

COLT AND STALLION CLASSIFICATION

INTRODUCTION

The New Zealand Warmblood Horse Association (NZWHA) has a classification process in place to inspect colts and stallions which are registered by the NZWHA and conform with its breeding regulations for inclusion in the stud book and the issuing of a classification certificate to enable the stallion or colt to become a licensed stallion.

Only progeny of approved and licensed stallions can be considered for inclusion in the NZWHA stud book.

It is proposed that future breeding stallions which are put up for selection are fairly inspected to ensure the highest quality horses are passed and certified for breeding.

From time to time stallions and colts purchased overseas and classified by their respective breed societies which are recognised warmblood breed organisation will be given a license to breed, pending the approval of the NZWHA Committee.

2. TRAINING AND TURN-OUT

Before a colt/stallion selection inspection the colt should be trained in presentation at the in-hand and halt at the walk and trot. He should be accustomed to standing still while people move around him, pick up his feet, look at his teeth etc. They should also be familiarised with the free movement phases and should be sufficiently fit to complete this part of the classification.

Colts should be presented in the best body condition possible, neither fat nor thin, with healthy coats and well cared for hooves. Tidy pulled and plaited tails and plaited manes are customary and enhance the general impression.

Handlers should be familiar with the colt selection rules and procedural requirements. While the style of dress chosen by handlers is optional it is recommended that it be smart, neat and functional. Clothing should allow adequate freedom of movement and footwear should be sturdy and suitable for running.

3. COLT SELECTION REGULATIONS: ACCEPTANCE FOR SELECTION

The NZWHA reserves the right to reject any colt either before, during or after any part of a selection process at his/her discretion if any of the requirements outlined are not met or upon recommendation of the NZWHA Committee, Classification Panel or Veterinary Surgeon. This result will be final.

4. OWNERSHIP AND REGISTRATION

All owners or lessees of colts must be financial members of the NZWHA and the horses must be registered with the NZWHA.

5. APPLICATIONS AND FEES

Applications in writing must be made to the Registrar of the NZWHA on the form supplied not later than one month prior to the scheduled selection day. The fee for the selection procedure is as determined by the NZWHA Committee from time to time (currently \$300 application and membership fee, \$100 inspection fee and \$100 DNA fee) and payable to the NZWHA. The full fee is to be paid in advance and is not generally refundable. Pedigree horses must have a minimum of four generations of proven breeding which is acceptable to the NZWHA.

Warmblood colts must be sired by approved or licensed warmblood stallions out of classified warmblood stud stock or classified mares. Identifiable register colts are **not** eligible for inclusion in the stud book.

6. AGE

Colts must be aged three years and over.

Special consideration will be given to the inclusion of colts outside the specified age range upon written request to the NZWHA Committee. The outcome of such request shall be determined at the absolute discretion of the NZWHA Committee and no further correspondence will be entered into after a decision has been made.

Colts granted permission to participate may be presented twice, i.e. at two separate classification days.

Age is as calculated from 1 August, not from the actual date of birth.

7. BRANDS

The Warmblood WV brand and/ numerical brands are to be applied prior to classification.

8. VETERINARY EXAMINATION.

The colt or stallion must be examined by a qualified Veterinary Surgeon in accordance with the standard examination procedures in conjunction with the NZWHA specifications during the week prior to or immediately after the colt classification date.

A Veterinary Surgeon may be engaged by the NZWHA for veterinary testing on the day of colt selection and, if so, must examine all colts presented on that day.

The NZWHA colt selection veterinary examination requirements must be provided by a chosen Veterinary Surgeon for this purpose. Examination is conducted at the owner's/lessee's expense.

All requirements must be met.

Colts which are not passed as free of defects and unsoundness will not be considered further.

9. FOREIGN SUBSTANCES

The owners/lessees warrant that colts are presented for assessment free of prohibited substances including but not limited to anabolic steroids, pain killers, stimulants and tranquillisers. Random drug testing may be conducted at the classification.

The NZWHA reserves the right to have blood and/or urine samples taken for testing of foreign substances from any colt or stallion whose drug-free status may reasonable be considered to be in doubt at any time during the selection process at the owner's expense.

10. CLARIFICATION OF IDENTITY

Colts should be presented at the selection venue in good time to have their brands and markings checked against the original registration papers which must be produced by the owner or lessee for this purpose.

11. FAILURE TO APPEAR

Applicants will be notified of a date, location and time of a classification by the Registrar. Failure to present a nominated colt or stallion or to complete the test on the appointed day must be covered by a written explanation or veterinary certificate (where applicable). The NZWHA Committee has the right to decide whether the colt or stallion may be re-presented at a later date.

12. SELECTION PANEL

Colts and stallions will be assessed by a panel of accredited classifiers appointed by the NZWHA Committee.

13. EQUIPMENT AND ASSISTANCE

Colts should be led in a simple bridle with one bit and optional nose band. No other means of assistance, restraint or control will be allowed except for during the individual led movements and free movements when a second person and a whip are permissible. Boots and bandages are permitted in the free jumping phase of the selection process.

14. ORDER OF APPEARANCE

Individual appearances for assessment purposes will be made in random order with that order advised in good time prior to presentation..

15. REQUESTS FROM CLASSIFIERS

All reasonable requests made by the classification panel at any time and during any phase of the selection process must be complied with.

16. TERMINATION

Either the owner, lessee or handler or the classification panel may stop the classification procedure at any stage in the event of unnecessary risk of danger to the health and safety of horse or human.

17. SCORES

Warmblood colts or stallions must gain a minimum average score of 70% as per the classifier score sheets with no mark less than six.

18. RESULTS

Results will be available as soon as practical after the conclusion of the classification and the final score will be communicated to the owner/lessee/handler as soon as possible. The NZWHA reserves the right to announce the results and to make all results and scores public. Participation in the classification process implies the permission of owners/lessees for the results of their colt/stallion to be released.

All score sheets are the property of the NZWHA. No unauthorised persons including owners/lessees/handlers may have access to the actual score sheets nor to the marks awarded or comments made by the classifier. These remain confidential. A copy of the results will be mailed to the owner/lessee with the original classification results held by the Association.

19. DNA TYPING

After 1 August 2003 all new stallions registered with the Association must be DNA-typed, at the owner's expense, prior to being used for breeding. An official copy of the DNA type shall be filed with the Association, by the owner, or by an approved laboratory. This rule will also apply to previously registered stallions which are used for AI using TS (teaser stallions).

No certificates will be issued or progeny registered until all fees are paid and the DNA typing requirements are fulfilled.

20. REGISTRATION OF PROGENY

Only progeny conceived after a colt/stallion has passed classification are eligible for registration as the get of an approved sire. Retrospective registrations will be considered on a case by case basis with proof of breeding.

21. FAILED COLTS/STALLIONS

Failed colts/stallions may be re-presented for a second classification at the next available stallion/colt classification but within 24 months of the first classification. If the colt/stallion

fails for a second time any further representation for classification will be approved only on a case-by-case basis by the NZWHA Committee.

22. DECLARATION

The NZWHA and individuals constituting the Association accept no responsibility in respect of any claim for damages and consequence for personal injury or property damage whatsoever included but not limited to any injury, loss or damage to any horse handler, owner, lessee, groom or spectator.

Every competitor and/or exhibitor must comply with the appropriate legislation in the Health and Safety in Employment Act 1992. Each competitor and/or exhibitor must supervise and control their animals at all times and shall be liable for any hazard created, accident illness or damage caused by the action of themselves at the venue of the event

23. COLT/STALLION SELECTION PROCEDURE

Group Presentation

All colts and stallions will be paraded in hand at the walk at the commencement for the selection presentation.

A preliminary evaluation of their walk type and general impression will be made after which the horses will leave the designated arena area together and will be required to re-enter on the specified order for individual inspection.

24. INDIVIDUAL PRESENTATION

24.1 Static Assessment

The first phase of the individual assessment requires the presentation of the horse in an area specified by the classification panel for evaluation of type and conformation. The handler should place the horse at a distance of 4-5 metres from the classifiers and present him so that all four legs can be seen from both sides. The classifiers will move around the horse as necessary.

24.2 Movement in Hand

The first movement phase involves the horse being led first at the walk and then at the trot in a large triangle A-B-C-A. No side of the triangle shall measure less than 40 metres or more than 60 metres in length. At the discretion of the selection panel this exercise may be repeated and modified. The horse should be allowed to walk as freely as possible. To this end the handler should be someone who can move well enough themselves to show the horse to maximum advantage.

24.3 Canter

The horse shall be shown in canter. This may be under saddle, on the lunge or in a free canter if conditions allow.

24.4 Free Jumping

The colt shall be shown in Free jumping in a lane set up along overseas stallion testing guidelines There will be 3 jumping efforts, the first being a small upright approx 50cm. followed by an upright of approx 90cm after 2 stride (6.90m) and two strides (7.2m) to an oxer which will vary in height upwards to test technique and scope. The final oxer has no limits in height but will start at around 1.10m high and 1m wide.

25. CONCLUSION OF SELECTION PROCEDURE

All horses may be paraded again or as requested by the classifiers.

COLT CLASSIFICATION SCORING

The classification scoring is rated as follows:

- Conformation: 20%
 - Led movement type and general impression: 60%
 - Free jumping 20%
- TOTAL 100%

SCORING

This is done on the basis of 1 to 10 as follows:

- 10 Excellent
- 9 Very good
- 8 Good
- 7 Fairly good
- 6 Satisfactory
- 5 Sufficient
- 4 Insufficient
- 3 Fairly bad
- 2 Bad
- 1 Very bad

Specifically the classifiers will be looking for the following traits:

1. Trot

Cadence (suspension of movement), elasticity, hind leg action, rhythm, front shoulder.

2. Walk

The walk must be ground covering, relaxed and regular with strides being even and foot falls correct in sequence, not lateral or pacing. Freedom of shoulders and haunches and a supple back must be evident.

3. Canter

Three-beat regular showing cadence and balance with suppleness in the rear quarters.