakeholders affiliated with our studbook are aware of and aligned with these commitments.

7. Take Responsibility

Accept that our actions and policies must contribute to a breeding industry that is ethical, transparent, sustainable, and dedicated to providing all horses with a good life. This includes a clear commitment for studbooks to engage in traceability of reproductive methods, and DNA verification, in order to guarantee transparency for breeders, owners and the market regarding the conception of the horses registered within their studbook.

Accountability

In signing this Charter:

- We acknowledge that adherence to these welfare principles is a **duty**, not an option.
- We understand that serious or repeated failure to meet these commitments may lead to a **disciplinary review** by the WBFSH, and could result in sanctions, including the suspension or termination of membership.
- We agree to cooperate with any welfare-related review, audit or improvement process as initiated by the WBFSH or its appointed representatives.

Signature

Signed on behalf of: [Studbook Name]

Name:

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Position:

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Date:

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Signature:

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