

Hanoverian Society

## STATUTES

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## **Statutes of the Hanoverian Society**

*These Statutes regulate the Society's activities as well as the breeding work of the Hanoverian Society, in the latter case subject to specific provisions in the respective Breeding Programmes.*

*The Statutes are composed of legal provisions governing associations as well as breeding provisions. Further detailed provisions are included in the Breeding Programmes, which do not constitute part of the Statutes.*

### **A Legal Provisions Governing Associations**

#### **A.1 Name and Registered Office**

The breeding society bears the name Hanoverian Society, hereinafter referred to as Society. It is registered in the Register of Societies. The registered office of the breeding society is located in Verden (Lower Saxony, Germany). The Society's sign is the legally protected brand-mark of the Hanoverian Main Stud Book. The financial year is the calendar year.

#### **A.2 Purpose**

A.2.1 The purpose of the Society is the promotion and support of breeding and keeping horses in accordance with the provisions of the Statutes as well as the respective Breeding Programme(s).

A.2.2 The breeding society exclusively pursues purposes which are in compliance with the legal provisions governing associations. Any profits are to be used solely for purposes stipulated in the Statutes. The organs of the Society work in an honorary capacity. Members do not receive any shares in the profits or any other form of contributions from the Society's funds. The breeding society will not favour any persons through non-related administrative expenditures or disproportionately high remuneration. The breeding society finances itself predominantly by means of subscriptions and fees.

A.2.3 The objective of all breeding measures is to breed Hanoverian horses ("Hanoveraner"), the Hanoverian half-blooded race horse and Rhenish horses ("Rhenish Riding Horse"). The purpose of the Society and the breeding aim are to be attained in particular by:

- organisation and implementation of the respective Breeding Programmes,
- the keeping of the Stud Books according to the respective Breeding Programmes,
- advising all horse-keepers in the Society's territory on all questions pertaining to the breeding, keeping and feeding of horses, the combating of ill-health etc.,
- furtherance of sales of breeding and riding horses by means of suitable measures,
- support and promotion of young breeders,
- the holding of auctions, licensings, performance tests, shows and supplying material for exhibitions.

#### **A.3 Membership**

The Society has regular and extraordinary members.

##### **1. Regular members (Hanoverian breeders)**

These are natural persons, partnerships or legal persons of private or public law (for example groups of breeders). These members are owners of at least one breeding horse registered in the Stud Book of the breeds supervised by the breeding society, and have their main place of business (in which the member's horse(s) is/are kept on a permanent basis) in the geographical area where the Breeding Programme applies and also participate in the Breeding Programme of their breed(s).

##### **2. Extraordinary members (Hanoverian partners)**

These are supporting members who support the aims and efforts of the Society in a non-material or material way without being breeders of horses of the breeds supervised by the Breeding Society.

##### **3. Honorary members,**

These are persons appointed on account of having rendered special services to the breeding of the breeds supervised by the Society.

##### **4. Young breeders**

Hanoverian young breeders can be children and adolescent persons between the ages of 8 and 21, without being owners of a registered breeding horse.

#### **A.4 Acquisition of Membership**

Breeders with their main place of business within the Society's geographical area of activity, who fulfil the pre-conditions for sound breeding work, are entitled to membership if they recognise the Statutes as well as the relevant Breeding Programmes.

Membership applications are to be submitted to the Society Office in writing. Furthermore, application for membership can also be submitted online. Legal persons must submit their statutes with the application. In the case of membership of legal persons, partnerships and groups of breeders, one person with sole right of representation must be nominated to the Society. Nomination is to be submitted to the Society in the form of a joint written declaration from all executive body members or shareholders/partners authorised to represent, and/or all breeding group members. If several owners share a breeding animal without being a group of breeders, only one owner can acquire regular membership, as it is only possible to accept one membership per breeding horse. The other owners of this breeding animal have the opportunity to acquire extraordinary membership. In such a case the owners decide who is to become an ordinary member by means of a joint declaration submitted to the Society in written form

In special cases the decision concerning new applications is to be taken by the Committee, taking in to account the right of membership. The applicant has to be informed about the decision regarding acquisition or decline of acquisition in writing.

Honorary members are appointed by the Delegates Assembly on the basis of proposals made by the Committee.

#### **A.5 Loss of Membership**

Membership terminates in the case of the following events or alterations.

- Membership of natural persons ceases through death, membership of legal persons when the partnership is dissolved. It is also possible to terminate membership with a three-month period of notice to the end of the working year. Notice is to be submitted in writing to the Society Office. Alternatively, it can be submitted online.

The membership also ceases if the Committee declares the exclusion of a member. The Committee is entitled to implement such a measure if a member is behind with payments, despite two reminders (the second reminder has to be in written form with a reminder period of two weeks), and/or a member has otherwise violated his membership obligations and/or the interests and reputation of the Society in a grossly negligent or wilful way, and/or the member no longer offers a guarantee for first-class breeding work. The exclusion comes into force following written notification with an indication of a set date.

- Should conditions according to A.3 subsection 1 of the statutes cease to be valid for a member following acquisition of regular membership, their membership will be transformed into a supporting membership according to A.3 subsection 2 of the Statutes at the end of the year in which the conditions ceased to be valid. If conditions for regular membership according to A.3 subsection 1 of the Statutes ensue subsequently in the case of a supporting member, their membership will be transformed into a regular membership according to A.3 subsection 1 of the Statutes. Simultaneously the proviso applies that the membership fee is payable for the entire calendar year.

Readmission of a former member to the Society following exclusion is only possible after a period of 1 year at the earliest, if facts indicate that regular breeding work is guaranteed again.

#### **A.6 Rights and Obligations**

##### ***A.6.1 Rights of Members***

Breeders of the respective Breeding Programmes, who have their main place of business in the geographical area, have the following rights:

- Membership and participation in the Breeding Programme,
- To be elected onto the organs of the Breeding Society, providing they are regular members,
- Registration of their pure-bred breeding horses as well as their pure-bred progeny in the Main Section of the Stud Book of the breed, providing conditions for registration are fulfilled and the breeder participates in an approved Breeding Programme,
- Recording of their animals in an additional Section of the Stud Book providing the Breeding Programme provides for an additional section,
- Issuing of animal breeding certificates for breeding animals that are participating in a Breeding Programme of the Society,

- Issuing of a written confirmation of registration for their animals that are registered in an additional section of the Stud Book
- Participation in performance tests and breeding evaluations according to the Breeding Programme as well as provision of the latest results of the performance tests and breeding evaluation of their breeding animals on request and depending on availability,
- Free choice concerning selection and breeding match of their breeding animals,
- Exercise of ownership rights regarding their breeding animals,
- Access to all services made available by the Society to the participating breeders within the scope of the Breeding Programme,
- Participation in determining and further developing the Breeding Programme according to the provisions set out in the Statutes, providing they have been elected, as a regular member, to the appropriate committees,
- the right to appeal against decisions made by the Society when executing the Statutes and the Breeding Programme as well as
- accessing contracts and other agreements of the Society with third parties at the Society Office, under strict adherence to data protection law and providing such documents concern their breeding matters.
- Participation at the Delegates' Assemblies and the right to submit proposals.

#### ***A.6.2 Obligations of Members***

All members are obliged:

- to adhere to the Statutes as well as the respective Breeding Programmes of the Society, to uphold the statutory duty of allegiance to the society and not to do anything which violates the purpose of the Statutes and might damage the authority of the Society,
- to present the registered horses and their progeny to breeding society bodies of the Society and their representatives, provide any information that serves to support breeding, as well as to provide access to inspect stud breeding-documents,
- to carry out the evaluations required for implementation of the Breeding Programme and to support its implementation and, if necessary, to take part in the required performance tests with their animals and participate in the measures determined by the Breeding Society within scope of the Breeding Programme.
- to provide all necessary data truthfully, in the proper form and due time for statutory implementation of the Breeding Programme. This obligation of the member in particular includes releasing - completely and free of charge - and transferring performance and health data as well as data relating to covering, insemination and other biotechnological measures, genomic information and breeding evaluation, as required for the Breeding Programme and keeping of the studbook.
- to acquiesce to direct transmission of the pedigree test results from the testing laboratory to the Society,
- to ensure that identification of the foal takes place within the set period according to legal provisions,
- to permit publication of any data relevant for breeding and relating to all horses which they have bred or are/were in their ownership,
- to pay contributions, fees and levies as stipulated by the breeding society bodies,
- to comply with livestock breeding directives and animal protection rights,
- to keep themselves informed about genetic defects including suffering relevance as well as genetic characteristics concerning the horse breed(s) bred by them,
- to save all breeding-relevant documents for a period of at least 5 years.

#### ***A.6.3 Rights and Obligations of the Society***

The Society is:

- responsible for the proper implementation of the Breeding Programme in accordance with the Statutes, the correct and complete recording of pedigree and performance data, proper keeping of the stud book, performance testing and breeding evaluation as well as legally correct identification of the horses registered in its stud books.
- obliged to comply with data protection regulations and only to pass on data to third parties if it is necessary for the statutory execution of the Breeding Programme.
- entitled to exclude breeders who fail to comply with regulations defined in the Statutes of the respective breeding programme, or who do not fulfil their obligations according to the Statutes from membership of the Breeding Society
- obliged according to A.9 of the Statutes to arbitrate disputes arising from the execution of authorised breeding programmes between breeders as well as between breeders and the Society.
- obliged to carry out work in such a manner that the rights of the members are observed and all members are treated equally.

- obliged to save the breeding relevant data for at least 10 years, providing there are no other legal requirements.
- obliged to grant access to all regular members, on request, to inspect contractual agreements with third parties at the Society Office, as far as their breeding matters are directly affected and no infringement of data privacy interests of third parties is involved.
- obliged to make services within the scope of the Breeding Programme for the breeds of the content-related field of activity available to members only. The Society is entitled, however, to undertake action on behalf of non-members, e.g. if a non-member has a legitimate interest or a concern exists that breeding work could be compromised.
- entitled, subject to livestock breeding regulations, to collaborate with other breeding societies in the area of breeding evaluation. Equally, the Society is entitled to collaborate with other agencies or third-party service providers or to incorporate them into its task fulfilment procedure as far as this is necessary for the Society in execution of its statutory tasks.
- obliged to publish the fundamental principles of the Breeding Programmes, for the purpose of which it keeps the Indigenous Stud Book, on the Society's website and to inform the subsidiary breeding organisations in a timely manner should there be any changes.
- obliged to inform the regular members (Hanoverian breeders) participating in their Breeding Programme about approved changes within their Breeding Programme in a transparent and timely manner.

## **A.7 Disputes and Appeals**

### **A.7.1 Disputes**

The Committee is to establish a dispute settlement body which is to be approved at the general meeting. The dispute settlement body consists of the Chairman of the Society, one delegate and one further regular member. The members of the dispute settlement body are to belong to different Regional Societies and to be appointed by the Committee for a period of 4 years. A majority of two-thirds is necessary for a decision. The dispute settlement body is responsible for regulating disputes

- between members of the Society and
- between the Society and its members,

which ensue from the execution of Breeding Programmes or, in the case of a membership, from statutory activities and tasks of the Society.

The dispute settlement body can impose the following disciplinary measures:

Reprimand, penalties, temporal prohibition of exercising voluntary work within the Society, temporary or permanent exclusion from the Society. It can impose procedural costs on the participants and apply resolutions concerning the publication of decisions and their reasons. Furthermore, it can take appropriate measures to preserve the legal and correct execution of the proceedings.

Details in connection with the types of infringements and concerning the procedure itself can be regulated by dispute settlement provisions. Appeals against decisions made by the dispute settlement body may be submitted to the Delegates' Assembly.

It is prohibited to resort to ordinary courts without permission of the Society, as long as the sphere of competence of the dispute settlement body is justified.

## **A.8 Use of Data**

To enable the Society to fulfil its statutory tasks, the breeder authorises the Breeding Society to request all relevant data concerning the execution of the Breeding Programme, even if the data have been collected by a third party, and assert its rights concerning data access and disclosure of data.

The Breeding Society will only make use of this for statutory purposes within the internal relationship to the member, and under adherence to all legal requirements. The breeders give permission to the Breeding Society to pass on all data relating to their breeding animals, if the Society finds it necessary within the scope of breeding work, the fulfilment of statutory tasks and in breeding cooperation with other breeding associations, or for task fulfilment of other involved organisations and agencies (e.g. accounting offices, insemination stations etc).

The power of attorney is considered granted on accession of the member to the Breeding Society and comes into force as soon as membership commences. The power of attorney for the breeding society which is connected with this provision also applies to members who are already registered, as from the date when it comes into force. Should third parties demand further evidence concerning the power of attorney, the member is obliged to provide the Breeding Society with this, after notification that the data is to be used for statutory purposes.

The membership application form contains specific reference to the use and transfer of data. By signing the membership application the member confirms that they have been informed about the use and transfer of data.

### **A.9 Members' Subscriptions and Scale of Fees**

Members' subscriptions and the scale of fees shall be stipulated by the Members' Assembly and published on the Society's website. Furthermore, the Delegates' Assembly shall decide about the enforcement of regulations concerning reimbursement of costs.

Annual personal membership subscriptions as well as annual contributions for registered stallions and mares are due and payable annually on 15th January of the year in question.

### **A.10 Organs and Structure of the Breeding Society**

Organs of the Society are :

the Delegates' Assembly (A.10.1)

the Chairperson and the Executive Board (A.10.2)

the Committee (A.10.3)

the Stud Book Committee (A.10.4)

#### **A 10.1 Delegates' Assembly (Members' Assembly)**

A.10.1.1 The Delegates' Assembly consists of 150 regular members of the Society who are elected and delegated by the regional societies and a maximum of 20 delegates from the Regional Society Hannoveraner International. The number of delegates to be elected by each regional society and by the approved associations depends on the number of their regular members in proportion to the total number of regular members of the Society. A regional society may present a maximum of 75 delegates.

Furthermore, pursuant to A 10.2.7, members of the Committee are also part of the Delegates' Assembly.

A.10.2 The Committee therefore decides, prior to commencement of each election period, the number of delegates which each regional society is to elect to the Members' Assembly. This depends on the number of regular members of the Society and the number of regular members of the regional societies at the beginning of the current business year. The sub-division is to be carried out by the regional societies in such a way that each horse breeding society with at least 30 Hanoverian breeders can be represented at the Delegates' Assembly with at least one delegate.

A.10.1.3 Delegates to the Delegates' Assembly shall be elected for a period of four years by the Members' Assemblies of the regional societies and by the horse breeding associations approved pursuant to A15. Regular members only, who are not yet 70 years of age, may be elected as delegates. In the case of the election of a delegate to the Committee, as well as in the case of delegates resigning in the course of the current legislative period, a by-election is required.

A.10.1.4 The Delegates' Assembly shall regulate the affairs of the Society by the passing of resolutions, in as far as other regulations are not expressly stipulated. A resolution is passed on the basis of the majority of the "yes" and "no" votes cast. In the case of parity of votes the application shall be rejected.

A.10.1.5 The regular Delegates' Assembly meets once a year within the first six months of the financial year. Further meetings of the Delegates' Assembly shall be called at the request of the Committee or 1/5 of the Society's members or 45 delegates of the Delegates' Assembly.

A.10.1.6 Notice of the meeting is to be given by the Chairperson or his Deputy 14 days beforehand in writing, with the inclusion of the agenda. Each Delegates' Assembly which has been called in a proper manner shall be capable of passing resolutions.

A.10.1.7 Each delegate has a vote. In addition to the delegates, the members of the Committee also have the right to vote. Transfer of votes is only permissible for the delegates of the Regional Society Hannoveraner International.

A.10.1.8 All elections in the Delegates' Assembly take place by a show of hands with a simple majority of the "yes" and "no" votes cast. Voting by ballot paper is to take place if such a procedure is requested by one member with voting rights. A postal vote for delegates of the Regional Society Hannoveraner International is possible on request. If voting is taking place to elect persons and no candidate achieves an absolute majority in the first round, the following round is to take place between the two candidates with most votes. In the case of equal votes, lots shall be drawn to decide.

A.10.1.9: The Delegates' Assembly has, in particular, the following tasks:

A.10.1.9.1 Acceptance of the business report,

A.10.1.9.2 Acceptance of the auditor's report,

A.10.1.9.3 Approval of the annual financial statement and management of the capital, as well as exoneration of the Committee and the Business Manager.

A.10.1.9.4 Election of the Chairperson, the Deputy Chairperson, two further Committee members for the Executive Board and other Committee members to be elected as well as dismissal of Committee members

from their offices and, following a proposal by the Committee, the election of four Committee members to the Stud Book Commission for the period stipulated in A.10.3.1,  
A.10.1.9.5 Election of two auditors for the period of 4 years,  
A.10.1.9.6 Approval of a budget (annual estimation of costs) drawn up by the Committee and stipulation of subscriptions and fees for services within the scope of the Breeding Programme and administration relating to members,  
A.10.1.9.7 Election of Honorary Chairpersons and Honorary Members,  
A.10.1.9.8 To undertake amendment of the Statutes. This must feature on the agenda and a majority of 3/4 of the members present is required,  
A.10.1.9.9 Decision concerning the commissioning of third party agencies with technical tasks (e.g. management of the Stud Book) or performance test and breeding evaluation.  
A.10.1.9.10 Decision concerning the appeal submitted by potential members who have not been accepted by the Committee, or excluded or disciplined members,  
A.10.1.9.11 To dissolve the Society, whereby A14 of these Statutes applies,  
A.10.1.9.12 To pass on certain tasks to the Stud Book Commission in individual cases or specific spheres.  
A.10.1.9.13 To take decisions concerning the content-related field of activity  
A.10.1.9.14 Approval of persons appointed to the dispute settlement body.  
A.10.1.10 The Delegates' Assembly shall be open to all members of the Society. It will be announced in the Society magazine "THE HANOVERIAN". Every member of the Society is entitled to make applications. Applications must be submitted to the management 4 weeks beforehand in order to be included in the agenda. Minutes are to be taken concerning the Assembly. They must be signed by the Chairperson and the management, and approved by the next Delegates' Assembly.

### **A 10.2 Chairperson and Executive Board**

A 10.2.1 The Chairperson shall convene the Committee meetings, Delegates' Assemblies and the Stud Book Committee meetings and take the chair at them. He is responsible for ensuring that the resolutions which are passed by the Committee and the Delegates' Assembly are carried out. The Chairperson is entitled to have resolutions of the Committee passed according to the postal procedure, providing no Committee member objects to such a procedure in the individual case in question.

The Chairperson is an inherent member of the dispute settlement body (see A.7.1).

A 10.2.2 The Executive Board is formed by the Chairperson, the Deputy Chairperson as well as two further Committee Members. It is responsible for tasks that are not expressly conferred on

- the Delegates' Assembly,
- the Committee,
- the Stud Book Committee or
- the Executive Director.

One such task is to decide, on the basis of the commission members selected by the Delegates' Assembly, how the following commissions are to be composed and what their application is to be

- the individual Mares' Commissions pursuant to A.11.1
- the commission for the pre-selection of stallions

In urgent cases the Executive Board, in conjunction with the Executive Director, can implement interim measures, also in a financial context which, however, must be approved by the responsible organs by the next ordinary Delegates' Assembly at the latest.

A.10.2.3 The Executive Director participates in the meetings of the Executive Board where he has an advisory function.

### **A.10.3 The Committee**

A.10.3.1 The Committee is composed of 21 regular members, it is formed by:

- The Chairperson and the members of the Executive Board (A.10.2),
- the chairpersons of the 9 regional societies as inherent members,
- 11 further regular members.

If a regional chairperson is elected Chairperson of the Society, a further regular member is to be elected to the Committee in his place.

The 10 further Committee members are elected by the Delegates' Assembly for a period of 4 years. The distribution of these members amongst the regional societies depends on the proportion of the number of regular members of the individual regional societies to the total number of regular members of the Society. The regional societies propose election candidates from the ranks of their regular members.

The delegates are also entitled to introduce election proposals to the Delegates' Assembly.

Regular members only, who have not yet reached the age of 66 years, may be elected to the Committee. The person obtaining the most votes shall be elected as a Committee member (relative majority). Committee members shall remain in office until re-election of the Committee takes place.

Should a Committee member retire during a period of election, then a new member shall be elected at the next Delegates' Assembly. It shall suffice if there are 8 Committee members to hand. If there are less than 8 Committee members to hand, then an extraordinary Delegates' Assembly shall be called immediately in order to vote for substitute Committee members.

The work of the Committee members is in an honorary capacity. Remuneration of costs and expenses is to be regulated according to the rates stipulated by the Lower Saxony Chamber of Agriculture for persons who work on an honorary basis. The amount of the remuneration for the Executive Board is decided by the Committee without the votes of the Executive Board.

#### A.10.3.2 Tasks and working procedure of the Committee

The Committee is responsible for all the Society's business which is not within the sphere of competence of the Delegates' Assembly, the Stud Book Committee, the Commissions, the Executive Board and the Executive Director. The Committee can take all measures which lie in the interests of the Society and its members and which further the objectives of the Society. In individual cases as well as in certain spheres, these tasks can, in general, be passed to the Stud Book Committee.

The Committee has the following tasks especially:

- to develop and decide on the Breeding Programmes concerning the breeds supervised by the Society,
- to recommend to the Delegates' Assembly the members of the Stud Book Committee who are not determined by the Statutes,
- to appoint members of the Commissions for Stallions and Mares as well as their deputies and of the Appeal Commissions for Stallions for a period of 4 years. It is also possible to recommend persons who are not members of the Society.
- to appoint commission members for breeding events,
- to appoint a Youth Officer from its ranks,
- to appoint a Financial Advice Commission and draw up a code of procedure for them,
- to engage and dismiss the Executive Director, the Breeding Director and the manager of the sales centre,
- to appoint the editor of the Society's newspaper,
- to determine the date of sales events, shows and other fixtures,
- to establish Auction Conditions for sales events of the Society,
- to draw up the annual accounts,
- to prepare the preliminary estimate for the annual budget,
- to make proposals to the Delegates' Assembly about the amount to charge for subscriptions and fees according to A.10.1.9.6,
- to define additional costs according to A.9, which occur within the scope of the Breeding Programme and are not covered by the fees according to A 9, and to invoice the originators for these extra costs (regulations).
- to establish fees for the sales events,
- to assign tasks to the Executive Board in individual cases as well as in certain spheres,
- if necessary, to establish Rules of Procedure,
- to decide on admission or exclusion of members or other measures and reprimands which concern the interests of the members,
- to approve the statutes of the horse breeding societies and regional societies,
- Establishment of the dispute settlement body according to A7.1 and if applicable
- to award the golden pin of honour for special services to the Society,
- to make proposals to the Delegates' Assembly concerning honorary chairpersons and honorary members.

The Committee shall be convened for meetings by the Chairperson, with a copy of the agenda, at least 14 days before sitting. The Executive Board is to hold a meeting at least once a year. If required, the Committee shall meet without advisory members. The Chairperson is obliged to call a Committee meeting in response to an application made by one third of the Committee members.

The Committee makes decisions on the basis of a simple majority of the votes cast. In the case of parity of votes the application shall be rejected. The right of voting is not transferable. As a rule voting shall take place openly. On application of a Committee member voting shall take place secretly. The Committee constitutes a quorum when half of the Committee members are present. Minutes are to be taken at all meetings, and signed by the Chairperson as well as the person who wrote the minutes.

The Committee meets as required. Upon request of at least two-thirds of the Committee members the Chairman, or in his absence his Deputy, shall call a meeting.

The Executive Director as well as the Breeding Director of the Society participate in Committee meetings in an advisory capacity. Moreover, following consultation with the Executive Board, further persons may be summoned by the Chairperson to attend in an advisory capacity.

#### A.10.4 The Stud Book Committee

A 10.4.1 The Stud Book Committee is comprised of

- the Executive Board as inherent members
- four additional Committee members elected, at the proposal of the Committee, by the Delegates' Assembly for the period of time stipulated in A.10.3.2.

The Executive Director and the Breeding Director of the Society participate in Stud Book Committee meetings in an advisory capacity. Moreover, following consultation with the Executive Board, further persons may be summoned by the Chairperson to attend in an advisory capacity.

Stud Book Committee resolutions shall be passed by a simple majority of the valid "yes" and "no" votes cast. In the case of parity of votes the application shall be rejected.

#### A.10.3.2 Tasks and working procedure of the Stud Book Committee

The Stud Book Committee is responsible for the development and accompanying measures of the Breeding Programme.

The Stud Book Committee has, in particular, the following tasks:

- Preparation of amendments/changes to the Breeding Programmes,
- Making decisions within the scope of the Breeding Programmes concerning the registration of stallions and mares,
- to decide about the type and the execution of breeding events.
- Establishment of the requirements for nomination of contractual vets.

#### **A.10.5 18 Regional Societies and Horse Breeding Societies**

The Hanoverian Society is organised as an *umbrella organisation*. All members of the Society inherently also become members of existing subdivisions of the Society. The society territory is subdivided into independent regional societies and horse breeding associations. The Members' Assembly is entitled, under consideration of economic necessities and local horse breeding traditions, to alter and re-organise the geographical affiliation of member associations.

Every regular member of the Society must also at the same time be a member of a horse breeding society.

The member is free to select a local regional society. If the member fails to select his own local society, he will become a member of the local society in his own geographical district. Membership in the regional society geographically follows membership of the Society.

Society members in the Federal Republic of Germany, who have not selected a local society and are not registered in any horse breeding society, will be allocated to one of the nearest societies, in a different federal state if necessary, by means of a resolution to be passed by the Committee.

Horse breeding associations in German federal states which are not geographically organised in a regional society, shall be affiliated to the nearest regional society following a resolution to be passed by the Hanoverian Society Committee.

The Society is not responsible for financial commitments of the horse breeding associations and regional societies.

#### A 10.5.1 Regional societies within the Hanoverian Society:

Braunschweiger Bezirksverband im Hannoveraner Verband  
Bezirksverband Hannover im Hannoveraner Verband  
Bezirksverband Hessen-Süddeutschland im Hannoveraner Verband  
Lüneburger Bezirksverband im Hannoveraner Verband  
Bezirksverband Nordrhein-Westfalen im Hannoveraner Verband  
Bezirksverband Osnabrück / Emsland im Hannoveraner Verband  
Bezirksverband Ostfriesland/Oldenburg im Hannoveraner Verband  
Stader Bezirksverband hannoverscher Warmblutzüchter  
Bezirksverband Hannoveraner International im Hannoveraner Verband

#### A 10.5.2 The Hanoverian Society Abroad

Horse breeding organisations abroad whose constitution gives reason to expect correct and reliable breeding work in the sense of the Breeding Regulations of the Hanoverian Society can become affiliated to the Hanoverian Society. These breeding organisations (horse breeding associations abroad) are members of the Regional Society Hannoveraner International of the Hanoverian Society.

The Hanoverian Society is at the same time an *umbrella organisation* for existing, independent societies abroad which are organised as corporations of breeders of Hanoverian horses (subsidiary breeding

organisations). These independent organisations located outside Germany are to be supported by the Hanoverian Society in their organisational and breeding work.

The following independent, corporately organised associations / subsidiary breeding organisations are currently affiliated to the Hanoverian Society as an *umbrella organisation*:

American Hanoverian Society with registered office in Lexington,  
Hanoverian Horse Society of Australia with registered office in Brisbane,  
The British Hanoverian Horse Society with registered office in Witcham,  
Hanoverian Society of New Zealand with registered office in Kapiti Coast.

These independent organisations are members of the Regional Society Hannoveraner International with the same rights and obligations as the horse breeding associations. Their delegates are involved in the formation of ideas and intentions of the Hanoverian Society by means of participation with voting rights in the Delegates' Assembly.

A.10.5.3 In addition to the tasks assigned to them by their own Statutes, the Regional Societies are also responsible for the following:

A.15.3.1 election of the delegates for the Delegates' Assembly (Members' Assembly),

A.10.5.3.2 to find out the attitude of members to measures which are planned, or to proposals from the members and to inform the members elected to the Delegates' Assembly accordingly,

A.10.5.3.3 to nominate regular members for election to the Committee,

A.10.5.3.4 to propose suitable breeders as judges at shows and members of commissions,

A.10.5.3.5 to organise brood mares' tests and Louis Wiegels shows,

A.10.5.3.6 to support and promote up-and-coming young breeders,

A.10.5.3.7 to foster contact with equestrian organisations in the region.

A.10.5.4 In addition to the tasks assigned to them by their own statutes, the horse breeding associations shall be responsible for the following tasks within the Society:

A.10.5.4.1 to elect the delegates for the Members' Assembly of the Regional Societies and to propose delegates for the Delegates' Assembly of the Society,

A.10.5.4.2 to provide support for the Society in implementation of the Breeding Programme. This shall focus particularly on the organisation of breeding events,

A.10.5.4.3 to provide publicity for the Hanoverian Society and its breed,

A.10.5.4.4 to support association members in marketing their horses,

A.10.5.4.5 to support and promote up-and-coming young breeders.

#### **A 10.6 Lower Saxony State Stud in Celle**

The foundation stone of Hanoverian breeding was laid in 1735 with the establishment of the State Stud in Celle. The purpose of this state establishment was and still is to make good stallions available to Hanoverian breeders at favourable covering rates. A joint meeting takes place at least once a year between the Executive Board of the Society and the Directorship of the State Stud.

#### **A.10.7 Private Owners of Hanoverian Stallions**

The interests of private Hanoverian stallion keepers are represented in the Society by the "Verein hannoverscher Privathengsthälter e.V.". The association committee represents the association's interests and requirements in the Society. A joint meeting of the Executive Board of the Society together with the committee of the private Hanoverian stallion keepers' association takes place at least once a year.

#### **A.11 Commissions of the Society**

Responsible for the evaluation are committees, appointed by the association, whose decisions are taken on the basis of expert knowledge, independence and neutrality. The body must consist of competent breeders representatives and the Breeding Director or a representative appointed by him. Breeders' representatives can also be persons who are not members of the Society. Biased persons are not permitted to participate in the decision-making process. Members only, who have not yet reached the age of 80 years, may be elected or nominated to the Commissions.

##### **A.11.1 The Commissions for Stallions**

A.11.1.1 The Commissions for Stallions (Licensing Commissions) evaluate all stallions presented for entry in Stallions' Book I within the scope of the Breeding Programme. Two commissions for stallions are formed:

a) the Young Stallions' Commission for the evaluation of young stallions according to the Breeding Programmes,

b) the Old Stallions' Commission for the evaluation of all other older stallions.

c) Concerning the evaluation at yard licensings for internationally successful sport stallions or stallions of the Thoroughbred, Anglo-Arab, Shagya-Arab, Arabian Thoroughbreds and Arabs parts of the Old Stallions' Commission

A.11.1.2 The members and deputy members of these Licensing Commissions are nominated by the Committee for a period of four years. Each Commission selects its own chairperson. Resolutions of the Commission are passed by majority vote. In the case of parity of votes the application shall be rejected.

A.11.1.3 The Young Stallions' Commission consists of:

- four members, at least two of whom are to be regular members of the Society, and
- the Breeding Director of the Society or his Deputy as an inherent member.
- until 2020 by one more member to be elected by and from the members of the Bezirksverband Nordrhein-Westfalen im Hannoveraner Verband.
- the members of the Old Stallions' Commission are deputy members of the Young Stallions' Commission.

A.11.1.4 The Old Stallions' Commission consists of:

- three members, at least two of whom are to be regular members of the Society, and
- the Breeding Director of the Society or his Deputy as an inherent member,
- until 2020 by one more member to be elected by and from the members of the Bezirksverband Nordrhein-Westfalen im Hannoveraner Verband.
- The members of the Young Stallions' Commission are deputy members of the Old Stallions' Commission.

A.11.1.5 The Licensing Commission for Yard Licensings consists of:

- at least two members of the Old Stallions' Commission, although one licensing commissioner can be replaced by a member of the Mares' Commission.

A.11.1.6 Commission for the Pre-Selection of Stallions

For the pre-selection within the scope of the pre-selection of stallions, the Executive Board establishes a Commission. This Commission consists of the Chairperson or his Deputy, the Breeding Director or his Deputy as well as two to four members of the Young Stallions' Commission.

A.11.1.7 Appeal Commissions for Licensing Decisions

a) Decisions concerning appeals against a licensing decision are taken by an Appeal Commission. One Appeal Commission is established for appeals against decisions taken by the Young Stallions' Commission and the Old Stallions' Commission respectively. The Commission consists of three regular members and one representative of the Breeding Management (Breeding Director or his Deputy). If the Breeding Director was involved in the first licensing, his Deputy must be involved in the Appeal Commission and vice versa.

b) The Appeal Commission decides about the appeal against the decision of the Commission for the Pre-Selection of Young Stallions. It consists of two regular members and the Breeding Director or his Deputy. If the Breeding Director was involved in the first licensing, his Deputy must be involved in the Appeal Commission and vice versa.

A.11.2 The Evaluation Commissions for Mares

A.11.2.1 The Mares' Commissions evaluate all mares presented for registration and decide about entry in a division of the Stud Book within the scope of the Breeding Programmes. All members of the Mares' Commissions are appointed by the Committee for a period of four years (A 10.3.2). Resolutions of the Commission are passed by majority vote. In the case of parity of votes the application shall be rejected.

A.11.2.2 The Mares' Commissions are comprised of one or two regular members of the Society and the Breeding Director of the Society or his Deputy. In the case of registrations which are undertaken at the applicant's home yard a qualified representative of the Breeding Management shall be entitled to undertake the evaluation and registration alone.

A.11.2.3 The Executive Board shall decide on the composition and assignment of the individual commissions from the ranks of all appointed members (A 10.3.2) of the Mares' Commissions.

A.11.3 For reimbursement of expenses of regular members of the Society A 10.3.1 shall apply accordingly.

## **A.12 Breeding Management and Management (if applicable)**

A 12.1 The Society Committee, after being granted permission to do so by the Lower Saxony Ministry of Agriculture, appoints a Breeding Director responsible for the breeding work and supervision of how the stud book is kept, and an Executive Director. The Breeding Director provides a personal guarantee for impeccable breeding work in accordance with the Livestock Breeding Regulations in their currently valid version. He is entitled to participate in all committee meetings as well as the Delegates' Assemblies regional meetings as well as meetings of the horse breeding associations.

The tasks concerning the breeding work of the responsible person (Breeding Director) and Executive Director can be governed by internal rules of procedure issued by the Committee. The Executive Director

is always responsible for managing the business of the current administration, and has the following tasks in particular:

- a) managing and monitoring the Society Office,
- b) the management of the accounts and the monetary affairs,
- c) compiling business reports.

A.12.2 After the annual accounts have been compiled the books shall be examined by a certified auditor. The relevant review of the income and outgoings is to be undertaken by the auditors selected by the Delegates' Assembly. The auditors shall certify the results of the examination in writing, which must be presented to the Delegates' Assembly prior to approval of the annual financial statement. The annual financial statement shall be available for viewing at the Society Office during the 14 days prior to the Delegates' Assembly, which is responsible for the approval of these accounts, so that any regular member has the opportunity to examine them.

### **A.13 Society Regulations**

The Breeding Society adheres to Society Regulations which regulate the internal processes of the Society. Society Regulations are not an integral part of the Statutes.

The Breeding Programmes for the breeds of the the races of the content-related field of activity have the status of Society Regulations. The Commission is responsible for issuing, amending and repealing the Breeding Programmes.

The Hanoverian Society guidelines concerning premium award ceremonies for mares, the show regulations or the awarding of prizes also have the status of Society Regulations.

Society Regulations, with exception of the schedule of fees, are to be approved by Committee resolution with a simple majority.

Amendments will be published immediately on the Breeding Society's website and in "THE HANOVERIAN".

### **A.14 Disbanding of the Society**

The disbanding of the Breeding Society can be proposed by the Committee only. The decision on the proposal is at the sole discretion of the Delegates' Assembly, which is to be convened exclusively for this purpose.

The resolution to disband the Society requires a three-quarters majority of the votes cast. If this majority is not achieved, a resolution may be adopted by the Delegates' Assembly, specifically convened for this purpose within a period of 6 weeks, with simple majority of the votes cast.

In the event of disbanding of the Breeding Society, discontinuation of the purpose of the Society, or discontinuation of tax-deductible purposes, any assets of the Breeding Society which may still exist shall be transferred to the German Equestrian Federation (department breeding) with the intended purpose to support German horse breeding according to A.2 of the Statutes.

### **A.15 Publication of Resolutions and other Arrangements**

Resolutions passed by the Committee and Delegates Assembly, as well as other communications of the Society, shall officially be made known to all members by publication in the Society's newspaper "THE HANOVERIAN".

### **A.16 Provisions for the Auctions and Stallion Market**

A16.1 In order to promote sales of Hanoverian Horses (§ 2 No. 3.4) the Hanoverian Society conducts auctions for riding horses, stallions, mares and foals. Only horses with evidence of pedigree (equine passport) of the Hanoverian Society, of the Rheinisches Pferdestammbuch (Rhenish breed society), and of the Westfälisches Pferdestammbuch (Westphalian breed society) are permitted to participate in the sales events. Sellers must be regular members of the Hanoverian Society or the Rheinisches Pferdestammbuch (Rhenish breed society).

A16.2 Horses are permitted to participate under the condition that the relevant provisions of the Hanoverian Society are fulfilled and the result of a molecular-genetic pedigree test (DNA) can be presented.

A16.3 Only Hanoverian, Rhenish, and ~~Westphalian~~ young stallions are entitled to take part in the licensing (licensing in October) for 2 ½-year-old young stallions (up to and including the birth cohort 2013), which

meet the pedigree requirements for the acceptance into the Stallions' Book I for Hanoverians. Their exhibitors must be regular members of the Hanoverian Society.

## **B Fundamental Breeding Provisions**

The Breeding Society works according to the provisions of the Directive (EU) 2016/1012 as well as the relevant provisions of European law, provisions governing animal breeding and animal rights, as well as veterinarian provisions adopted by the government and its federal states.

The Breeding Society, as a member of the FN, accepts the provisions of the ZVO in accordance with the FN's Statutes and its Breeding Programmes.

Furthermore, the work is based on the guidelines and recommendations of the German National Equestrian Federation (FN). The Breeding Society thus bindingly specifies that when handling and training horses, it will comply with the "Guidelines on Animal Welfare in Equestrian Sport" of the Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection, the "Ethical Principles of the True Horseman" and the "Resolution of Equestrian Attitude towards the Horse/Pony" of the FN, as well as orientating itself according to the "Guidelines for Horse Riding and Driving" of the FN.

If this organisation makes amendments to the guidelines and resolutions which affect the Breeding Programme, the members and responsible authorities are to be informed immediately by the Society.

The contractual regulations of the Society including the organisations mentioned in the breeding programmes under point 16 and the corresponding contracts are also part of the fundamental principles.

### **B.2 Duties and Responsibilities of the Society**

The duties of the Society are carried out in accordance with the provisions of these Statutes and the individual Breeding Programmes.

The duties of the Society, in particular, include:

- Establishment and implementation of breeding programmes for breeds of the content-related field of activity
- Communication with breeding societies and organisations which keep a subsidiary stud book. This task may also be transferred to a third party.
- Keeping stud books for breeds of the content-related field of activity,
- Ensuring the identity of all horses registered in stud books,
- Issuing equine passports incl. animal breeding certificate and pre-stud book certificates as well as the corresponding ownership certificates,
- Issuing animal breeding certificates for breeding material (semen, ovules, embryos)
- Advising breeders as well as
- Identification and marking of the foals that are to be registered

### **B.3 Content-related and Geographical Scope of Activity of the Society**

The content-related field of activity of the Society includes the Breeding Programmes of the Hanoverian, Hanoverian half-blood racehorse and Rhenish riding horse breeds. The Hanoverian Society keeps the Indigenous Stud Book for all breeds. Concerning the Hanoverian and Rhenish Riding Horse breeds, the American Hanoverian Society, the British Hanoverian Horse Society, the Hanoverian Horse Society of Australia and the Hanoverian Society of New Zealand keep a subsidiary stud book.

The geographic field of activity is regulated within the individual breeding programmes of the respective breed.

### **B.4 Fundamental Provisions concerning the Breeding Programmes**

The Society implements the Breeding Programmes, following approval by **the Lower Saxony Ministry of Agriculture**, independently and at its own responsibility. The breeding programmes encompass all measures which are suitable to achieve breeding progress with regard to the respective breeding aim aspired to. This includes in particular the evaluation of the selection criteria (assessment of external appearance, performance, fertility and health) and breeding values as well as the selection and consequently the entry in the respective divisions of the Stud Book based on the evaluated features as well as age and/or sex. In the evaluation of the breeding value it is possible to consider results of such other breeding associations and organisations in addition to the results of the Hanoverian population. Provisions concerning the breeding populations involved in the Breeding Programme are an integral part of the respective breeding programmes.

The aim of conservation breeding programmes is the preservation of qualities typical for the specific breed and the genetic diversity of endangered breeds.

### **B.5 Minimum Information to be included in the Stud Book**

A separate Stud Book is kept for each breeding programme of a breed of the content-related field of activity, which must contain all breeding relevant data for each horse. All amendments to pedigree and performance-related data must be documented.

3. Name, address and email-address (if available) of the breeder as well as the proprietor/owner and the keeper, if applicable
4. Last covering date of the dam
5. Date of birth, if known, breed, sex, colour, markings and special identifying features, if applicable
6. Life number (15-digit UELN), code of the country of birth
7. Active identification (transponder and/or breed brand and number brand)
8. Category of the Stud Book (section, division) in which the horse is registered
9. Parents: colour, life number (15-digit UELN if known or a 15-digit FN-register number and Stud Book category (section, division)
10. All generations of ancestors as far as known to the breeding society, including life number (15-digit UELN if known or 15-digit FN register number)
11. Date of issue of the Equine Passport incl. animal breeding certificate
12. Evaluation of the external appearance, with indication of date, as well as all results of performance test known to the breeding society, with indication of date
13. Show successes and Premium Awards
14. Date and (if known) the cause of death
15. Results of the pedigree test (DNA test number or blood type) with indication of date
16. Indications about birth of twins
17. For breeding horses ensuing from an embryo transfer, the genetic parents and their blood type or DNA profiles according to ISAC standard required for ascertainment of identity and pedigree of their progeny as well as the recipient animal
18. For breeding horses whose semen is intended for use in artificial insemination their blood type or DNA profiles according to ISAC standard required for ascertainment of identity and pedigree of their progeny.
19. Results of genetic tests in accordance with the Breeding Programme
20. Decisions about entries and alterations in the Stud Book with indication of date
21. If permitted in the Breeding Programme: in the case of cloned breeding horses the genetic and biological parents as well as test results which are required for ascertainment of their identity and pedigree of their progeny.

Furthermore, all amendments to the information concerning the above mentioned subsections 1 to 21 are to be documented.

### **B.6 Fundamental Provisions concerning Classification of the Stud Books**

The Stud Book of each breed registers stallions as well as mares separately in different sections and divisions. The classification into sections is based on information regarding the pedigree, the classification into divisions is based on criteria directly regarding the horse.

### **B.7 Fundamental Provisions concerning the Keeping of the Stud Book**

The Stud Book is kept by the Society. In this context the Society uses the services of vit (Vereinigte Informationssysteme Tierhaltung w.V.), Verden, in accordance with the relevant contractual agreement. The Stud Book is kept by the Society according to the legal provisions relating to animal breeding, on the basis of the data and information provided by the breeder, which are collected within the scope of the performance tests and breeding evaluation. vit (Verden) works on behalf of the Society and according to the Society's instructions, and makes the Stud Book data available to the Society.

### **B.8 Fundamental Provisions concerning Entry in the Stud Book**

Entry of a breeding horse in the respective section and division of the Stud Book of its breed is carried out in accordance with the provisions of Regulation (EU) 2016/1012, section 1, and providing the horse's identity has been ascertained beyond doubt by the Society in accordance with the provisions stipulated in these Statutes. When the horse is registered, the requirements relating to pedigree and selection criteria for the respective division must be fulfilled.

In exceptional cases, following ascertainment of identity of the horse, it can be registered without evaluation. Exceptional cases can mean illness of the horse, or acute injuries which do not permit an objective evaluation of the horse.

Mares which have already died can be registered subsequently, i.e. after their death. This subsequent entry serves the exclusive purpose of issuing an animal breeding certificate for the last born foal.

Breeding horses of other populations or breeding societies are accepted on application with the pedigree data previously registered and, under consideration of the performance data, entered in the respective division of the Stud Book.

Entry in the Stud Book is to be revoked by the Society if at least one of the conditions for entry did not exist.

Entry in the Stud Book is to be revoked by the Society if at least one of the conditions for entry subsequently ceased to exist, or if entry was connected with a requirement which the owner failed to fulfil or did not fulfil in time.

An objection to this decision can be submitted in writing within a period of 4 weeks to the Society Office by the owner of the horse in question. Reasons for the objection are also to be given in writing. The Executive Board decides on acceptance or rejection of the appeal.

If the appeal is accepted, the Executive Board also decides about the composition of a new evaluation commission. In this context, with the exception of the Breeding Director and the Chairperson of the commission (composition of the commissions and definition and nomination of the commission chairperson are to be regulated separately, see A.11.1) all members are to be re-appointed. In the case of stallions and mares, a decision is also made regarding place and time for another presentation of the horse.

Retired or disqualified members do not continue to feature in the Stud Book.

#### 8.1 Fundamental principles for the entry of stallions

8.1.1 Registration takes place in response to a written request made by the stallion owner after fulfilling the stipulations of the respective Stud Book Regulations.

8.1.2 It is always limited to one year only. It will be updated on request.

8.1.3 All stallions that are actively registered in Stallions' Book I of the Society will be published annually in the Society magazine "The Hanoverian" and in the stallion distribution plan on the Society website.

#### 8.2 Fundamental principles for the entry of mares

##### 8.2.1 De-registration of mares

Notice of de-registration of mares must be submitted in writing by the owner, at the latest six weeks before the end of the year. The Society is to be informed immediately in the case of cancellation of registration on account of death or slaughter due to illness or injury.

##### 8.2.2 Re-registration of mares

A de-registered mare can be re-registered again at any time at the previous entry status following a written communication by the owner. The re-registration is subject to a fee.

##### 8.2.3 Change in ownership of mares

Change in ownership of a mare is entered in the Stud Book on the basis of a written communication by the new owner. A pre-condition for this is:

- a) that the new owner is or becomes a regular member of the Society,
- b) that the mare is registered in a section of the Stud Book.

The Society is entitled to request presentation of the pedigree for this purpose.

### **B.9 Fundamental Provisions concerning Issuing of the Equine Passport incl. Animal Breeding Certificate/Pre-Stud Book Certificate and Certificate of Ownership**

#### **B.9.1 Equine Passport incl. Animal Breeding Certificate/Pre-Stud Book Certificate**

##### ***Application for issuing of the equine passport incl. animal breeding certificate***

When registering the birth of a foal, the breeder applies for the issuance of the equine passport incl. the animal breeding certificate for the foal as well as identification and marking.

The equine passport incl. animal breeding certificate serves as a document for identification according to the Livestock Movement Regulation and is to be issued for all registered foals.

The Society, following an application by the owner or registration of birth of the foal by the breeder, issues the equine passport incl. animal breeding certificate according to articles 30 and 32 of Regulation (EU) 2016/1012 in conjunction with Implementation Regulation (EU) 2015/262.

If the respective breeding programme includes performance tests and/or breeding evaluations the equine passport incl. animal breeding certificate has to include the following information:

- all results of the performance test and/or
- current results of the breeding evaluation

As an alternative, reference can be made to a website on which the results are published, if the website is indicated on the animal breeding certificate.

Genetic defects and anomalies are, in accordance with the respective Breeding Programme, to be included in the equine passport.

Furthermore, information regarding slaughter of the horse is to be included in the equine passport and the Stud Book.

An animal breeding certificate for a breeding horse can be issued as evidence of pedigree or as a birth certificate according to the provisions stipulated in the Breeding Programme. It is based on the registration of the parents in the Stud Book of the breed. For mares and stallions, registration of the mare and the stallion is valid at the latest in the year of the foal's birth (up to and including 31.12. of the year in question).

***Pre-Stud Book Certificate for an animal registered in an additional section:***

If the horse is registered in an additional section of the Stud Book of the breed, a pre-stud book certificate is included in the respective section of the equine passport.

**B.9.2 Certificate of Ownership**

The certificate of ownership is issued with an identical life number (UELN) in addition to the equine passport incl. animal breeding certificate and contains the following (minimal) information:

- Life number (15-digit UELN) of the horse
- Name of the horse, if available
- Breed
- Sex
- Colour
- Date of Birth
- Name and address of the breeder
- Active identification (transponder number and breed and/or number brand, if applicable)
- Pedigree of three generations (if available)
- Name, address and stamp of the issuing society
- Date of issue and signature of the signatory

**B.9.3 Procedural Instructions for Equine Passport incl. Animal Breeding Certificate and Certificate of Ownership**

The equine passport incl. animal breeding certificate and/or certificate of ownership is only to be issued to the animal keeper/horse owner registered in the Society Stud Book.

The equine passport incl. animal breeding certificate and/or certificate of ownership belong to the horse and remain the property of the issuing society / issuing body. The documents can be retracted for an important reason, e.g. if they include incorrect or incomplete details. Holder of the certificate of ownership is the owner of the horse in accordance with the provisions of the "BGB" (German Civil Code).

On request, the breeder is required to hand out the equine passport incl. animal breeding certificate and/or certificate of ownership.

In the case of change of possession, the equine passport incl. animal breeding certificate is to be handed over to the new possessor. The Society is to be informed about changes in possession.

In the case of change in ownership the equine passport incl. animal breeding certificate and/or certificate of ownership are to be handed over to the new owner. The Society is to be informed about changes in ownership.

In the case of death, killing, theft, loss or slaughter of the horse, for purposes of epidemic control the equine passport incl. animal breeding certificate and/or certificate of ownership are to be returned to the issuing society / the issuing body, unless the the equine passport incl. animal breeding certificate is destroyed under official supervision at the slaughterhouse. The Society is to be informed about the death of the horse.

If a horse is presented to the Society for registration in a Stud Book without inclusion of an animal breeding certificate in the equine passport although the horse fulfils the requirements for registration, the relevant section of the equine passport is to be completed within the scope of the Stud Book registration.

#### **B.9.4 Copies /Duplicates**

Copies of equine passports incl. an animal breeding certificate are to be issued in accordance with the provisions of Implementing Regulation (EU) 2015/262.

A copy of evidence of pedigree, a birth certificate as well as an equine passport (incl. animal breeding certificate) and a certificate of ownership can only be issued on application of the person who has lost the original document(s), on presentation of a statutory declaration attested by a notary confirming loss of the original document(s). Such copies can be issued exclusively by the Breeding Society which issued the original document. Any copy is always to be marked clearly as such and to be numbered.

#### **B.9.5 Issue of identification documents for equids imported into the EU**

Registration of the existing identification documents for equids imported into the EU or, if necessary, issuing of an equine passport incl. animal breeding certificate takes place in accordance with article 15 of Implementing Regulation (EU) 2016/262.

#### **B.10 Provisions concerning Animal Breeding Certificates for Breeding Material**

Animal breeding certificates according to Regulation (EU) 2016/1012 are also issued for the donation of breeding material if the donor animal is registered in the Stud Book of the breeding society. In this context the breeding society makes use of the exemption allowed under Article 31 (2) b of Regulation (EU) 2016/1012.

The animal breeding certificate for semen and ovules consists of two parts. Part A (information regarding the donor animal) is issued by the breeding society. Part B (information regarding semen/ovule) is issued by the insemination station/embryo transfer facility. The animal breeding certificate for embryos consists of three parts. Parts A (information regarding the female donor animal) and B (information regarding the male donor animal) are issued by the breeding society. Part C (information regarding the embryo) is issued by the embryo transfer facility.

#### **B.11 Identification**

Identification of horses by the Society is carried out according to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2015/262 using the following methods:

##### **B.11.1 Data collection**

Within the scope of identification, at least the following data is recorded for each horse:

- Sex
- Date of birth
- Genetic parents incl. life number (UELN)
- Description of colour and markings
- Completion of the markings diagram

##### **B.11.2 Active Identification**

All foals, according to the Livestock Movement Order in conjunction with Implementing Regulation (EU) 2015/262, are to be actively marked in connection with the identification. The transponder is mandatory for active identification (Article 18 Implementing Regulation (EU) 2015/262). As an additional, optional active identification, the foal may be brand-marked, if permitted by the respective national animal welfare legislation.

##### **B.11.2.1 Transponder**

The transponders required for identification are issued by the Society and must be coded in accordance with Implementing Regulation (EU) 2015/262 in conjunction with section 44 of the Livestock Movement Order.

##### **B.11.2.2 Foal Brand (Breed brand mark and number brand)**

A foal brand is allocated by the Society following application by the breeder, normally in the year of birth. The foals are marked with the respective breed brand mark. In addition to the breed brand mark, they receive a number brand which ensues from the life number (B.10.3). Branding is only permitted on the near hind thigh. The breed brand marks are graphically depicted in the respective breeding programmes. Foals for which only a birth certificate is issued only receive the number brand

Branding may only be carried out by persons authorised by the Society to perform branding. Exceptions require prior approval by the Breeding Director. The person authorised to perform branding must ascertain the identity of the respective foal with absolute certainty by checking the documents relating to the foal prior to branding. Potential "subsequent branding" must also be authorized by the Breeding Director.

Identification marking by means of the thigh brand is only carried out in member countries in which it is permitted.

### **B.11.3 Allocation of the UELN (Unique Equine Life Number)**

Each breeding horse born in a member state is allocated a UELN at the time of initial registration. Horses which have not been allocated a UELN must receive one upon entry in a stud book at the latest. The UELN is an international and EU-wide standardised life number.

The UELN consists of 15 alphanumeric digits and is comprised as follows:

The first three digits (alphanumeric) refers to the country of origin in which, for the first time, the horse has been allocated a universal equine life number. The following three digits (alphanumeric) refer to the breeding society with which the respective horse has been registered and branded and/or actively identified. The next nine digits (alphanumeric) form a consecutive registration number within the breeding society and can be allocated freely by the society, with the exception of the last two digits. For the purpose of active identification the 12th and 13th digit of the international life number serve as the brand number, the year of birth is in 14th and 15th position.

The UELN does not change during the lifetime of the horse and is maintained even if the horse is registered in a different stud book.

UELN of horses born abroad are to be taken over upon entry into the stud book.

If horses which have not been allocated a UELN are registered in the Stud Book of the Society, they are allocated an FN registration number compatible to UELN, irrespective of the horse's origin. The task of researching and allocating an FN registration number is carried out by the Breeding Section of the German Equestrian Federation on behalf of the breeding society.

For horses which were born abroad without an international life number, the FN registration number is allocated as follows:

	<b>Position 1 to 3</b>	<b>Position 4 to 6 Large horses</b>	<b>Position 7 and 8</b>	<b>Position 9 to 13</b>	<b>Position 14 to 15</b>
born before 2000	276 or DE+space	304 / 302	Double-digit coding of the issuing body	Consecutive registration number	Year of birth of the horse/pony (if known) - otherwise "00"
Born 2000 or later	276 or DE+space	404 / 402	Double-digit coding of the issuing body	Consecutive registration number	Year of birth of the horse/pony (if known) - otherwise "00"

## **B.12 Assurance of Identity / Parentage Verification Testing**

### **B.12.1 Methods of parentage verification testing:**

The Society makes use of the following methods of parentage verification testing:

- DNA-typing according to ISAG-standard
- Pedigree assessment report from a gene laboratory accredited according to DIN EN ISO/IEC 17025:2005
- DNA profile comparison

Each foal to be registered is pedigree tested.

### **B.12.2 Measures in the case of apparent deviations from the pedigree:**

In the case of deviations from the recorded pedigree becoming apparent, efforts will be made to ascertain the actual pedigree of the possible parents. If clarification can be achieved, the pedigree will be corrected on the basis of the new pedigree in the Stud Book and the equine passport incl. animal breeding certificate.

If the pedigree cannot be clarified, the pedigree will be withdrawn. Breeding animals registered in the Main Section of the Stud Book of their breed will be relocated to the Additional Section of the Stud Book. If the Stud Book for the breed in question does not contain an Additional Section, the animal is to be removed

from the Stud Book. The information in the Stud Book and the equine passport incl. animal breeding certificate are to be corrected accordingly.

The costs for the pedigree test are to be borne by the party responsible, if the pedigree transpires to be incorrect.

#### **B.12.4 Documentation**

A DNA type card or test results ensuing from other criteria for assurance of identity are kept at the Society. Deviations determined within the scope of the pedigree test are recorded and kept together with all other documentation relating to the pedigree test by the Society for a minimum period of 10 years.

### **B.13 Breeding Documentation**

In order to guarantee correct and reliable breeding work in the Society, every breeder is obliged to contribute in accordance with these Statutes, statutory regulations as well as the relevant Breeding Programme of the breed(s) in question. In particular, the breeders have the following obligations:

#### **B.13.1 Records of the breeding establishment (breeding documentation)**

Every breeder keeps a Stable Book (hand-written or in electronic form) for the breeding horses of his stock, in which all relevant information relating to the horse in question including the pedigree and all current data. Every breeder is obliged to submit the Stable Books to the Breeding Director on request, or to his representative, for purposes of checking. In order to guarantee a correct and reliable Stud Book management it is necessary to provide representatives of the Society with information and to allow inspection of the breeding documents including the Stable Books.

The breeding documentation is to be carried out in a timely and impeccable manner. Commissioning a third party to handle the breeding documentation does not relieve the breeder from his responsibility for the correctness of the entries. Corrections are to be made by means of deletion and have to be confirmed with the date and a signature.

The breeding documentation has to be retained for a minimum period of 5 years from the last entry.

Measures in case of incorrect breeding documentation:

- The breeder is given a warning in combination with a request to correct and/or complete the documentation.
- If deviations concerning pedigree data are determined, an investigation according to the regulations stipulated in B.12 of these Statutes is to be carried out.

Any violations are documented and these records are retained for a period of 10 years in the Society Office.

#### **B.13.2 Responsibility of the stallion keeper**

Stallion keepers of the Society are obliged to keep their stallions in such a way that any violations of these Statutes as well as the respective breeding programmes are excluded. In the case of violations the Committee is to be informed immediately, and subsequently the Breeding Director who will decide upon suitable measures according to these Statutes (A.5). This also applies if the stallion keeper provides the mare owner with incorrect information or neglects hygiene regulations or fundamental principles of stallion keeping in any other way. The stallion keeper is obliged to provide the mare owner with information, to the best of his knowledge, concerning any disease-relevant genetic defects according to the respective Breeding Programme.

#### **B.13.3 Notification of insemination/covering (covering certificate)**

After payment of the members' subscription, a covering certificate is sent from the Society Office to the owner of every registered mare or is made available for download. The name and address of the owner as well as basic data relating to the mare are entered in this certificate. Prior to covering, the covering certificate is to be handed over to the stallion keeper. The covering certificate is to be completed in full by the stallion keeper following covering and signed by the stallion keeper or his representative. The covering certificate has to contain at least:

- name and number of the mare,
- name and number of the stallion,
- all covering data,
- the covering registration number,
- if required, date and result of the pregnancy examination,
- name and address of the mare owner,
- signature of the stallion keeper or of his representative.

Covering certificate forms of other breeding societies which comply with the legal provisions concerning animal breeding are accepted if they contain at least the following information:

- Name, UELN, colour, markings and stud book category (section, division) of the mare
- Name, UELN, colour, markings and stud book category (section, division) of the stallion
- Date of all coverings / inseminations
- Type of covering (live cover, artificial insemination, embryo transfer)
- Name and address of the mare owner
- Signature of the stallion keeper or of his representative
- Signature of the inseminating veterinarian (in the case of insemination with deep-frozen semen)

Notification of covering can also be transmitted electronically. A contractual agreement between the stallion keeper and the Society is required for this purpose.

The owner of the covered mare is to receive a copy of the covering certificate from the stallion keeper.

This copy must be kept as a certificate of covering until the mare gives birth to her foal. If the mare is sold, the buyer is obliged to take on this obligation.

The stallion keeper collects the covering certificates and sends them to the Society Office by 30.09. of the current calendar year. The same registration deadlines apply for EDV-supported administration programmes and internet notifications of covering.

As a matter of principle, a blank covering certificate may only be used in the case of mares which are not yet registered at the time of covering.

For registration of a foal, the copy of the covering certificate of the mare owner is sufficient if the mare was registered in the Stud Book of another society at the time of covering and an original covering certificate is not available.

#### **B.13.4 Notification of the birth of the foal**

Identification of the foal has to take place prior to weaning. The birth of a foal must be registered with the responsible officer at the State Stud and/or at the Society within 28 days, at the latest however by 31st October (end of the breeding year). The notification can also be transmitted online. A date for registration is to be arranged with the responsible officer following notification about the foal. On application for registration, the breeder also applies to the Hanoverian Society for an equine passport. If the registration is not effected by the due date, registration of the foal takes place within the scope of a "subsequent branding date". This is to be authorized by the Breeding Management following verification of pedigree. In this case higher fees have to be paid according to the scale of charges.

The officer completes the registration of foaling and identifies the foal. He passes on the foaling registration to the Society. The equine passport incl. animal breeding certificate is then issued or sent by the Society Office to the mare owner, on whose behalf the foal was registered.

If a mare does not give birth to a foal or if the foal dies shortly after birth, the registration of foaling is also to be completed, giving details of the reasons, and to be passed on to the Society either by the mare owner or the person in charge of the covering station. This also applies in the case of stillborn foals.

The notification of the birth of the foal has to contain at least the following information:

- Date of Birth
- Place of Birth
- Sex
- Fundamental colour of the foal as well as markings, if applicable
- If applicable, information about stillbirth, birth of twins or death shortly after birth
- Signature of the mare owner (except in the case of online notification)

#### **B.13.5 Alteration of breeding data and Stud Book entries**

All amendments and supplements concerning breeding data, colour and markings, change in ownership and/or relocation, performance test results and other breeding relevant information, as well as loss of a transponder, are to be communicated to the Society Office immediately by the horse owner, in writing or electronically, without any special request being made to do so. Every alteration is to be documented by the Society in the Stud Book as well as the equine passport incl. animal breeding certificate and clearly marked as an alteration.

#### **B.14 Control of Genetic Defects**

If genetic defects or genetic anomalies are considered in the Breeding Programme, they have to be documented in the animal breeding certificates and published in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2016/1012.

#### **B.15 Fundamental Provisions concerning the Evaluation of Breeding Horses**

Breeding horses are evaluated according to the selection criteria defined in the breeding programme relating to each breed. Each selection criterion is evaluated as a partial mark. This evaluation normally takes place at a Society event (licensing, studbook registrations, mare shows, performance tests, etc) to ensure the comparison of a sufficiently large number of horses. In exceptional cases, particularly regarding entry of mares, evaluation can be conducted in a context other than a Society event. The minimum age for evaluation is regulated in the respective Breeding Programme.

Unless regulated otherwise in the Breeding Programme, evaluation of breeding horses is conducted in full grades for Stud Book entry and licensing and in half grades for mare performance test in accordance with section 57.1.2 of the FN Rules for Competitive Events (LPO) according to the following grade system:

10 = excellent	5 = sufficient
9 = very good	4 = deficient
8 = good	3 = quite poor
7 = fairly good	2 = poor
6 = satisfactory	1 = very poor

If the result of the evaluation is expressed in a full grade, it represents the arithmetical average of the part grades of the evaluated selection criteria, adjusted to one decimal place. Deviations are regulated in the respective Breeding Programme.

*Furthermore, a description of the linear description evaluation method, which is common in horse breeding, is possible. (Description of the method...)*

## **B.16 Licensing**

Licensing is the initial selection decision of a breeding society for stallions, depending on the respective breeding programme.

### **B.16.1 Authorisation**

The application is to be submitted to the Society's office in writing or electronically. To ensure an orderly licensing event, a pre-selection of the stallions registered for licensing can be carried out. The minimum age for stallions for authorisation to take part in licensing and further requirements for stallions for authorisation to take part in licensing are stipulated in the respective breeding programmes.

### **B.16.2 Evaluation of suitability for breeding**

Ascertainment of suitability for breeding is carried out within the scope of a veterinary examination by a contractual veterinarian of the Society (specialist veterinarian for horses). With regard to the suitability for breeding the following criteria are assessed:

- Anomalies of the testicles
- Anomalies of the jaw
- 

### **B.16.3 Evaluation and determination of the result**

a) Evaluation of the stallions within the scope of licensing is carried out according to the fundamental principles of B.15 by the Licensing Commission.

b) Determination of the result

The licensing score represents the arithmetical average with one decimal place. The main features are described in the breeding programmes of the individual breeds.

### **B.16.4 Licensing Decision**

The licensing decision can be as follows:

- Licensed
- Not licensed
- Preliminarily not licensed

For the "licensed" selection decision, the minimum criteria according to the breeding programme must be fulfilled. The licensing decision is announced publicly at the licensing event. The "licensed" decision is documented in the equine passport incl. animal breeding certificate as well as in the Stud Book.

The licensing decision "preliminarily not licensed" applies if the stallion does not fulfil the requirements relating to the overall mark, one of the partial marks and/or suitability for breeding, but can be expected to

fulfil them in future. This licensing decision may be combined with a set deadline by which the stallion is to be presented once again for licensing.

The licensing decision "not licensed" applies if the stallion does not fulfil the requirements relating to the overall mark and/or one or several of the partial marks, and/or the requirements relating to suitability for breeding. If the requirements regarding suitability for breeding are fulfilled, the stallion may be re-presented for licensing a further time.

The owner of the stallion is to be informed about the licensing decision in writing. The licensing decision "licensed" is documented in the stallion's evidence of pedigree after the stallion has been evaluated at a licensing event.

#### **B.16.5 Medication controls**

Stallions are not entitled to participate in licensing/pre-selection and, if necessary, will subsequently be excluded from them if they have been given prohibited substances according to the lists and implementation provisions of the FN Rules for Competitive Events (LPO) in the currently valid version (Part C Legal System - FN anti doping and medication control rules for equestrian sport - ADMR), or have been subjected to prohibited methods or any kind of surgical procedures or manipulation influencing performance, performance ability or willingness to perform. The Licensing Commission/Pre-Selection Commission is entitled to ask for medication controls at any time. Medication controls are conducted according to the implementation provisions of the FN Rules for Competitive Events (LPO) in the currently valid version (Part C Legal System - FN anti doping and medication control rules for equestrian sport - ADMR)

Stallions are also not entitled to participate or, if necessary, are subsequently excluded from licensing/pre-selection if they have been positively tested for a prohibited substance, a prohibited method or a prohibited surgical procedure according to subsection 1 in the same or another breeding society or an equestrian society within a period of 3 months (anabolic substances 12 months) prior to licensing/pre-selection.

#### **B.16.6 Withdrawal, revocation, objection**

Licensing is to be withdrawn if a condition for the licensing was not fulfilled at the time. If the party concerned can be accused of fraudulent misrepresentation, providing incorrect and incomplete details or consequences of gross negligence, the results of the licensing are reversed and the stallion's status reverts to the status prior to the licensing, i.e. as if there had never been any positive licensing decision.

Licensing is to be revoked if one of the conditions subsequently ceases to exist. It can be revoked if it is connected to a requirement which the beneficiary failed to fulfil or did not fulfil in time. A reversal does not take place in the case of a revocation.

The owner of the stallion has the possibility to submit an objection to the licensing decision according to A 15 to the Society Office. Reasons for the objection are also to be given in writing. The deadline for submitting objections is two weeks after announcement of the licensing decision. The responsible body of the Breeding Society decides whether or not to accept the objection. If the objection is accepted, the responsible body decides on the composition of a new Evaluation Commission. It also decides on the place and date for re-presentation of the stallion.

In the case of positive evidence relating to medication or manipulation, the licensing decision is to be revoked and the respective Stud Book entry is withdrawn. The stallion owner is entitled to submit an objection to the revocation of the licensing decision in writing to the competent body of the Breeding Society, c/o Society address. The deadline for submitting objections is two weeks after announcement of the decision. Reasons for the objection are to be submitted within a further week. By way of advance payment, a sum of money is to be specified by the relevant breeding society and either paid directly or secured by the end of this additional week at the latest.

#### **B.16.7 Licensing at the breeder's yard**

In particularly exceptional cases (stallions successful in international sport or after injuries), licensing can be conducted at the breeder's premises following an application by the stallion keeper. A commission is appointed for this purpose (see A.15). The costs for the procedure are borne by the stallion keeper.

### **B.17 Premium Distinctions awarded by the Society**

#### **B.17.1 Hanoverian Premium Mares**

Particularly high quality Hanoverian and Rhenish mares may be awarded the distinction of "Hannoveraner Premium Mare" (Hann.Pr.St.) if they fulfil the special provisions of the Society for this distinction.

#### **B.17.2 Performance mares**

Mares with above-average success in competitive sport or in racing may be awarded the title "Performance Mare" after an appropriate application has been made by the owner. Details relating to the conditions to be fulfilled for award of the Performance Mare title are to be found in the guidelines which have been drawn up by the Society Committee.

#### **B.17.3 Hannoveraner Premium Stallions**

**Particularly high quality Hanoverian and Rhenish stallions may be awarded the distinction of Premium Stallion on the occasion of licensing.**

### **B.18 Fundamental Provisions concerning Performance Test and Breeding Evaluation**

#### **B.18.1 Performance test**

##### **B.18.1.1 Recognition of test results**

Results of performance tests conducted according to current Animal Breeding Law, the current Rules for Competitive Events (LPO) of the German Equestrian Federation (FN) and/or the Reglement of the Federation Equestre Internationale (FEI) will be recognised.

Results of national competitive sport events / horse performance shows held outside Germany will be recognised if they can be considered as equivalent tests.

Conditions specific to the breed regarding the own performance test are stipulated in the breeding programmes of the individual breeds.

##### **B.18.1.2 Responsibilities for test forms**

Within the Society, stallions and mares can participate in performance tests conducted either by the Society or other organisations or test centres. The Society concludes contracts with the test centres and/or organisations commissioned with conducting tests. These contracts form the basis for the organisation and implementation of the commissioned tests. The Society operates a controlling system to ensure adherence to the contractual agreements as well as the correct execution of the performance tests.

#### **B.18.2 Breeding evaluation**

All data recorded for performance tests within the scope of the Breeding Programme are to be made available to the Breeding Society by the Society members and commissioned third bodies immediately and free of charge. Data transfer can also take place directly to the bodies commissioned to conduct the breeding evaluation (vit Verden).

After checking the validity of the data submitted, vit Verden carries out the breeding evaluations on the basis of the criteria recorded and in accordance with a relevant procedure which has been approved by the responsible bodies, and in accordance with the specifications of the Breeding Society in collaboration with the resolutions of the FN as the competent organisation.

#### **B.19 Controlling**

The organisations commissioned by the Breeding Society with conducting performance tests and breeding evaluations are continuously monitored by the Breeding Society to ensure the reliability of the performance tests and breeding evaluation. The controlling procedures in operation are stipulated in corresponding agreements with the organisations.

#### **B.20 Legal Validity**

The Statutes with the provisions relating to the Society as well as legal provisions concerning animal breeding were adopted at the Members' Assembly of DD.MM.YYYY and come into force following approval by the **Lower Saxony Ministry of Agriculture** and registration with the registry court or on DD.MM.YYYY.

Valid 28.11.2017