



## **WSI Breeding Program**

### Goal of the Breeding Program

The goal of WSI's Breeding Program is to breed modern sport horses that perform at the top level in international equestrian sports of showjumping, eventing, and dressage. WSI collaborates with breeders to produce healthy horses that happily and easily do what is expected of them.

WSI does not focus exclusively on world-class sport; after all, most riders do not have the ambition or opportunity to actively participate in equestrian sports as professionals. So the temperament and longevity of Irish Warmbloods is just as important as their sport talent because ultimately everyone prefers a good, willing, and healthy equine partner.

The ultimate goal of the WSI Breeding Program is to create continuous improvement in the health, athleticism, character, and usefulness of Irish Warmbloods for the benefit of our horses and professional, amateur, and hobby breeders, riders, and owners.

### Name of the Breed

The name of the breed is Irish Warmblood.

### Description of the Model Irish Warmblood

The Irish Warmblood has international appeal. It is willing, fearless, physically and mentally strong, and bred to perform at the highest level. It is also reliable, easy to handle and ride, and pleasing to the eye. Because of WSI's breeding policy, the Irish Warmblood horse possesses a sound mind in a sound body. The combination of sport aptitude and an uncomplicated temperament make these horses unique and very popular at all levels of equestrian sport and breeding.

## Breed Standard

WSI's breed standard is a highly athletic performance horse that:

- (a) competes successfully in showjumping in international Grand Prix, Nations Cup, World Cup, and Championship classes; or in eventing at 5\* and Championship classes; or in dressage at 5\*, 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, Recognized Stallions, Approved Mares, and Studbook Mares.

## Geographical Territory

WSI's Breeding Program is focused on the 32 counties of Ireland, and therefore includes Northern Ireland, and Great Britain. WSI also collaborates with breeders in other countries with breeding stock born into and/or entered into the Studbook.

## System for Identifying Breeding Animals

WSI's breeding goal is achieved by the following policies and practices:

- (a) All Approved Stallions, Recognized Stallions, and Approved Mares (except pure-bred -- Thoroughbred, Anglo-Arab, and Shagya Arab -- stallions, pure-bred mares, and warmblood stallions and mares descending from pure-blood damlines) must descend from damlines that have produced CSI, CCI/CIC, or CDI athletes;

- (b) rigorous selection, evaluation, monitoring, and culling with respect to both stallions and mares;
- (c) benchmarking the Studbook's selection, evaluation, monitoring, and culling policies against the policies of the best studbooks in the world for producing international showjumpers;
- (d) concentrating outstanding sirelines in the Studbook's population of Approved Stallions, Recognized Stallions, Approved Mares, and Studbook Mares;
- (e) concentrating outstanding damlines in the Studbook's population of Approved Stallions, Recognized Stallions, Approved Mares, and Studbook mares;
- (f) 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;
- (g) restricting entry into the Approved Book to only those stallions and mares that have passed rigorous inspections;
- (h) prohibiting Approved Stallions and Licensed Stallions from having any Irish Draught blood, except in extraordinary circumstances when the inspectors, for compelling and documented reasons, may recommend approval or licensure of 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 12.5 percent Irish Draught blood, except in extraordinary circumstances when the inspectors, for compelling and documented reasons, may recommend approval of a mare with no more than 25 percent Irish Draught blood;
- (l) requiring Approved Stallions, Recognized Stallions, and Approved Mares to pass ongoing evaluations of their progeny to maintain their status with the Studbook;

- (m) ensuring that only horses meeting the above criteria and are individually identified through DNA parentage control or other means of identification are entered into the breeding population.

The Studbook may recognize prefixes or suffixes and assign them to individual breeders, which may be used when naming a foal or older horse bred by that breeder. A prefix or suffix shall be for the sole use of the breeder to whom the prefix or suffix is assigned. A prefix or suffix may be used as part of an animal's name only if consented to by email or in writing by the prefix or suffix owner. A prefix or suffix may not be added to the name of an animal by anyone other than the breeder of the animal, and only the breeder's prefix or suffix may be part of an animal's name.

Foals must be named at the time of registration. Foals registered by the Studbook will be required to follow a naming convention in which the name must begin with that year's Prescribed letter. For 2009, the letter is A. The alphabet will be followed in subsequent years except that the letters Q, X, and Y will be omitted. The name, including the optional prefix or suffix, must be no more than 30 characters and spaces.

An animal's name may be changed only with the permission of the breeder and a request for a name change must be made by the owner, along with the prescribed fee, before the animal is three-years-old (using the January 1 birthday convention).

#### System for Recording Pedigrees

Pedigrees of horses born into the Studbook and/or entered into the Studbook through the cross-breeding program are entered into the Studbook's database. The database contains all available information on each animal in the WSI population. Great care is taken to ensure that the pedigrees of horses are verified before they are entered into the database through DNA parentage verification and/or DNA profiling.

#### Selection and Breeding Objectives

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;
- (b) have the desire to work and perform;
- (c) be easy to handle;
- (d) react quickly to the aids;
- (e) have courage;
- (f) over time develop trust in the rider and handlers.

Stallions and mares are selected for the breeding program primarily through a rigorous inspection process that evaluates pedigree, conformation, movement, and

athletic ability. A stallion or a mare must be inspected to be designated Approved Stallion or Approved Mare, respectively.

Inspectors award marks to each stallion and mare for a variety of characteristics. Marks range from one to ten. For horses with the breeding direction Showjumping the scores for walk and trot are divided by two, and the score for canter is multiplied by two.

The scores and descriptors are:

- Not executed
- 1 Very bad
- 2 Bad
- 3 Fairly bad
- 4 Clearly insufficient
- 5 Insufficient
- 6 Sufficient
- 7 More than sufficient
- 8 Good
- 9 Very good
- 10 Excellent.

The measured characteristics are:

- (a) pedigree of the stallion's sire, with a maximum of five points for the quality of the sire's sireline and a maximum of five points for the quality of the sire's damline;
- (b) pedigree of the stallion's dam, with a maximum of five points for the quality of the dam's sireline and a maximum of five points for the quality of the dam's damline;
- (c) type
- (d) top-line
- (e) forelegs
- (f) hind legs
- (g) walk (for showjumping horses the score is divided by two)
- (h) trot (for showjumping horses the score is divided by two)
- (i) canter (for showjumping horses the score is multiplied by two)

- (j) elasticity
- (k) athleticism
- (l) rideability
- (m) balance

And for jumping and eventing breeding direction the following traits also are assessed:

- (n) jumping technique
- (o) jumping scope
- (p) jumping reflexes

and for the eventing breeding direction the following traits also are assessed:

- (q) gallop
- (r) stamina
- (s) courage
- (t) 5th leg
- (u) blood in athleticism.

To accommodate mares that are unable to be inspected because of injury or financial constraints mares that meet the Studbook's rigorous pedigree and damline requirements may be designed Studbook Mares. All filly foals born into the Foal Book are eligible to be transferred into the Studbook Mare Book upon reaching the age of two.

As part of the stallion approval process, stallions are required to participate in a multi-day testing process with overnight stabling so their character and temperament while under saddle, in-hand, and at rest can be observed and evaluated by inspectors.



## Predicates and Honorifics

WSI awards predicates and honorifics to outstanding foals, mares, and stallions:

### *Approved Stallions*

Elite Sire: for having produced five or more progeny competing successfully in international showjumping, eventing, or dressage competitions

Elite SJ/EV/DR: for having competed successfully in international showjumping (SJ), eventing (EV), or dressage competitions (DR).

Premium: for having scored in the stallion inspection a total of 100 or more (or 92 if presented loose, excluding the jumping scores) with no individual unadjusted score less than 7 plus if a jumping stallion having scored at least a 9 for jumping technique, 9 for jumping scope, and 9 for jumping reflexes or if an eventing stallion having scored at least an 8 for all the jumping and eventing traits.

D-OC: for having scored 96 or above in the DNA-OC test for the genetic markers associated with osteochondrosis.

D-WFFS1: for having tested N/N in the DNA for Warmblood Fragile Foal Syndrome.

### *Approved Mares*

Elite Dam: for having produced one or more progeny competing successfully in international showjumping, eventing, or dressage competitions.

Elite SJ/EV/DR: for having competed successfully in international showjumping (SJ), eventing (EV), or dressage competitions (DR).

HR: for having passed the same health and radiological requirements as Approved Stallions.

D-OC: for having scored 96 or above in the DNA-OC test for the genetic markers associated with osteochondrosis.

D-WFFS1: for having tested N/N in the DNA for Warmblood Fragile Foal Syndrome.

Premium: for having scored in the mare inspection a total of 100 or more (or 92 if presented loose, excluding the jumping scores) with no individual unadjusted score less than 7 plus if a jumping mare having scored at least a 9 for jumping technique, 9 for jumping scope, and 9 for jumping reflexes or if an eventing mare having scored at least an 8 for all the jumping and eventing traits.

### *Studbook Mares*

Elite Dam: for having produced one or more progeny competing successfully in international showjumping, eventing, or dressage competitions.

Elite SJ/EV/DR: for having competed successfully in international showjumping (SJ), eventing (EV), or dressage competitions (DR).

HR: for having passed the same health and radiological requirements as Approved Stallions.

D-OC: for having scored 96 or above in the DNA-OC test for the genetic markers associated with osteochondrosis.

D-WFFS1: for having tested N/N in the DNA for Warmblood Fragile Foal Syndrome. Foals

### *Foals*

Star Foal: Foals that score a total of 85 or more in the foal inspection and with no individual score less than 7.

Champion Colt: Awarded to the best colt Star Foal born in the calendar year.

Champion Filly: Awarded to the best filly Star Foal born in the calendar year.

D-OC: for having scored 96 or above in the DNA-OC test for the genetic markers associated with osteochondrosis.

D-WFFS1: for having tested N/N in the DNA for Warmblood Fragile Foal Syndrome.

Approved Stallions aged 4 – 7 are required to compete in sport as part of their continuous assessment. Showjumping stallions are required to compete in competitions agreed to with the Studbook. There are no suitable young horse competitions in eventing or dressage open to WSI horses; therefore WSI agrees an individual plan with each stallion owner.

All Approved Stallions are tested for the genes associated with osteochondrosis (OC) and for the mutated allele associated with Fragile Foal Syndrome (WFFSI). Results of OC test will not be used for selection until the reliability of the breeding value statistic exceeds 75%.

All Approved Mares and Studbook mares are required to undergo WFFS1 testing; testing for OC is optional.

All foals are tested for WFFS1 unless both the sire and the dam are certified non-carriers.

### Rule for Division of Breeding Book

The Warmblood Studbook of Ireland is composed of seven books:

1. 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;
2. Approved Book, which contains Approved Stallions and Approved Mares;
3. Studbook Mare Book, which contains mares that have fulfilled all criteria for approval except the inspection for classification as an Approved Mare;
4. 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;
5. Register B, in which foals sired by an Approved 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;
6. 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
7. 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.

All mares and stallions born on or after 1 January 2020 may be entered into one of the Studbook's breeding books (i.e., Approved Book, Studbook Mare Book, and Register A) only if both the sire and the dam of the mare or stallion have been verified by a DNA parentage test of the mare or stallion.

### Identity Verification Where Germinal Products Are Used

1. Where purebred breeding animals are used for the collection of semen the donor stallion is identified, and his parentage is verified, by DNA analysis.

2. Where purebred breeding animals are used for the collection of oocytes and embryos the donor stallion and donor mare are identified, and their parentage is verified, by DNA analysis.

### Anti-Discrimination

Breeding animals entered in WSI breeding books, and the offspring produced from germinal products of such breeding animals, are entered or are eligible for entry without discrimination on account of their country of origin.

### Outsourced Activities

WSI has not outsourced technical activities to a third party organisation.

### Derogations

Under Annex 1, Part 3, Point 1 of Regulation (EU) 2016/2012 the competent authority granted a derogation on 24 July 2018, and effective on 1 November 2018, from the requirement of identifying a purebred breeding animal by a covering certificate entering into the breeding book where the animal is identified by DNA analysis.

Under Article 31(1) of Regulation (EU) 2016/2012 the competent authority, DAFM, granted a derogation on 28 March 2019 to permit a certificate for germinal products to be issued by the following semen collection and/or semen storage centres:

Ballymureen Stud, Littleton, Thurles, Co Tipperary

Rockmount AI Centre, Philip McManus, Rockmount, Claregalway, Co Galway.

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