



WBFSH

WORLD BREEDING FEDERATION
FOR SPORT HORSES

2026 ANNUAL REPORT to the General Assembly Dublin (IRE)

WBFSH Office

By Nadine Brandtner

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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.

2) Memberships

a) Membership Ratifications

The Association of CS Horse Breeders of the Czech Republic / Svaz chovatelů CS koní v ČR, z.s. (SCHCS) – Czech Sport Horse Studbook was given full membership at the GA-2025 in Nottingham Road (RSA). Their membership is due for ratification at the GA-2026.

b) New Applications for Full Membership

No applications for full membership were received 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 objectives consistent with WBFSH and subscribe to the aims of the WBFSH. Studbooks that meet the requirements for full membership are not eligible to become associates.

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

In 2026, **Sociedad Agrícola y Ganadera Osorno, SAGO A.G. / Agricultural and Livestock Society of Osorno** (Chile) applied for Associate Membership.

SAGO is a long-established Chilean agricultural trade association, founded in 1917 and officially recognised by the Chilean Ministry of Agriculture. It operates a genealogical registry which has included sport horses since 2015, although SAGO itself is not a sport-horse studbook.

Its activities are relevant to the WBFSH through breeding, genealogical registration, breeder visibility and the exchange of equine information. As SAGO does not currently demonstrate compliance with the requirements for Full Membership, its application has been considered under the provision for “other horse-related organisations” whose objectives are consistent with those of the WBFSH.

SAGO also has a comparable organisational structure to existing WBFSH Associate Member SOFO (Chile). Both are agricultural trade associations which operate officially recognised genealogical registries, including equine registration activities, rather than conventional sport-horse studbooks. Their principal distinction is geographical: SAGO operates primarily in the Los Lagos/Los Ríos region, while SOFO is based in the Araucanía region. SAGO therefore represents an organisational model



for which there is already precedent within the WBFSH Associate Membership. The Office recommends that SAGO be granted Associate Membership.

3) Other office activities

a) Annual reports

Annual reports were sent out to the members on 12th February 2026. 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 89 for 2026 (85 full members and 4 associates). Two full members did not submit their reports.

b) Rankings

The Office coordinates all the rankings (breeders, studbooks, sires). The 2026 final breeder and studbook rankings will be announced at the General Assembly in Ireland. 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 close cooperation with the host studbook. In 2026 the host of the General Assembly was the Irish Sport Horse Studbook (ISH). A request for bids to host the GA-2027 was sent to the members on 16th January 2026. The Office coordinated with candidates and processed the bids to present to the board. The host and venue for the GA-2027 will be announced at the GA-2026 in Ireland.

d) WBFSH Statutes

The Office worked in close cooperation with the Board and the notaries of Kienhuis Legal N.V. to collate and coordinate the necessary updates to the WBFSH Statutes. These included changes required to ensure legal compliance, provisions previously approved by the General Assembly but not yet formally incorporated into the Statutes, and new amendments proposed by the Board. The revised Statutes are presented to the General Assembly for approval.

e) Website & IT development

Together with the project steering committee, the Office continued to coordinate the development of the WBFSH Data Project with Equine Register, including implementation planning, contractual negotiations and the development of the project's future operational and commercial framework. Considerable work was undertaken to ensure appropriate arrangements for data governance, intellectual property, responsibilities and the long-term sustainability of the platform.

f) 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 (12th



December 2025 Joint Meeting in Brussels BEL; 19th & 20th May 2026 Executive Meeting in Brussels BEL; 15th & 16th June 2026 Joint Meeting in Amsterdam NED; 19th October 2026 Joint Meeting in Dublin IRE).

g) Webinars

A webinar on “Birth Trauma in foals and potential impacts on behaviour and performance” was hosted on 7th May 2026. It was presented by Beth Shaw, an equine physiotherapist and pioneer using the Equine Concertina for the treatment along muscle hubs. The Office coordinated preparations, including announcement, invitation, online registration. 59 people participated, from at least 15 countries. The webinar was well-received with a lengthy discussion after the presentation.

4) Events & Meetings

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

The World Breeding Championships for dressage and jumping took place in Verden (GER) and Lanaken (BEL), respectively, while the Eventing World Breeding Championship will take place in Lion d’Angers (FRA) in October. 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, and checking pedigree and breeder information.

At the Dressage World Breeding Championships 2026 in Verden, the Office in cooperation with the WBFSH Department of Marketing, Promotion and Communications organised and coordinated the WBFSH stand, which was found to be useful for networking opportunities.

b) Longines WBFSH Breeder Awards

The Breeder Awards took place in Amsterdam NED during Jumping Amsterdam, on Saturday 24th January 2026. All logistical preparations were carried out by the Office, with the breeders received and hosted during the event.

With the assistance of the Department of Marketing, Promotion and Communications, online breeder interviews were carried out ahead of the Breeder Awards, to compile short breeder videos for the awards ceremony and the website.

c) European Horse Network

The WBFSH continues to be actively represented within the European Horse Network (EHN), providing an important link to EU-level developments affecting the horse sector. Regular EHN Legal Group meetings provide a forum to discuss relevant legislative developments, with the proposed EU Animal Transport Regulation and the traceability of assisted reproductive techniques (ARTs) amongst the key topics addressed this year.

The EHN has also commissioned an Equine Statistical Study, carried out by Ecorys, to collect updated data and figures on the European equine sector. The study supports wider efforts to improve the availability and recognition of equine statistics at EU level.



d) European Commission

The WBFSH continued its advocacy at EU level for improved traceability and transparency of assisted reproductive techniques (ARTs) in horse breeding. The Office and the Department of External Cooperation met with representatives of the European Commission in Brussels to present the need for breeding techniques to be formally recorded and traceable within the relevant EU framework.

Following this meeting, further discussions were held at the European Parliament regarding possible next steps and the involvement of relevant stakeholders. While progress has been slower than anticipated, the WBFSH continues to pursue opportunities to bring the appropriate stakeholders together and advance this important topic.

e) FEI-WBFSH Council Meeting

On 17th June 2026 the FEI-WBFSH Council meeting took place at the FEI Headquarters in Lausanne (SUI). The collaboration between the WBFSH and FEI continues to grow and strengthen, with regular dialogue on topics of shared importance to breeding and equestrian sport. Discussions at the FEI-WBFSH Council Meeting included equine welfare, equine identification and traceability, including the new FEI EquiPass, the potential influence of gene modification on breeding and sport, and the recognition of breeders, amongst other topics.

5) Projects

a) Transparency and Traceability of Assisted Reproductive Techniques

The WBFSH continues its work to improve transparency and traceability around the use of assisted reproductive techniques (ARTs) in sport horse breeding. The project considers the implications of rapidly developing reproductive technologies for horse welfare, genetic diversity, breeder and consumer transparency, and the integrity of breeding records. Activities include collaboration with veterinary and research partners, gathering information on current practices, and advocating for appropriate recording and traceability of ARTs within breeding and identification systems.

b) Position Statement: Traceability of Coverings, Semen Use & resulting offspring

The WBFSH developed a Position Statement addressing the traceability of stallion coverings, semen use and resulting offspring. This effort was carried out through close collaboration between the Office and the Executive Committee. The statement promotes greater transparency and good practice within the breeding sector, while recognising the respective responsibilities of studbooks, stallion owners and breeders, and the challenges associated with cross-border breeding.

c) Welfare Project

Phase 2 of the WBFSH-Hartpury University Equine Welfare Research Project is underway, with a focus on welfare, transparency and traceability in relation to assisted reproductive techniques in sport horse breeding. Work during the year has focused on developing the research methodology



and preparing the first study examining current ART practices internationally. PhD researcher Molly Macbeth will provide a progress update and outline the next steps during the General Assembly.

d) Format Jumping World Breeding Championships

The WBFSH worked closely with the FEI Jumping Department to review the requirements and competition format for young horses at the Jumping WBCYH. This resulted in the introduction of Minimum Eligibility Requirements (MERs), an optimum-time format for the 5-year-old Final rather than competition against the clock, and reduced fence heights for the 5- and 6-year-old classes. These changes were implemented at the 2026 Championships and will be reviewed following the event to assess their effectiveness and identify any areas requiring further adjustment.

e) WBFSH Studbook Trophy

Work continued throughout the year towards establishing the WBFSH Studbook Team Trophy. Following a call for expressions of interest at the beginning of 2026, the Office and Board engaged with several potential organisers to further develop the event concept and assess possible hosting arrangements. Discussions are ongoing, with the aim of securing a suitable long-term partner and establishing a sustainable format for the event.

f) Collaboration with World Arabian Horse Organisation (WAHO)

The WBFSH has held discussions with the World Arabian Horse Organization (WAHO), followed by internal discussions and exchanges with the International Stud Book Committee (ISBC), regarding opportunities for closer collaboration between the three organisations. Discussions are ongoing, with the aim of identifying areas of shared interest and establishing a framework for future cooperation.

g) Late Registrations and WBCYH Eligibility

The WBFSH executive committee started to review the eligibility requirements relating to late registration of horses in studbooks and the issuing of new passports in connection with the WBCYH. The work aims to support early registration with recognised studbooks, protect the integrity of Championship eligibility and promote greater consistency across the disciplines.

h) International Young Breeders (IYB)

The WBFSH continued its longstanding cooperation with International Young Breeders (IYB). Work was undertaken during the year to develop a Memorandum of Understanding to more clearly define the relationship, respective roles and responsibilities of the two organisations, and provide a framework for future cooperation.