



Rules and Regulations
for Performance test and evaluation
for breeding of stallions in Swedish
Warmblood breeding

2010

Excerpt

2009-09-10 ASVH Service AB

Swedish Warmblood Association

This publication is an *excerpt* from the Swedish Warmblood Association's Rules and Regulations for performance testing and evaluation for breeding of stallions in Swedish Warmblood breeding.

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1. GENERAL INFORMATION

The Swedish Board of Agriculture's regulations (SJVFS 2009:44) regarding horse breeding states ASVH Service AB as the approved breed organization and registry/studbook for Swedish Warmblood horses in Sweden. ASVH Service AB is owned in its entirety by the Swedish Warmblood Association who since originating in 1928 monitors the General Studbook for Swedish Warmblood horses. On an international level, ASVH Service AB is the original studbook for Swedish Warmblood horses.

ASVH Service AB work according to a plan and guidelines set up for all its activities. The plan and the guidelines are approved by the Swedish Board of Agriculture..ASVH Service AB has the right to evaluate and grade stallions and mares for the General Studbook for Swedish Warmblood horses. Evaluated horses are graded with regard to their quality. Participation in an evaluation event organized by ASVH Service AB is not mandatory, however it is the basis for the grading previously stated.

Horses that are inspected and graded for breeding abroad, in a way that correspond to Swedish standards, by an association approved for cross-breeding within the Swedish Warmblood breed by ASVH Service AB (appendix 1), will be graded by ASVH Service AB based on the inspection results acquired abroad.

To become eligible for a *breeding license* for Swedish Warmblood breeding a stallion shall be inspected/evaluated for breeding and at grading reach pre-set requirements. Stallions that are graded but not approved are permitted to breed in Sweden, however, registered offspring have a limited opportunity to partake in events organized by ASVH Service AB and its affiliated associations. A stallion that has not been inspected and graded cannot produce an offspring eligible for registration in the General Studbook for Swedish Warmbloods.

Inspection and evaluation for breeding is performed by the Inspection Committee (AVN) appointed by ASVH Service AB. The Inspection Committee consists of individuals with extensive knowledge in equestrian sports, veterinary medicine, genetics and breeding.

Further expertise is drawn from the Breeding Committee (AR) which continuously supports ASVH Service AB in matters regarding the Swedish Warmblood breeding program. The Committee is appointed by ASVH Service AB and has extensive expertise in genetics and veterinary medicine as well as equestrian sports, stallion and young horse matters.

2. EVALUATION FOR BREEDING

The evaluation for breeding conducted through ASVH Service AB is based upon *pedigree requirements, performance testing of the individual and offspring evaluation*.

The *performance testing of the individual* is based upon pedigree, performance, conformation, soundness and health. The *offspring evaluation* can take place once an established number of offspring has reached the appropriate age for inspection.

The evaluation for breeding is based on information collected from stallion performance test results from Sweden and abroad, young horse tests, official show statistics, medical data collected from equine clinics and assigned research projects; for example regarding possible genetic defects.

ASVH Service AB and its affiliated member associations; Swede Horse AB included, are responsible for upholding the pedigree requirements, conducting foal inspections, young horse tests, stallion performance tests and the Swedish Sport and Breeding Championships. Results from abroad must be officially recognized by the breeding association respectively that is recognized by ASVH Service AB.

The owner or agent of a stallion is required to report mares bred during the season as well as the result of breedings year after to ASVH Service AB no later than September 30th. This information is the basis for fertility reports and registration of offspring. Without this information, offspring from said stallion cannot be eligible for registration in either the General Studbook or any other appropriate section of the stud book.

3. QUALIFIED STALLIONS

3.1 Alternative opportunities for inspection

A stallion is eligible for evaluation for breeding provided that:

- ✓ The stallion meets the pedigree requirements listed in section 3.2

AND

- ✓ It participates in the individual testing involving a performance test when the stallion is 3-5 years of age, or for stallions 6 years of age or older, have achieved the required performance level at official shows appropriate for their age group. See section 4.6.

OR

- ✓ Older stallions may be evaluated on the basis of official offspring results (breeding index). The index must be based on the results of at least 15 offspring.

OR

- ✓ When importing semen from abroad, a theoretical breeding evaluation may be performed on the basis of an existing evaluation from said country.

3.2 Pedigree requirements

A stallion, three years old or older, must be registered in the Swedish Warmblood Association's General Studbook, section 1 or in the corresponding section of a foreign studbook that is recognized by ASVH Service AB in order to be eligible for evaluation. The pedigree has to be verified through a DNA test. Both the mare and sire must also be registered in this studbook and section or in the corresponding section of one of the foreign studbooks recognized by ASVH Service AB (see Appendix 1).

The dam's sire line must consist of qualified stallions i.e., a stallion's pedigree must contain four qualified generations (Qualified = four generations of evaluated breeding stallions that meet the requirements of the breed-specific regulations).

When a stallion does not fulfill these pedigree requirements but descends from a blood line of great interest and has remarkable, proven competition performance and/or offspring with unusual proven performance, the Inspection Committee can exercise the right to approve such a stallion for breeding in the Swedish Warmblood studbook.

4. INDIVIDUAL TESTING

A stallion can begin its individual testing at the age of three providing it fulfills the eligibility requirements described above. A stallion may undergo testing once a year.

The performance test of the individual is composed of several phases:

Phase 1. Conformation evaluation and veterinary inspection

Phase 2a. Performance evaluation with performance test for 3-year-old stallions. Provided the stallion passes the performance test for 3-year-old stallions he is graded with merit class B (see section 4.1) and becomes eligible for a covering license valid for one year. The stallion needs to be evaluated again at the age of four or later in order to become eligible for a covering license for six years.

Phase 2b. Performance evaluation with performance test for 4 and 5-year old stallions. Provided the stallion passes the performance test for 4- and 5-year-old stallions as a 4- or 5-yearold he is graded with merit class AB (see section 4.1) and becomes eligible for a covering license valid for 6 years on condition that the stallion's fertility is satisfactory and that no animal welfare/contagious disease restrictions are present.

Phase 3. Performance evaluation based on proven competition performance. This phase provides the basis for the last part of the individual testing. This phase is mandatory for stallions 6 years and older who have not participated in and passed a stallion performance test at the age of 4 or 5

and been granted a temporary covering license. Provided the stallion is graded with at least merit class AB he becomes eligible for a covering license valid for the same duration and under the same conditions as described in Phase 2b.

Thoroughbred stallions with proven merits from racing may be approved on a case-by-case basis. Age, merits and level of training are taken into account at the assessment of Thoroughbred stallions.

4.1 Quality grading/Merit class (assessed through individual testing)

Through assessment of the individual performance a stallion is graded and can be awarded any of the following Merit classes:

- B** A stallion that is currently under examination with approved results from the stallion performance test for 3-year-olds but has not yet completed the individual testing.
- AB** A stallion that has completed the individual testing, either by having passed the stallion performance test for 4- and 5-year-old stallions, or is graded based on his own competition performance. AB is normally valid for 6 years.
- EJ** A stallion that has completed its individual testing either in Sweden or abroad without reaching the requirements for AB according to ASVH Service AB's quality assessment; health wise, in the performance test or through proven competition performance. Such a stallion is permitted to be used for breeding, producing an offspring eligible for registration in the Swedish Warmblood Studbook appendix I (grey papers), provided that a *breeding certificate* has been acquired from ASVH Service AB and that the dam fulfills the pedigree requirements. This offspring has limited possibilities to partake in events and tests organized through ASVH Service AB, ASVH and affiliated member organizations.
- Kass** A stallion that does not fulfill the requirements according to Swedish Animal Welfare regulations (DFS 2004:22 and SJVFS 2008:26). Any stallion that has a defect with genetic background or that is a carrier of a certain genetic defect, which has a certain weakness of the conformation, a lowered fertility rate or presents the risk of infectious disease, is not permitted to breed in Sweden. Such a stallion is given the merit class **Kass** and cannot produce offspring eligible for registration. In special cases a suspected carrier of a genetic defect may be evaluated through its offspring or through DNA in order to establish freedom of genetic defect.
- INT** An INT classification (interim license) is awarded to stallions that have been imported after the specified time for original breeding evaluation and that would normally have been awarded breeding value **B** or **AB**. This classification is valid until the next official breeding evaluation takes place.

Upon awarding breeding value **B, AB, EJ** or **INT** a written report on the stallion's conformation and performance attributes shall be presented by the Inspection Committee and be incorporated into the official certificate of breeding evaluation. For stallions that have taken part in a stallion performance test arranged by a foreign studbook that is recognized by the Swedish Warmblood Association and/or have been evaluated for breeding in such a studbook, the latest conformation description shall be provided ASVH Service AB. If no inspection of the stallion's conformation has been done before, it must be inspected by the Inspection Committee of the Swedish Warmblood Association according to the same procedure as for stallions that participate in the stallion performance test arranged by ASVH Service AB, resulting in a written description of the stallion's conformation. To have such an inspection made outside Sweden, the owner or agent of a stallion is requested to contact the Swedish Warmblood Association. The inspection is made at the expense of the owner or agent of the stallion.

4.2 Health evaluation (veterinary inspection)

Veterinarian approval indicates that the stallion has passed an inspection by a veterinarian approved by the Inspection Committee. Furthermore, the stallion, at the earliest age of 2 ½ (earliest per the 1st of July), must have the mandatory x-ray examination according to specific instructions and has been found free of osteochondrosis in hocks and stifles. The stallion must be chip marked prior to and his identity must be established at the occasion when the x-ray examination takes place. All x-ray pictures must be marked with the stallion's registration number. The pictures or the x-ray evaluation are sent from the concerned clinic or veterinarian to ASVH Service AB to be evaluated by the appointed veterinarian. In case a result is contested the x-ray pictures will be sent to and evaluated by an impartial veterinary radiological expert. Only stallions with veterinary approval earn the right to move on to phase 2 in the individual testing process. A stallion that is not approved health wise according to Swedish Animal Welfare regulations (DFS 2004:22 and SJVFS 2008:26), or cannot be proven as free of a genetic defect will forever lose its permit to breed (**Kass**).

4.3 Conformation Inspection

The stallion is measured at the height of the withers and the circumference of the cannon bone. The conformation evaluation is based on the following five categories:

1. Type
2. Head, neck and body
3. Legs and correctness of movement
4. Mechanics of the walk
5. Mechanics of the trot

Each category is scored on a scale from 1-10. Scores may be given in half- point increments. A stallion must receive a minimum of 23 points for the first three

4.5 Performance test for 4-and 5-year old stallions

Phase 1 is carried out in the same way as for the 3-year-olds and with the same requirements described in section 4.3 to move on to phase 2b.

Phase 2b is carried out after which the individual testing is considered final for stallions that are awarded the merit class **AB**. Remaining stallions continue the individual testing at **Phase 3**. A stallion that is not approved as a 4-year-old may participate in the performance test again as a 5-year-old.

In Phase I of the test 4-year old stallions are tested in jumping and gaits under own rider (preliminary score). The test in jumping is either free jumping or jumping under rider. A stallion that is to be shown in jumping in Phase II of the test **must** be shown under rider in Phase I of the test. The owner/representative of the owner of a stallion that is to be shown in gaits in Phase II of the test may choose between free jumping and jumping under rider in Phase I. In Phase II of the test the stallion may be judged in regards to gaits (dressage) or jumping or in both disciplines. "Dressage stallions" participate in a test of gaits under saddle with a private rider (final score). Rideability is judged under specially appointed test riders in regards to suitability for dressage. "Jumping stallions" are tested in jumping under saddle with private rider (final score) and a test rider (jumper) for evaluation of rideability and suitability for show jumping. A stallion that is judged in **both** disciplines has the judging of gaits under private rider substituted with a final adjustment of the grades in gaits in regards to the performance under test rider.

Five-year-old stallions are judged in the same five categories as the 4-year-olds with the exception of the free jumping test for dressage stallions in Phase I of the test. It is substituted with a jumping test under saddle with private rider. The initial scores are preliminary and the final scores for jumping and gaits under saddle are awarded after the second test in **Phase II** of the test. Each category is scored on a scale from 1-10. Scores may be given in half- point increments.

A dressage index and a jumping index are calculated which are the basis for the grading of the stallion.

4-year-old stallions	Max points	Dressage (min)	Jumping (min)
<i>Conformation E (4)</i>	50	23*/38	23*
<i>Free jumping LH (4) = (LTF + LTA): 2</i>	10	5 (3 and 1)	–
<i>Jumping under saddle UH(4) = (2xHTF + HTA + RH):4</i>	10	5 (3 and 1)	8**
<i>Gaits (G) (4)***</i>	10	8 (8,5 and 9)**	5****
<i>Pedigree and suitability for breeding Hd and Hh</i>	2	1	1

Conformation E (4) = type + head, neck, body + legs + walk + trot

Free jumping LH (4) = (technique and ability (LTF) + temperament and potential (LTA)): 2

Jumping under saddle UH (4) = (2x technique and ability (HTF) + temperament and potential (HTA) + rideability (RH)):4

Gaits (4) = (walk + trot + canter under own rider + rideability under test rider): 4

RH = Rideability and talent under saddle by a test rider.

Jumping under saddle is graded on a scale from 1-10 points. A separate grade is awarded for technique and ability (HTF) and for temperament and potential (HTA).

Pedigree and suitability for breeding (Hd or Hh in dressage and jumping respectively) = 1 point awarded for the documented value of the pedigree in regards to each discipline. 1 point is awarded for the stallion's suitability for breeding depending on certain traits valuable to each discipline or if the pedigree contributes to increasing the gene pool. A maximum of 2 points can be awarded.

Dressage index (4) = (E -38): 2 + G x 2 + Hd minimum index to pass the test: 18

Jumping index (4) = UH x 2 + Hh minimum index to pass the test: 18

5 year old stallions	Max points	Dressage (min)	Jumping (min)
Conformation E(5)	50	23*/38	23*
Jumping under saddle UH (5)=(2xHTF+HTA +RH):4	10	5(3 and 1)	8**
Gaits G (5)***	10	8 (8,5 and 9)**	5****
Pedigree (Hd and Hh)	2	1	1

Conformation E (5) = type + head, neck, body + legs + walk + trot

Jumping under saddle UH (5) = (2x technique and ability (HTF) + temperament and general impression (HTA) + rideability (RH)):4

Jumping under saddle is scored on a scale from 1-10 points. A separate score is awarded for technique and ability (HTF) and for temperament and potential (HTA).

RH = Rideability and talent under saddle by a test rider.

G (5) = (walk + trot + canter under own rider + rideability under test rider): 4

Pedigree and suitability for breeding (Hd or Hh in dressage and jumping respectively) = 1 point awarded for the documented value of the pedigree in regards to each discipline. 1 point is awarded for the stallion's suitability for breeding depending on certain traits valuable to each discipline or if the pedigree contributes to increasing the gene pool. A maximum of 2 points can be awarded.

Dressage index (5) = (E -38): 2 + G x 2 + Hd minimum index to pass the test: 18

Jumping index (5) = (UH) x 2 + Hh minimum index to pass the test: 18

The following apply to both age groups (4 -and 5-year olds):

* See 4.3

6 years: Completed final round at designated championship shows for 5-year olds.
7 years: Completed final round at designated championship shows for 6-year olds
8 years: Placed five times in 1, 40 m or higher at national shows as a 7 yr old
9 years: Placed five times in 1, 45 m or higher at national shows as a 8 yr old
10 years: Placed three times in 1, 50 m or higher at international shows as 8-9 yr old
11 years and older: Placed three times in 1, 60 m at international shows

The minimum requirements for a stallion to be eligible for evaluation for breeding based on official show results in dressage are as follows:

6 years: Completed final round at designated championship shows for 5-year olds
7 years: Completed final round at designated championship shows for 6 –year olds
8 years: A minimum score of 70 % in Prix St Georg or MSv A as a 7 year old
9 years: A minimum score of 70 % in Intermediare I as an 8 year old
10 years and older: A minimum score of 67 % in Int II or Svår B1 as a nine year old
11 years and older: a minimum score of 67 % in Grand Prix

Note that the requirements for dressage stallions have to be fulfilled at least twice (two shows) with the exception of the young horse shows.

4.7 Stallions evaluated by a studbook recognized by the ASVH (see appendix 1)

4.7.1 Import of stallions

The eligibility requirements for foreign stallions regarding inspection, eligibility and merit classes are the same as those for Swedish stallions in the same age group. However, a foreign 4-5 year old stallion may be exempt from participating in the performance test if the following criteria are met:

Germany

A three year old stallion tested in Germany can only be approved based on the results from the German 30-day test. The stallion must have finished in the top 10 % or have reached an average score of 8.5 in either discipline. No partial score can be lower than 7. These results are valid for one year whereas all other final performance test results are valid for six years.

4-5 year old stallions must have finished in the top 10% in a 70-day performance test conducted by an ASVH recognized studbook. This applies providing the test is comparable to the Swedish stallion performance test in either of the two disciplines, dressage or jumping. An average score of 8.0 in the discipline where the stallion is approved and with no partial score lower than 7 must be achieved.

An alternate approval route include the results from the 30-day test combined with competition results evaluated on a case by case basis dependent on the age of the stallion.

Holland

The stallion must be approved by the KWPN (warmblood sport horse). It should have placed in the top 10 % among stallions of the same year and discipline. An average

score of 8.0 in the discipline where the stallion is approved and with no partial score lower than 7 must be achieved.

Denmark

The stallion must be approved by Dansk Varmblod. It should have placed among the top 20% among stallions of the same year and discipline at the 35-day test conducted by Dansk Varmblod, with a minimum total score of 800 in the discipline where the stallion is approved and with no partial score lower than 7. Three year old stallions fulfilling these criteria are awarded a one year approval. Further approval beyond a year, can be achieved either through merits from competition or additional stallion performance test results.

France

The stallion must be approved by the Selle Français and among jumping stallions of the same year rank in the top 10 %.

Belgium

The stallion must be approved by the BWP and among jumping stallions of the same year rank in top 10 %.

All other stud books recognized by the ASVH:

The corresponding criteria apply. Stallions are evaluated by the Inspection Committee on a case by case basis.

Stallions that do not qualify for the requirements stated above can be tested in the Swedish Stallion Performance test. Otherwise the merit class **EJ** will be awarded.

It is the owner's or representative's responsibility to provide official documentation of the results from the foreign breeding evaluation when applying for entry into the Swedish breeding evaluation program. In the event an import occurs after the deadline for the regular official evaluation, a temporary breeding class (**INT**) may be issued that is valid until the next scheduled official evaluation.

For a fee, the Inspection committee can perform an on-site inspection and provide a binding report summarizing the results of the evaluation prior to import.

4.7.2 Import of semen

Stallions that are eligible for evaluation as described in section 3 and approved for breeding in any of the Swedish Warmblood Association recognized studbooks (appendix 1) can be evaluated and graded for import of semen providing it fulfills the requirements stated in section 4.6 or 4.7.1.

It is the importer's duty to provide the following documentation to ASVH Service AB:

- Information on the health status including x-ray information of the stallion signed by an official veterinarian
- information on the stallion's fertility previous year regarding the current method of breeding

- official documentation from evaluation for breeding in the studbook where the stallion was first approved

A stallion that fulfills the requirements can be awarded breeding classification **B**, **AB** or **INT**. A stallion that does not qualify adheres to the same regulations as with an imported stallion regarding inspection. Awarded breeding classification is good for 6 years after final original performance test. Thereafter competition results and offspring evaluation are the foundation for breeding evaluation in Sweden.

Stallions that do not fulfill the requirements stated above, with or without an inspection will be awarded the breeding value **EJ** when registering possible offspring.

4.8 Exemption

The Licensing Committee may exempt a stallion from the requirements described above if the Committee find that the stallion is 'exceptionally interesting' from a genetic/breeding standpoint. The breeding value **B** or **INT** can be awarded and the stallion will be issued temporary approval.

10. Appendicies

Appendix 1

1. Studbooks Recognized by the Swedish Warmblood Association

Warmblood

Belgium

BWP

Denmark

Dansk Varmblod

France

SF (Selle Francais)

The Netherlands

KWPN (avd. RP)

Poland

Kwlkp

Sweden

ASVH

Germany

Hannoveraner Verband

Landesverband Bayerischer Pferdezüchter (BAVAR)

Rheinisches Pferdestammbuch (RHEIN)

Pferdezuchtverband Baden-Württemberg (BAD-WÜ)

Pferdezuchtverband Brandenburg-Anhalt

Pferdezuchtverband Rheinland-Pfalz-Saar (ZWEIB)

Pferdezuchtverband Sachsen-Thüringen (SATHÜ)

Verband der Züchter des Holsteiner Pferdes (HOLST)

Verband der Züchter und Freunde des Ostpreussischen Warmblutpferdes Trakehner Abstammung (TRAK)

Westfälisches Pferdestammbuch e.V. (WESTF)

Thoroughbred

General Studbook

Arabian

World Arabian Horse Organization (WAHO)

Anglo-arabian

Conference International Anglo Arab (CIAA)

Pedigree requirements for section 1 in the General Studbook have to be fulfilled.
Warmblood horses from other studbooks may be registered after special application.