

## WARMBLOOD STUDBOOK OF IRELAND GOALS, STANDARDS & POLICIES

### Breeding Goal

The Warmblood Studbook of Ireland's breeding goal is to produce the Irish Warmblood, a highly athletic performance horse that:

- (a) competes successfully in showjumping in international Grand Prix, Nations Cup, World Cup, and Championship classes;
- (b) has a constitution that is strong and healthy and enables and facilitates a long competition career;
- (c) has functional conformation and correct movement dynamics that enable and facilitate a long competition career;
- (d) has a correct foundation with hard hooves in proportion to the size and weight of the horse;
- (e) has a character that exudes a willingness to work as well as being good-natured toward people;
- (f) has an attractive exterior that is refined, noble, and pleasing to the eye;
- (g) is based primarily on continental European warmblood genetics with strict restrictions on the percentage of Irish Draught blood permitted in Approved Stallions, Licensed Stallions, Recognized Stallions, and Approved Mares.

### Description of the Model Irish Warmblood Horse

The Irish Warmblood is, above all else, an athlete. He is a long-lined and rectangular horse with clean bones and dry texture. He has the conformation of a modern warmblood showjumper and is correct, noble, and has harmonious proportions. He moves correctly, is balanced, and is supple and elastic with self-carriage and much impulsion. He is easy to handle, easy to ride, and intelligent with a willing and hardworking character. The Irish Warmblood has courage, stamina, jumps with quick reflexes, is careful, has excellent technique with both front legs and hind legs, and has a great deal of scope.

### Conformation Standards

The Irish Warmblood is an athlete that should:

- (a) have a horizontal build;
- (b) stand in a rectangular frame;
- (c) have a moderately long neck that is arched with muscling in the topline;
- (d) have a strongly built and strongly muscled back/loin formation;
- (e) have a correct and hard foundation with hooves in proportion to the size and weight of the horse;
- (f) have legs with clean bones that are strong but not excessive in size and soft tissue with dry texture;
- (g) be attractive, modern, noble, in proportion, and pleasing to the eye;
- (h) have quality, substance, and soundness.

### Movement Standards

The Irish Warmblood should possess the following athletic movement dynamics:

- (a) the walk is a pure 'four beat' gait that is active and has suppleness and impulsion;
- (b) the trot is a pure 'two beat' gait that is active and has suppleness, elasticity, impulsion, balance, and self-carriage;
- (c) the canter is a pure 'three beat' gait that is active, powerful, and has suppleness, elasticity, impulsion, balance, self-carriage, and a moment of suspension;
- (d) can lengthen and shorten strides easily without losing rhythm, balance, impulsion or self-carriage;
- (e) rises in the front and willingly accepts weight on his hind legs;
- (f) has good posture;
- (g) is light footed and athletic;
- (h) shows flexion in the joints, engagement of the hindquarters, and freedom of the shoulder with a slight lift of the knee.

### Jumping Standards

The Irish Warmblood is a showjumping athlete that should:

- (a) be able to collect strongly during the last canter stride before the jump and be able to place the hindleg far forward under the body to create a powerful takeoff;
- (b) leave the ground quickly with power;
- (c) jump with an upward wither with the apex of the jump over the middle of the fence;
- (d) bring the underarm above the horizontal and fold the cannon under the underarm;
- (e) create an excellent bascule, meaning the head and neck should stretch out and down to insure a well-balanced jump, the rump should follow the direction of the neck, and he should finish the jump by flexing his back and opening the hindquarters;
- (f) exhibit athletic ability, meaning he is supple and elastic; can develop forward motion over the jump; lands lightly; canters off easily; and is careful, efficient, and has much scope;
- (g) jump so his body and legs remain straight and he remains in the middle of the jump;
- (h) clear each jump confidently, easily, and in good style;
- (i) have a calm and steady rhythm.

### Character Standards

The Irish Warmblood is an athlete that should:

- (a) exhibit a willing, hardworking, calm, and honest character;
- (b) be intelligent and learn quickly;
- (c) have the desire to work and perform;
- (d) be easy to handle;
- (e) react quickly to the aids;
- (f) have courage;
- (g) over time develop trust in the rider and handlers.

### General Policies to Achieve Breeding Goal and Standards

The Warmblood Studbook of Ireland's breeding goal, model horse standards, conformation standards, movement standards, jumping standards, and character standards will be achieved by the following general policies:

- (a) rigorous selection, evaluation, monitoring, and culling with respect to both stallions and mares;
- (b) benchmarking the Studbook's selection, evaluation, monitoring, and culling policies against the policies of the best studbooks in the world for producing international showjumpers;
- (c) concentrating outstanding sirelines in the Studbook's population of Approved Stallions, Licensed Stallions, Recognized Stallions, and Approved Mares;
- (d) concentrating outstanding damlines in the Studbook's population of Approved Stallions, Licensed Stallions, Recognized Stallions, and Approved Mares;
- (e) selectively incorporating new outstanding sires (and sirelines) and mares (and marelines) into the population and carefully monitoring the impact of these new genetics on the population;
- (f) restricting entry into the Approved Book to only those stallions and mares that have passed rigorous inspections;
- (g) requiring stallions entered into the Approved Book as Licensed Stallions to subsequently fulfill performance requirements before they reach the age of seven;
- (h) prohibiting Approved Stallions and Licensed Stallions from having any Irish Draught blood, except in extraordinary circumstances when the Stallion Inspection Committee, for compelling and documented reasons, may approve or license a stallion with no more than 12.5 percent Irish Draught blood;
- (i) prohibiting Recognized Stallions from having any Irish Draught blood;
- (j) requiring Approved Stallions and Licensed Stallions to meet or surpass veterinary, radiological, and semen standards established by the Studbook;
- (k) prohibiting mares entered into the Approved Book from having more than 25 percent Irish Draught blood, except in extraordinary circumstances when the Mare Inspection Committee, for compelling and documented reasons, may approve a mare with no more than 50 percent Irish Draught blood;

- (l) requiring Approved Stallions, Licensed Stallions, Recognized Stallions, and Approved Mares to pass ongoing evaluations of their progeny to maintain their status with the Studbook.

#### Divisions of the Main Studbook and Entry Criteria

The Main Studbook of the Warmblood Studbook of Ireland is composed of six books:

- (a) Foal Book, in which foals sired by an Approved Stallion or a Licensed Stallion and are out of an Approved Mare are registered and will remain until they are inspected by the Studbook and, if approved (in the case of stallions and mares) or licensed (in the case of stallions), will be entered into the Approved Book;
- (b) Approved Book, which contains Approved Stallions, Licensed Stallions, and Approved Mares;
- (c) Register A, which contains Recognized Stallions and in which foals sired by a Recognized Stallion and are out of an Approved Mare will be registered and will remain until they are inspected for breeding purposes by the Studbook and, if accepted for breeding, will be entered into the Approved Book;
- (d) Register B, in which foals sired by an Approved Stallion, Licensed Stallion, or Recognized Stallion and are out of a mare that is recorded in Register D will be registered and will remain until they are inspected for breeding purposes by the Studbook and, if accepted for breeding, will be entered into the Approved Book;
- (e) Register C, in which foals with an automatic right under EU legislation to be registered by the Studbook will be registered unless they are eligible for registration in the Foal Book or Register A or Register B; and
- (d) Register D, the developmental book, in which mares in the Studbook's Genetic Development Program will be registered. This book was closed to new mares on 8 August 2011.

#### Non-Discriminatory Treatment of Breeders

The Warmblood Studbook of Ireland does not discriminate against horses born into the Studbook or their breeders or owners. A foal or older horse bred by any individual is entitled to be inspected by the Studbook and entered into the Foal Book, Approved Book, Register A, Register B, Register C or Register D if the animal, his sire, his dam, and the breeder fulfill all prescribed conditions for inspection and registration. Any stallion that fulfills all prescribed conditions and requirements will be evaluated for approval or licensure or recognition, as appropriate, by the Studbook. Any mare that fulfills all prescribed conditions and requirements will be inspected for approval by the

Studbook. To comply with EU legislation the Studbook will register in Register C, without inspection, any foal that is the product of a sire and dam that were both entered and registered in the Studbook at the time of covering, upon payment of the prescribed fee.