



## **BREEDING GUIDELINES**

(Attachment A)

### **Introduction**

Uniform AWhA breeding guidelines were first accepted by all the state branches and adopted by the Federal Council in 1988. The original guidelines have been amended and refined at subsequent Federal Council Meetings and the current guidelines, applicable Australia-wide, are summarised below. (More detailed “Info Sheets” on many of the topics are available from your State Registrar or the Federal Registrar.)

### **Breeding Aim**

To breed a riding horse suitable for equestrian sports such as Dressage, Show jumping, Eventing and driving - in other words, a performance horse, showing:

- quality;
- correct conformation;
- correct movement with impulsion, balance and cadence;
- a suitable character and willing temperament; and
- jumping ability, Style and technique.

### **Breeding Population**

The breeding population comprises all horses registered with the Australian Warmblood Horse Association Limited (AWHA). These include imported and Australian Warmbloods and classified foundation mares of Warmblood, Thoroughbred, Anglo-Arabian or Warmblood/Arabian breeding. There is also provision for registration of the progeny of performance-tested stallions accredited by recognised overseas Warmblood organisations that may be conceived by artificial insemination using imported semen.

Approved Warmblood ancestry for AWhA pedigree purposes generally means descent from recognised European Warmblood breeds.

### **The Stud Book**

Like Warmblood Stud Books throughout the world, the Stud Book operated by the AWhA can be described as both open and closed. Open because, subject to strict selection criteria, horses with no Warmblood breeding (e.g. Thoroughbreds) may be accepted as foundation stock and, when mated with Stud Book animals, have their progeny eligible for inclusion in the Stud Book via the Appendix. Closed because progeny from Stud Book animals must also satisfy selection criteria (through classification or colt selection) before they themselves are included in the Stud Book.

## **Breeding Selection Program**

Horses in the AWhA population are graded to identify the best animals for breeding by means of Classification (of mares) and Colt Selection followed by performance testing (of colts and stallions). The grading process also applies to imported horses, which have not passed similar testing under the auspices of a recognised overseas organisation.

## **The Registration System**

The AWhA records horses in four categories: the Studbook, the Warmblood Foundation Mare Register, the Foundation Mare Register and the Warmblood Identification Register.

### ***Colour***

Horses must be of solid colour (bay, black, brown, chestnut, grey) for entry into the Studbook. Diluted and broken or pied coat colours/patterns are not acceptable.

***Stud Book.*** The Stud Book records the preferred Warmblood Breeding population and is subdivided as follows:

***Stud Book Appendix.*** This is the non-breeding section of the Stud Book. Warmbloods whose pedigrees make them eligible for classification as three years olds are entered in the appendix upon being issued an AWhA birth certificate, usually by the end of the financial year in which they are born. Horses that subsequently pass classification or colt selection are promoted to the Stud Book. Geldings, which are not required to be classified, remain in the Appendix, as do mares and stallions, which fail classification or colt selection. In addition, stallions whose breeding permits are cancelled are removed from the Stud Book and returned to the appendix.

***Stud Book.*** The Stud Book contains all horses promoted from the Appendix because of passing classification or colt selection and consequently being accepted into the breeding population. In the case of mares, it is subdivided into the ordinary *Stud Book*, the *Head Stud Book* and the *Elite Stud Book* in order to give proper recognition to the horses with higher classification scores and superior performance of progeny records. Stallions are known as *Performance Accepted*, *Approved* or *Licensed*.

***Warmblood Foundation Mare (WFM) Register.*** The Warmblood Foundation Mare Register records AWhA Stud book eligible mares which pass classification with scores of 60% or better, but which do not gain entry to the Stud Book on the grounds of insufficient height. The WFM Register also recognises the genetic potential of mares with Warmblood Breeding which are not eligible for the AWhA Stud Book as a result of non-AWhA pedigrees but which fulfil certain breeding, height and classification criteria. The male and female progeny of classified Warmblood Foundation Mares, if sired by an AWhA Approved or Licensed Stallion, are subsequently eligible for the AWhA Stud Book on their merits.

***Foundation Mare (FM) Register.*** The Foundation Mare Register records all mares of acceptable breeding that have passed AWhA classification and hence are eligible to have their progeny by an AWhA Approved or Licensed Stallion registered in the Stud Book. Breeding is restricted to Thoroughbreds and Anglo-Arabs.

**Warmblood Identification Register (WID).** The Warmblood Identification Register records all male and female horses which are not eligible for the AWhA Stud Book but which can demonstrate a minimum of 25% of recognised Warmblood breeding in their pedigree, irrespective of what the other components of the pedigree may be.

The WID is a non-breeding Register. Horses cannot generally be upgraded from the Identification Register to the Stud Book, but females with acceptable breeding and height may be eligible for classification into the Warmblood Foundation Mare (WFM) Register (see below) at three years of age. The female progeny of mares that remain in the Identification Register may also be eligible for consideration for inclusion in the WFM Register subject to satisfying the associated pedigree, classification and height requirements. Male progeny from Identification Register mares, however, are not eligible for Colt Selection. They remain in the Identification Register and should not be used for breeding. The same applies to mares, which do not meet the minimum classification score of 60%.

## **Breeding Stock Selection Criteria**

### **1 Warmblood Mares**

#### *i) Stud Book*

Mares must satisfy the following **minimum** standards: Approved Warmblood breeding; both parents classified; three generations of acceptable pedigree; minimum height of 158cm; to be presented for classification at the *minimum* age of three years and achieve 60% or better, unless Clause 7 of the Synopsis of Breeding Guidelines applies.

#### *ii) Head Stud Book*

Breeding and pedigree as for Stud Book mares. Must also be presented for classification at the *minimum* age of three years. In addition, Head Stud Book mares must measure at least 158cm and achieve a classification score of 70% or better.

#### *iii) Elite Stud Book*

Head Stud Book mares are eligible for promotion to the Elite Stud Book upon fulfilment of one of three performance options:

- a) achieve a score of 60% in an EFA Novice dressage test and place first, second or third in a D Grade show-jumping competition; or
- b) place first, second or third in Restricted Novice eventing; or
- c) gain grading points in C Grade showjumping **or** Medium dressage.

Stud Book and Head Stud Book mares are identified with the acronyms "SB" or "HSB", respectively, after their registration numbers. Elite Stud Book mares are presented with a special certificate upon upgrading to Elite status.

### **2 Warmblood Foundation Mares**

Mares are eligible for inclusion in the WFM Register if they:

- (a) are of Warmblood, Warmblood/Thoroughbred, Warmblood/Anglo-Arab or Warmblood/Arabian breeding; the Warmblood component of which must be:
  - either AWhA registered;
  - or registered with another recognised Warmblood association; and
  - acceptable to the AWhA Committee. As a general guide, traceable European descent will be required as a minimum.
- (b) have at least three generations of documented breeding;

(c) measure a minimum of 158 cm at three years of age; and

(d) are presented for and pass classification with a minimum score of 60% by the AWhA (unless Clause 7 of the Synopsis of Breeding Guidelines applies).

Mares scoring 60% to 69% are designated Class B Warmblood Foundation Maes while those scoring 70% or above are designated Class A Warmblood Foundation Mares. Mares recorded in the Warmblood Foundation Mare Register are identified with the acronym "WFM" after their registration number.

### **3. *Foundation Mares***

Foundation mares must have approved Thoroughbred or Anglo-Arab breeding; three generations of proven pedigree; must measure a minimum of 158cm and must pass classification. Foundation mares are classified at three years of age or older. Those that attain a classification score of 70% or above are registered as Class A Foundation Mares. Class B mare's score between 60% and 69%.

Mares in the Foundation Mare Register are identified with the acronym "FM" after their registration number.

### **4. *Warmblood Colts & Stallions***

#### *i) Colts*

To be eligible for consideration for a breeding permit, entire males must be presented for classification (Colt Selection) between two-and-a-half and four years of age. Such colts must be sired by an Approved or Licensed stallion out of a mare that has passed classification; have a minimum of four generations of proven breeding which is acceptable to the AWhA; measure a minimum of 160cm; and pass a veterinary examination for soundness and freedom from genetic defects.

Those that satisfy these criteria and attain the designated average score or better, with no average mark less than five (5) at the colt selection inspection, which includes assessment of free movement and free jumping, are, upon being blood typed, known as "Approved" and are granted a temporary breeding permit. This permit is generally renewed annually by the Federal Registrar until the horse passes performance testing and/or progeny evaluation and so achieves "Licensed" status (see below). Horses, which do not satisfy performance testing, and/or progeny testing will have their breeding permits revoked and are returned to the Appendix.

#### *ii) Stallions*

There are two basic options for Approved stallions to become Licensed stallions.

They may **EITHER:**

(a) undergo a special "Ridability Test" at a Colt Selection Gala Day during the year following the one, which they passed colt selection. The young stallions that pass this test are awarded the prestigious title of "Licensed". (Those that fail may seek to achieve licensing through option (b) below).

**OR:**

(b) compete in open competition and satisfy one of the following requirements before reaching a designated age:

i) *Allrounder Option*

Horses must compete in dressage and showjumping and eventing with the following minimum results:

- score of 55% or more in Novice dressage; plus
- clear round in D Grade showjumping; plus
- not eliminated in Restricted Novice Eventing.

ii) *Specialised Option*

Horses must compete in dressage or showjumping or eventing with the following minimum results:

- graded Advanced in dressage or achieve 55% or more in 3 Official Prix St George Tests; or
- graded B grade in showjumping; or
- graded Advanced in one-day eventing or Intermediate in three-day eventing.

Such grading to be calculated on the basis of grading systems in existence prior to 31<sup>st</sup> December 1997 in respect of stallions previously Approved prior to that date but not yet licensed. The grading system to apply to stallions granted Approval status subsequent to 1<sup>st</sup> January 1998 is to be the new grading system such as they may be enacted by the EFA of Australia.

iii) *Performance Stallion Registration*

Entire males are eligible for Performance Registration even if they have not been presented for classification (Colt Selection). Such stallions must be certified as having attained the requisite performance standards as outlined below; sired by an Approved or Licensed stallion out of a mare that has passed classification; have a minimum of four generations of proven breeding which is acceptable to the AWhA; measure a minimum of 160cm; and pass a veterinary examination for soundness and freedom from genetic defects.

Those that satisfy these criteria and attain the designated average score of 65% or better, with no average mark for any criteria less than five (5) at the Stallion inspection for type and conformation, are, upon being DNA typed, known as "Performance Accepted" and are granted a breeding permit. The procedures and requirements for the Performance Accepted stallion inspection will be the same as for the Colt Selection, with the exception that no movement or performance testing aspects shall apply. The listing of stallions issued breeding permits according to this section shall be endorsed as "Performance Accepted" or any appropriate abbreviation in any stallion listing or publication relating to the AWhA Stud Book status of that horse.

There are three alternative Performance standard options available, corresponding to the Olympic disciplines. To be eligible to satisfy the Performance criteria, performances must be achieved in FEI affiliated competitions not restricted according to age of horse or rider, breed background, or locality (Junior or Young Rider competitions, competitions restricted by virtue of club membership or breed society, or restricted solely to residents of a particular state or territory are not able to be considered). Only one performance for any particular competition, show or event will be considered.

Performance may be achieved under any of the following options:

- (a) on 5 separate occasions achieve an award from first to sixth place in FEI level dressage (Prix St Georges or above) with a minimum score of 60%. Where a Freestyle or Kur competition is used, the percentage is to be calculated only on Technical Merit, not including the Artistic impression score;

OR

- (b) on 5 separate occasions achieve an award from first to fifth place in A Grade Showjumping (advertised as 1.40 metre or higher class), with faults equivalent to no more than 2 penalty incidents (being disobedience, rail down, foot in the water, exceeding time allowed etc) in each round of the competition;

OR

- (c) on 2 separate occasions achieve an award from first to tenth place in an Advanced FEI Three Day event (of 3 star or higher status), in either long or short format

## **5. Thoroughbred and Anglo Arab Colts & Stallions**

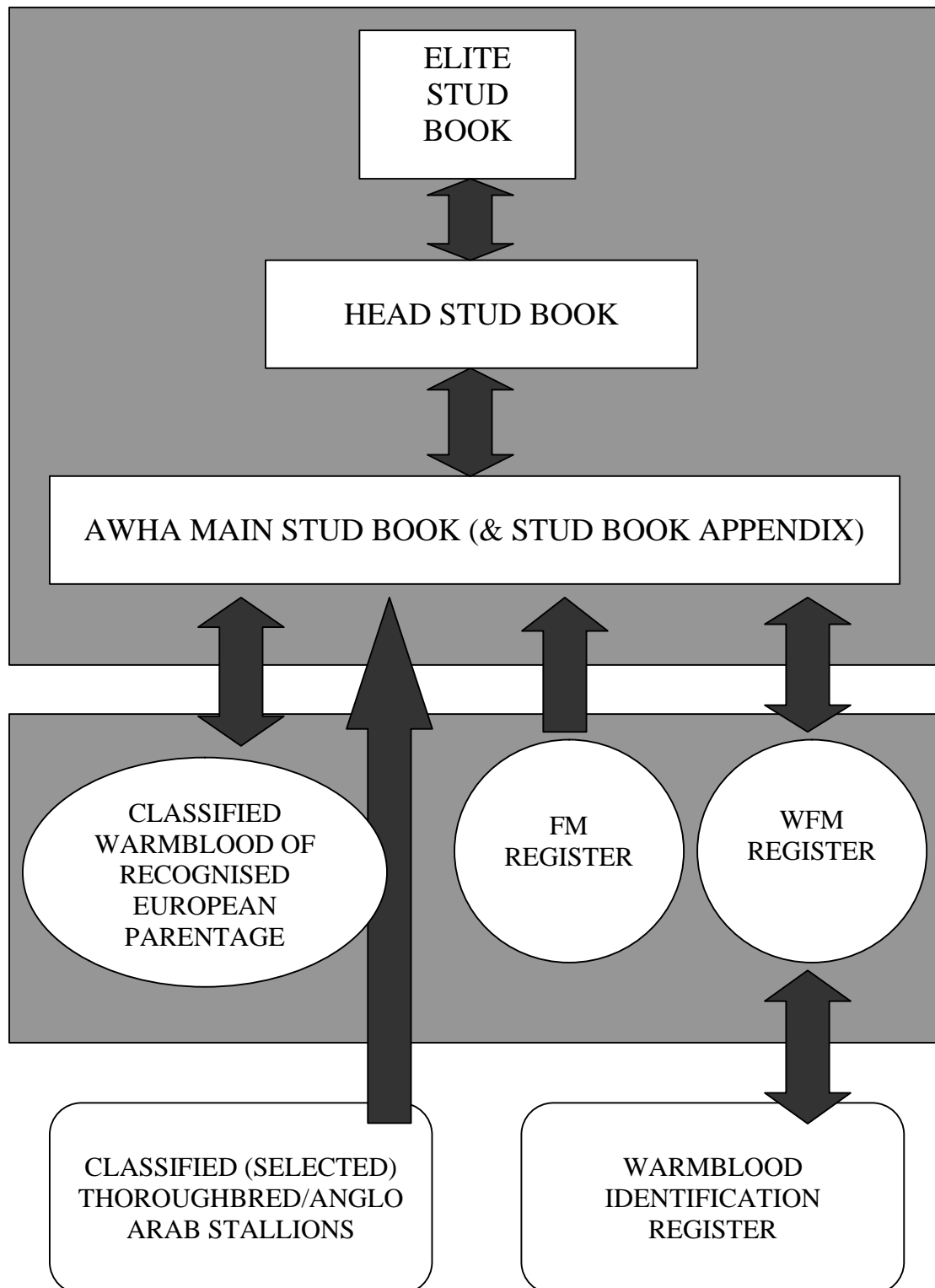
Thoroughbred and Anglo Arab colts and stallions are also eligible for consideration for an AWhA breeding permit and may be presented for classification (Colt Selection) at any age from 2½ years old onwards. They must have a minimum of four generations of proven Thoroughbred or Anglo Arab breeding; be appropriately registered and branded; measure a minimum of 160cm and pass a veterinary examination for soundness and freedom from genetic defects.

Those that satisfy these criteria must then attain a score of 70% or better at the colt selection inspection, which includes assessment of free movement and free jumping.

*NB: It should be noted that although these stallions become approved upon successful classification they cannot be shown as Warmbloods. The same also applies to Non-Warmblood (T/Bred, Anglo-Arabian) mares that receive breeding approval upon classification. Further to this, progeny, as a result of a mating of an 'Approved' Non-Warmblood stallion with a Non-Warmblood mare are not eligible for AWhA papers.*

# AUSTRALIAN WARMBLOOD HORSE ASSOCIATION

## SYSTEM OF REGISTRATION



**PLEASE NOTE:** Horses move from the Stud Book Appendix to Main or Head Stud Book via Classification & into Elite Stud Book via Performance. The progeny of mares in the FM Register or WFM Register may be eligible for the Stud Book. The progeny of Classified TB or Anglo Arab Stallions may be eligible for the Stud Book. Progeny will be considered in accordance with the Breeding Guidelines. WID mares may be eligible for the WFM Register (See Breeding Guidelines). Imported Horses will be considered, on their merits, for Stud Book entry. (See Breeding Guidelines for detailed information)