



SPSS Information Sheet 5

2023 SPSS Stallion Grading Information

When and Where

The 2023 stallion grading venues & dates (as at 1st Jul 2023) are:

Monday 21st August 2023 (**am**) at Northcote Stud, Northcote Road, Old Langho, Blackburn BB6 8BE

Wednesday 30th August 2023 (**am**) at Catherston Stud, Croft Farm, Over Wallop, Stockbridge, Hampshire SO20 8HX

To be arranged & subject to demand at Ladykirk Equitation, Ladykirk House Stables, Upsettlington, Berwick-upon-Tweed TD15 1SU

Entries close 1 week before the event date

All events will be subject to & fully compliant with all COVID restrictions in place at the time plus any venue or Futurity requirements (eg equine flu vaccinations and/or equine health declarations).

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.

Flu Vaccination Requirements

No stallion may take part in a 2023 SPSS Stallion Grading unless he has a current vaccination against Equine Influenza which complies with the following conditions:

- Two injections for primary vaccination, not less than 21 days and not more than 92 days apart, are required;
- A first booster injection must be given within seven months after the second injection of primary vaccination;
- Subsequent booster injections must be given at intervals of not more than one year, commencing after the first booster injection;

The Record of Vaccination(s) in the stallion's passport must be completed by an appropriate veterinary surgeon, signed and stamped line by line in accordance with the standard rules.

Eligibility & Post-Grading

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 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 2024 and we would also issue passports to any progeny born from 2023.

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 young stallions which are accepted at a full SPSS stallion grading will generally be given an initial 3 year license to allow time for them to prove themselves and provide evidence of their own and/or their progeny's performance under saddle (the level required will depend on age of stallion/progeny) and of the quality of their youngstock.

Note that when reviewing youngstock quality 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. At the end of the initial license period, the stallion's owner is invited to provide evidence to see if he can be elevated to Permanent Approved status or if his license should be extended to allow him more time to prove himself.

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 will consider exceptions on a case by case basis.
- 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 - www.sportpony.org.uk/info.shtml

Post Grading Requirements

The owners of stallions accepted at the grading go forward to the next stage and have to:

- (a) provide evidence that he is free from hereditary disease or defects either by getting a vet out to complete the SPSS vetting form or by providing a recent vet's certificate (that equates to our form and specifically includes freedom from hereditary disease and defects) or evidence from another studbook/breed society that he has passed an equivalent vetting (this should be in the form of a copy of the vets form supplied to that society).
- (b) either supply a copy of an existing DNA profile for your stallion or send us a DNA hair sample (taken by a vet) and £50 (by cheque or bank transfer) so that we can get a DNA profile done.
- (c) for stallions on or near our height limit of 158cm, provide proof of current height and, following acceptance at the full stallion grading, 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.
- (d) send the stallion's passport into the SPSS Studbook Office

ONLY once (a) to (d) have been completed may a stallion be referred to as "SPSS graded".

Costs

- **Entry Costs.** To summarise entry costs:
 - You need to be a member - £30 annual individual membership, £40 annual family, £250 individual life, £350 family life. Form here 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 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 £300 as this includes the £50 registration fee.

- **Grading Entry Fee:**
 - £250 for stallions already SPSS passported or overstamped.
 - £300 for other stallions – includes £50 registration fee for overstamping of ungraded stallions not already SPSS passported or overstamped.
 - An entry form can be downloaded here - www.sportpony.org.uk/events-entry-forms.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.
- **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, if required. 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 annual printed SPSS Stallion Guide but this is optional.

Questions

If you have any questions, please email us on sportsponies@gmail.com or call the Studbook Office on 07703 566 066

