

**SPORTS PONY STUDBOOK SOCIETY**



**RULES AND  
REGULATIONS**

**JANUARY 2025**

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# THE SPORTS PONY STUDBOOK SOCIETY

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A Private Limited Company - Companies House (Cardiff) Registration No. 4106148

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## Legal status

The Sports Pony Studbook Society is a non-profit making company limited by guarantee with company registration number 4106148

The Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Sports Pony Studbook Society are available upon request from the SPSS Studbook Office or at Companies House.

The Sports Pony Studbook Society is approved by the Department of the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) as a Passport Issuing Organisation for equine passports.

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# PART I: REGISTRATION AND PAPERS

**Important note:** In accordance with DEFRA and EU rules on indigenous breeds:

- \* SPSS pedigree papers (ie a SPSS passport) will not be issued to any animal eligible for registration as a **pure-bred pony** with any Mountain and Moorland (indigenous pony breed) studbook listed with DEFRA or to any animal eligible for pure-bred papers from a breed society listed as a Rare Breed by the Rare Breeds Survival Trust. However, these ponies may be registered with SPSS and have their original papers over-stamped or documented accordingly provided they meet the criteria listed in Rule 4 below.
- \* Pure-bred ponies of Mountain and Moorland and Rare breeds as defined above must be registered with and receive papers/passport documents from their native pony stud book even if both parents are graded with the SPSS.

## 1 SPSS Pedigree Papers

### 1.1 Section I Papers

These will be issued to the following:

- Progeny of two parents both graded with the SPSS (including temporarily graded/licenced stallions). Blue Papers
- Progeny of one parent graded with the SPSS and one parent graded/licenced with a World Breeding Federation for Sport Horses (WBFSH) member studbook or a recognised foreign sports pony studbook. Blue Papers.

### 1.2 Section II & Section III Papers

These will be issued to the following:

- Progeny of one parent graded with the SPSS. Cream Papers (Section II)
- Progeny of SPSS Foundation Stud Book stallions. Cream Papers (Section II)
- Progeny of a dam passported or overstamped with the SPSS and sire graded/licenced with a World Breeding Federation for Sport Horses (WBFSH) member studbook or a recognised foreign sports pony studbook. Cream Papers (Section II)
- Progeny of a dam passported or overstamped with the SPSS and sire passported or overstamped by a PIO listed with DEFRA. White Papers (Section III)
- Progeny of a dam over 158cm and sire of 148cm or less where the breeder's intention is to breed a sports pony. If sire is licenced/graded (by a WBFSH member studbook or a recognised foreign sports pony studbook) then Cream Papers (Section II); or if sire is licenced/graded by a PIO listed with Defra then White Papers (Section III)

### 1.3 Green (Section X) Papers

In accordance with the EU Commission Decision 96/78 EC on 'criteria for entry and registration of equidae in stud-books for breeding purposes', **Green** (Section X) papers will be issued to any animal sired by an ungraded stallion with original Blue or Cream papers issued by the SPSS and out of an ungraded mare with original Blue or Cream papers issued by the SPSS.

Animals with Green papers will be eligible for SPSS grading in the normal way, with the following provisos:

- (i) Colts and stallions will be eligible for the Foundation Stud Book only
- (ii) Fillies and mares will be eligible for the Preliminary Stud Book only.

Should either or both of the parents of a Green-papered SPSS pony subsequently grade with SPSS then the Green papers can be upgraded to Cream or Blue as appropriate on payment of the appropriate fee. Graded status will also be amended where necessary.

## **2 Non-pedigree Papers/Passport**

From 2002 to 2005 the SPSS issued non-pedigree ID only passports to equines without verified breeding. Equines issued these passports form Section IV of the studbook and may be presented for SPSS grading subject to the rules in Part II (Stallions) and Part III (Mares) in the same way that equines with ID only passports or unverified pedigrees from other Passport Issuing Organisations (PIOs) can be.

## **3 Height Restrictions**

No adult stallion or mare over 158 cm will be eligible for SPSS grading but foals and youngstock with one SPSS graded parent and the other over height are eligible for registration and pedigree papers.

## **4 Registration Of Ponies With Existing Pedigree Papers From Other Stud Books**

Over-stamping and recording of pedigree will be available to the following ponies (provided they are no higher than 158cm):

- Pure-bred animals with papers issued by a stud book listed with DEFRA
- Part-bred animals with papers issued by a stud book listed with DEFRA
- Pure and part-bred animals with papers issued by a recognised foreign pony stud book
- Pure and part bred animals with papers issued by a WBFSH member studbook

Over-stamping / recording of pedigree is an initial step in the grading process and such over-stamped or recorded ponies must either successfully attend a SPSS grading in order to gain the status of a graded sports pony for breeding purposes or be exempt according to the SPSS Rules (Rule 5.1 for Stallions; Rule 12.2 for Mares). Ponies will be placed into one of the Studbook Registration Sections I to III depending on the graded/licensed status of their parents with those ponies with pedigree papers/passport but neither parent SPSS graded or passported being placed into Section III. Graded ponies will also be placed into the appropriate SPSS Stallion or Mare Studbook section.

### **Note:**

The Society will enter into the breeding book, animals of the same breed, line or cross that are eligible for entry under the Society's breed criteria, without discrimination on account of their country of origin.

## PART II: GRADING AND LICENSING PROCEDURE FOR STALLIONS

### 5 SPSS Graded Stallions

#### 5.1 Eligibility For Stallion Grading

To be awarded an SPSS Graded Stallion Licence a stallion must:

- be no more than 158 cm at maturity
- be at least two and a half years old
- **Have three full generations** of recorded pedigree and fit into one of the following categories:
  - (i) have Blue, Cream or White papers issued by the SPSS.
  - (ii) have papers issued by the GSB, Weatherbys or an EU recognised sports pony stud book
  - (iii) have papers issued by a WBFSH member stud book or daughter stud book (eg AES, BWBS, SHB(GB), BHHS, TBF)
  - (iv) have papers issued by another UK stud book listed with DEFRA plus, if a pure bred British-born Mountain & Moorland, proof that the pony has been approved and/or licenced by its own stud book
- **EITHER** achieve a mark of 75% or more at an SPSS stallion grading and fulfil any conditions required by the SPSS grading judges.  
**OR** have already been fully graded/approved with an SPSS approved foreign sports pony breed society prior to importation into the UK.
- fulfil the requirements of Rule 8 (Post Grading Procedures).

Any stallion presented for grading with a temporary (as distinct from lifetime) set of pedigree papers/passports issued by another stud book listed with DEFRA will have its documentation and bloodlines fully verified by the SPSS before its eligibility for grading can be confirmed.

### 6 SPSS Foundation Studbook For Stallions

#### 6.1 Purpose

The SPSS Foundation Studbook has been created to:

- (i) fulfil the needs of those organisations that may require discipline-based stallion gradings for competition purposes
- (ii) fulfil the legal obligations on competitiveness placed upon breed societies by EU Commission Decision 96/78 EU (see Rule 1.3).

#### 6.2 Eligibility And Grading Procedure

The SPSS Foundation Studbook for stallions is open to

- (i) all stallions of 158 cm or below with incomplete or unknown pedigrees and
- (ii) all stallions with SPSS Green (Section X) papers (see Rule 1.3)

provided that they:

- are no more than 158 cm at maturity

- are at least two and a half years old
- **EITHER** achieve a mark of 75% or more at an SPSS stallion grading and fulfil any conditions required by the SPSS grading judges.  
**OR** have already been fully graded/approved with an SPSS approved foreign sports pony breed society prior to importation into the UK.
- fulfil the requirements of Rule 8 (Post Grading Procedures).

## **7 SPSS Approved Sports Pony Stallions**

### **7.1 Purpose**

Approved Sports Pony Stallion status has been created to fulfil the needs of those stud books that may wish to provide a performance-based stallion approval system for its stallion licensing/approval scheme as part of, or in addition to, its existing breed type, conformation and pedigree assessments.

### **7.2 Eligibility And Grading Procedure**

Approved Sports Pony Stallion status assessments will only take place in collaboration with the studbook concerned and only stallions nominated by them will be eligible for the assessment. Rule 4 governs registration of the progeny of Approved Pony Stallions.

## **8 Post-Grading Procedures**

Upon grading with the SPSS the following actions will also be required from the stallion's owner:

- provide a DNA sample for parentage testing / profiling purposes (and pay for it's testing) or provide evidence of prior testing.
- provide a veterinary certificate that includes freedom from hereditary disease.

Only stallions that have fulfilled all the above requirements will be regarded as currently graded with the SPSS and be permitted to have SPSS pedigree papers issued for their foals.

## **9 Full Permanent Approval**

In order to achieve full permanent approval of their SPSS licenced stallion, owners (who must be current members who have paid that stallion's annual covering fee) have to provide evidence of their stallion's own and/or their progeny's performance under saddle (the level required will depend on age of stallion/progeny). In addition, the quality of a stallion's youngstock will also be assessed with particular weight being given to SPSS evaluation results but BEF Futurity results and, for pure-bred native ponies, breed society approvals/results/medals/etc will also be considered. Evidence should be provided via the SPSS Studbook Secretary who will ensure that it is reviewed by at least one SPSS Director and one SPSS Grading Judge neither of whom have a personal connection to the stallion. Stallions that have attended grading and are still to complete their own or progeny's performance requirements are viewed as licenced rather than fully approved. Full permanent approval may also be awarded at the discretion of the SPSS grading judges.

## **10 Elite Status**

Elite status will be awarded to any SPSS graded stallion that has an international competition record under saddle at FEI level or is the sire of an FEI international competition pony/horse provided that they are owned by a current member who has paid that stallion's annual covering fee. SPSS Elite status is indicated by the studbook code ESB. Elite status may also be awarded, at the discretion of the SPSS Governing Committee, to other exceptional proven competition stallions.

## 11 Registration Of Progeny

Upon entry to the SPSS Stud Books as an SPSS Graded stallion or an SPSS Foundation Studbook stallion, all **unborn** and future progeny may be registered and passported with the SPSS according to the normal registration rules, provided all regulations on re-inspection and veterinary protocols are observed. Progeny born before the stallion is accepted as an SPSS Graded or SPSS Foundation Studbook stallion are not eligible for a SPSS passport via the graded stallion route; however, if the dam is an SPSS graded mare then that will still allow them to receive a SPSS passport.

## PART III: MARE GRADING

### 12 Eligibility

**12.1** Mares must be at least two and a half years old and no more than 158 cm at maturity. Graded status will depend upon the level of marks attained for conformation, temperament, performance record and the extent of known bloodlines.

**12.2** Mares already graded with a recognised sport pony studbook abroad or a WBFSH member studbook will be accepted into the equivalent section of the SPSS Mare Studbook upon registration according to grading marks, competition record and pedigree.

### 13 Mare Studbooks

#### 13.1 Head Studbook

Head Studbook (HSB) status will be awarded for the following:

- Three full generations of recorded pedigree *plus* grading marks of 80% or above *or*
- Three full generations of recorded pedigree *plus* grading marks of 78% or above *plus* an excellent competition *or* breeding record. For example a top ten placing at a National Championship (FEI disciplines and at an appropriate level for age of pony) and/or 2 or more progeny evaluated as SPSS Gold and/or BEF Futurity Elite Premium standard, graded into the SPSS Head Studbook (mares) or licensed as an SPSS stallion with a score of 80% or higher.
- Three full generations of recorded pedigree *plus* grading marks of 75% or above *plus* SPSS Elite status.

#### 13.2 Main Studbook

Main Studbook (MSB) status will be awarded for the following:

- Two full generations of recorded pedigree and grading marks of 70% or above.

#### 13.3 Preliminary Studbook

Preliminary Studbook status (PSB) will be awarded for the following:

- All mares achieving grading marks of 65% or above but lacking the required recorded pedigree
- All mares entering the grading with SPSS Green (Section X) papers (see Rule 1.3).
- All mares with a full 2 or 3 generation pedigree who fail to achieve the grading marks for the Main or Head studbooks (provided they achieve at least 65%)

#### 13.4 Upgrading Mare Studbook

Post grading performance by a mare and/or her progeny may entitle a mare to move into the Head Studbook. Owners (who must be current members) may provide evidence of their mare's own performance under saddle and/or her progeny's performance (which can be in youngstock evaluations). Evidence should be provided via the SPSS Studbook Secretary who will ensure that it is reviewed by at least one SPSS Director and one SPSS Grading Judge neither of whom have a personal connection to the mare.

## **14 Elite Status**

Elite status will be awarded to any SPSS graded mare that has an international competition record under saddle at FEI level or is the dam of an FEI international competition pony/horse provided that they are owned and/or were bred by a current member. SPSS Elite status is indicated by a prefix E placed in front of the normal studbook code. Elite status may also be awarded, at the discretion of the SPSS Governing Committee, to other exceptional proven competition mares.

## **15 Registration Of Progeny**

Upon entry to the SPSS Studbooks as a graded mare, the owner must provide a DNA hair sample from the mare that will be stored by the SPSS in case parentage testing of her progeny is required. Note that if a DNA Profile needs to be done from the hair sample then this will be at the mare owner's expense (see Rile 20 for cost). Once a suitable hair sample has been lodged with the SPSS, all progeny may be registered with the SPSS according to the normal SPSS registration rules.

# PART IV: MEMBERSHIP, REGISTRATION, PASSPORT & DNA TESTING FEES

## 16 Membership Subscriptions

- Annual Full Adult:
  - .....£30.00 (payment by cheque or one off bank transfer)
  - .....£25.00 (if payment by standing order on 1st January)
- Annual Family:
  - .....£40.00 (payment by cheque or one off bank transfer)
  - .....£35.00 (if payment by standing order on 1st January)
- Life Adult: .....£250.00
- Life Family: .....£350.00

Only current full, life or honorary members can enter a pony for grading or stand a stallion with the SPSS.

## 17 Registration & Passport Issue Fees

### 17.1 General Note

NB: **ALL** applications for registration must be accompanied by:

- \* the relevant SPSS application form
- \* an SPSS identity form completed by a veterinary surgeon (for passport applications) or a copy of the identity pages provided as part of existing registration documents (for registration/overstamping applications)
- \* the appropriate passport/registration and membership fees.

### 17.2 Stallion Registration Fees

- Registration of stallions already graded with another SPSS approved foreign sports pony breed society prior to importation into the UK (including the annual covering fee for either the current or next year): ..... £300.00
  - Registration (ie “overstamping”) of stallions (or colts aged 2 and above) with pedigree papers/passports from another studbook that are not accepted by the SPSS as already graded: ..... £50.00
  - Annual covering fee (only stallions intended to be used for breeding in the current year):..... £50.00
- This fee includes the cost of one covering book per year. Extra books available at £25.00 each

### Veterinary Requirements

All graded stallions need to be DNA parentage tested / profiled at the owner's expense or provide evidence of an existing DNA test before any of their progeny can be issued with an SPSS passport. Stallion owners are also required to provide a veterinary certificate of freedom from hereditary disease/defects and must also sign & return the annual SPSS Declaration of Observance form to confirm that they have read and will observe and abide by the relevant Horserace Betting Levy Board Codes of Practice.

### 17.3 Mare Registration Fees

- Registration (ie acceptance into the SPSS Mare Studbook) of mares already graded with other SPSS approved sports pony studbooks and WBFSH member studbooks:: ..... £80.00
- Registration (ie "overstamping") of **ungraded** mares with passports from other studbooks::..... £25.00

Already graded mares will need to provide a DNA sample. The SPSS reserves the right to test the DNA sample at the owners expense (see Rule 20 for costs)

### 17.4 Gelding, Foal And Youngstock Registration (ie "Overstamping") Fees

- Registration of youngstock (foals & yearlings) and geldings with papers/passports from other studbooks: .....£25.00

### 17.5 Passport Issue Fees

#### SPSS Members

#### DNA Verified Passport (pedigree verified by DNA parentage testing)

- Original registration of animals with **at least one parent** graded with the SPSS including passport and registration document and pedigree verification via DNA : .....£115.00\*
- Original registration of animals with **neither parent** graded with the SPSS including passport and registration document and pedigree verification via DNA : .....£125.00\*

#### Standard Passport (pedigree verified by covering certificate)

- Original registration of animals with **both parents** graded with the SPSS including passport and registration document and storage of DNA sample : .....£65.00\*
- Original registration of animals with **one parent** graded with the SPSS including passport and registration document and storage of DNA sample : .....£75.00\*
- Original registration of animals with **dam passported or overstamped** with the SPSS including passport and registration document and storage of DNA sample : .....£85.00\*
- All other cases : ..... £110.00

Note that those prices above marked with a \* attract a £20 discount for passport applications received and paid for by 1<sup>st</sup> November in the foal's year of birth.

#### Non Members

#### DNA Verified Passport (pedigree verified by DNA parentage testing)

- Original registration of animals with **at least one parent** graded with the SPSS including passport and registration document and pedigree verification via DNA : .....£145.00

- Original registration of animals with **neither parent** graded with the SPSS including passport and registration document and pedigree verification via DNA : .....£155.00

**Standard Passport (pedigree verified by covering certificate)**

- Original registration of animals with **both parents** graded with the SPSS including passport and registration document and storage of DNA sample : .....£95.00
- Original registration of animals with **one parent** graded with the SPSS including passport and registration document and storage of DNA sample : .....£105.00
- Original registration of animals with **dam passported or overstamped** with the SPSS including passport and registration document and storage of DNA sample : .....£115.00
- All other cases : .....£140.00

With effect from 1<sup>st</sup> March 2016, DNA Verification of pedigree **will be required** for all late passport applications (ie after the year of birth) and all applications when the vet completing the Identification Form section of the Passport Application Form has not identified the foal while still on its genetic dam (including all ET foals). The cost of a passport with the pedigree verified by DNA parentage testing is a minimum of £40 more than the standard fee. The total cost depends on whether DNA profiles exist and can be accessed by the SPSS for both sire and dam. If they don't, then there will be a further cost (see Rule 20) for each parent that has to have a DNA profile done (and a DNA hair sample will be required for this unless one is already held by the SPSS).

**18 Registration of Prefixes**

- Registration of a new prefix: .....£55.00
- Extension of an existing prefix for use with the SPSS: .....£25.00

The SPSS is a member of the Central Prefix Registry, and all breeders wishing to use a prefix or suffix when registering an animal with the SPSS must apply for approval and registration of that prefix before it can be recognised as their own. The SPSS will check with the Central Prefix Register on behalf of the breeder that this prefix is acceptable, but in order to avoid disappointment advises all breeders to consult the Central Prefix Register's own web page [www.centralprefixregister.com](http://www.centralprefixregister.com) before finalising their choice.

**19 SPSS Passports – Amendment/replacement Fees**

When a pony holding ANY type of SPSS passport changes ownership the passport must be returned to the SPSS Head Office within 30 days to have the new owner's details recorded.

- Change of Ownership fee: .....£35.00
- Replacement of a lost or stolen passport (originally issued by the SPSS<sup>1</sup>): .....£60.00
- Replacement of a lost or stolen passport (originally issued by a non-UK Studbook): .....£100.00

<sup>1</sup> This includes any passports issued by defunct UK PIOs where the SPSS has taken responsibility for their maintenance (for example Scottish Sport Horse pony passports)

- Replacement of a damaged passport (originally issued by the SPSS<sup>1</sup>): .....£40.00
- Change of name on a passport – although a pony should keep the same name for life, if the breeder gives permission, amendment may be possible:.....£60.00
- Addition of the pony’s name to a passport (originally issued by the SPSS) where the breeder chose not to name the pony at time of issue.....£25.00
- Notification of Castration (Gelding): .....£15.00  
If sent with a Transfer of Ownership Form & fee, this fee reduces to:.....£10.00
- Notification of Death of Pony:..... Free\*  
\* Unless passport is to be returned to someone other than the last recorded owner when there is a fee of £5 to cover postage and administration

## 20 DNA Parentage Testing and Profiling Fees

If DNA Parentage Testing and/or a DNA Profile is required then the fees are:

- DNA Parentage testing of a foal as part of an SPSS Passport application.....£50
- DNA Profile/Parentage testing of an SPSS graded mare or stallion.....£50
- DNA Profile/Parentage testing other than as detailed above .....£55

Note that, if the cost to SPSS of DNA Profiling/Parentage test increases to above £50, the above costs will be increased during the year.

## PART V: SPSS GRADING FEES

### 21 Stallion & Mare Grading Fees

#### 21.1 Stallion Grading Fees

Only stallions and colts already registered / recorded with SPSS are eligible to enter SPSS Stallion Grading

Entry fee for Stallion Grading: ..... £250.00  
(including, for successful stallions only, the annual covering fee for the following year)

Stabling at stallion grading if required will be charged directly to owner according to costs of location.

#### **Veterinary Requirements**

All graded stallions need to be DNA parentage profiled at the owner's expense or provide evidence of an existing DNA profile before any of their progeny can be issued with an SPSS passport. Stallion owners are also required to provide a veterinary certificate of freedom from hereditary disease/defects and must also sign & return the annual SPSS Declaration of Observance form to confirm that they have read and will observe and abide by the relevant Horserace Betting Levy Board Codes of Practise.

#### 21.2 Mare Grading Fees

Only mares and fillies already registered /recorded with SPSS are eligible to enter SPSS Mare Grading

Entry fee for Mare Grading: ..... £80.00

Stabling at mare grading if required will be charged directly to owner according to costs of location

If successfully graded these mares will need to provide a DNA sample. The SPSS reserves the right to test the DNA sample at the owners expense.