



SPSS Information Sheet 5

SPSS Stallion Grading Information

When and Where

The 2017 stallion grading venues & dates are:

- Saturday 9th Sept - Catherston Stud, Croft Farm, Over Wallop, Stockbridge, Hampshire SO20 8HX
- Tuesday 12th Sept (am) – Bromson Stud, Bromson Hall Farm Stables, Ashorne, Warwick CV35 9AB
- Wednesday 13th Sept (am) - Sugar House Stud, Delamere Manor, Cuddington Lane, Cuddington, Cheshire CW8 2TE
- Wednesday 13th Sept(pm) - Celt n Gael, Rhandir, Tyn Lon, Holyhead, Anglesey LL65 3DJ
- Thursday 14th Sept - Leamside Equestrian, Leamside, Houghton-le-Spring, Tyne & Wear DH4 6QJ
- Friday 15th Sept - Sidewood Dressage, Lanarkshire, Scotland ML11 8ET

Entries close on the 18th August 2017. Early entry is advised as spaces will be allocated in order of receipt of entries and once capacity is reached at each venue further entries will be placed on a waiting list. If there is space, late entries may be taken, please call the office on 07703 566066 to check. Late entry supplement £10 per pony for grading entries.

Withdrawals before the closing date will have their entry fee either refunded or the entry can be carried forward to another date/venue (including in another year). Withdrawals after the closing date will only be refunded if the place can be filled from the waiting list but the entry can be carried forward once to another date/venue (including in another year). Note that any registration (overstamping) and membership fees paid will neither be refunded nor carried forward.

Eligibility

We accept entries to our grading for any breed of stallion provided they: have a full 3 generation pedigree in their passport (exceptions to this are dealt with on a case by case basis); are no more (and don't mature above) 158cm; and are at least 2.5 years old. With all sizes of pony/horse, as well as assessing the conformation, paces and temperament, the judges also look at suitability as a sire of sports ponies and, along with a pass mark of 75%, this does make the assessment quite stringent and not all candidate stallions are accepted but each one is judged on his own merits. If he is accepted at our grading and fulfils the post grading requirements (ie vetting & DNA see below), then he can stand as a SPSS stallion from 2018 and we would also issue passports to any progeny born in 2018. Note that the SPSS does not issue passports to any foals that are eligible for registration as a pure-bred pony with any Mountain and Moorland (indigenous pony breed) studbook listed with DEFRA. Other than this, the SPSS will issue passports to any progeny of an SPSS graded/licensed stallion (including part-bred Mountain & Moorland). Note that stallions who are

At the Grading

At the grading, each stallion is assessed in hand for confirmation, then in hand and loose for paces and loose down a jumping lane (normally 3 fences). Then, in general:

- 2 year old stallions are not ridden
- 3 year old stallions may be ridden if they are ready but those that aren't are not disadvantaged
- We expect 4 year old stallions will be ridden, but the judges will take into account how long they've been backed when assessing them
- We expect older stallions to be ridden but will consider exceptions on a case by case basis. Exceptions will normally only be made when an older stallion has proven progeny.

All entrants are seen in-hand/loose before any are seen ridden. For more information on aspects such as turnout and presentation, please see our website "Information & FAQ" page - <http://www.sportpony.org.uk/info.shtml>

Costs

- **Entry Costs.** To summarise entry costs:
 - You need to be a member - £27.50 annual individual membership, £37.50 annual family, £250 individual life, £350 family life. Form here <http://www.sportpony.org.uk/membership.shtml>
 - He needs to be registered with us, a one-off fee of £50. If you wish to do this ahead of entering the grading, then please use the form here <http://www.sportpony.org.uk/registration.shtml#Forms>. Or, if you wish to register him when entering for grading, then just send back the grading entry form with the higher fee of £170 as this includes the £50 registration fee.
 - You need to enter him for grading - £120 (for stallions with SPSS passports or who are already SPSS registered/overstamped); £170 for all others (includes the one-off £50 registration fee). An entry form can be downloaded here - <http://www.sportpony.org.uk/grading-info-17.shtml>
 - You can send all the forms/fees together and we will accept payment by cheque or bank transfer – or you can join as a member and do the registration ahead of entering for the grading..
- **Post Grading Requirements.** If he passes then you will need to have him vetted (we have a specific form) or supply a recent vet's certificate (that equates to our form and specifically includes freedom from hereditary disease and defects). A DNA hair sample has also to be supplied for testing (current cost £50), unless he has already had a DNA profile done that either you can supply or we can access. Stallions on or near our height limit of 158cm may have to provide proof of height before or after attending the grading and, if successful, a JMB height certificate once at mature height (normally age 7) and before a permanent licence is issued. Should a stallion prove to be over the height limit at any time after grading then SPSS graded status will be withdrawn and the entry and other fees will not be refunded.
- **Annual Costs.** Then, every year that you want to stand him at stud with SPSS covering certificates and be promoted by the SPSS (on the website & display boards) during the year, you will need to be a member (current costs as above) and there's a £50 annual covering fee. You will also need to have completed any post grading/acceptance requirements. , One free covering /insemination book is included in the registration fee. Further books may be purchased from the Head Office throughout the year if required. Note that there is an additional fee to include a stallion in the printed SPSS Stallion Guide but this is optional.

If you have any questions, please email the Grading Tour organiser, our Studbook Manager, Lucy Sheldrake, on either entries@sportpony.org.uk or studbookmanager@sportpony.org.uk

Alternatively, you can call the Studbook Office on 07703 566 066

