



SPSS Information Sheet 6

SPSS Mare Grading Information

There will be a blended approach to SPSS Gradings in 2021. We are running full in-person mare (& stallion) in August (COVID restrictions permitting) and will also offer mare eGrading (by video) from 1st July onwards.

When and Where

The 2021 "in-person" stallion grading venues & dates are:

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|-----------------------------------|--|
| Saturday 21 st August | Tyddyn Farm Equestrian, Chester Road, Mynydd Isa, Mold, Flintshire CH7 6TA |
| Sunday 22 nd August | Ladykirk House Stables, Ladykirk, Berwick-upon-Tweed, Scottish Borders, TD15 1SU |
| Monday 23 rd August | Richmond EC, Breckenbrough Farm, Brough Park, Richmond, North Yorkshire DL10 7PL |
| Tuesday 24 th August | Home Farm, Hothorpe, Theddingworth, Lutterworth, Leicestershire LE17 6QX |
| Wednesday 25 th August | Writtle College, Cowwatering Lane, Writtle, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 3SD |
| Thursday 26 th August | Glebe Farm, Whitestone, Devon EX4 2HP |
| Friday 27 th August | Catherston Stud, Croft Farm, Over Wallop, Stockbridge, Hampshire SO20 8HX |

Early entry is advised as spaces will be allocated in order of receipt of entries and once capacity is reached at each venue further entries will be placed on a waiting list. If there is space, late entries may be taken, please call the office on 07703 566066 to check. Late entry supplement £10 per pony for grading entries.

Withdrawals before the closing date will have their entry fee either refunded or the entry can be carried forward to another date/venue (including in another year). Withdrawals after the closing date will only be refunded if the place can be filled from the waiting list but the entry can be carried forward once to another date/venue (including in another year). Note that any registration (overstamping) and membership fees paid will neither be refunded nor carried forward.

Flu Vaccination Requirements (for in-person gradings only)

No mare may take part in an in-person SPSS Mare Grading unless she has a current vaccination against Equine Influenza which complies with the following conditions:

- Two injections for primary vaccination, not less than 21 days and not more than 92 days apart, are required;
- A first booster injection must be given within seven months after the second injection of primary vaccination;
- Subsequent booster injections must be given at intervals of not more than one year, commencing after the first booster injection;
- The most recent booster injection must have been given within the six calendar months prior to the horse arriving at the event (but not within the 7 days immediately before the event).

The Record of Vaccination(s) in the mare's passport must be completed by an appropriate veterinary surgeon, signed and stamped line by line in accordance with the FEI rules including a vaccination within 6 months (but more than one week) before the grading.

Eligibility & Requirements

We accept entries to our grading for any breed of mare provided they are no more (and don't mature above) 158cm and are at least 2.5 years old. Mares on or close to the height limit may have to provide confirmation of height (from a vet) and young mares with horse breeding that look like they may mature over height may have formal confirmation of their grading deferred, so it may be better to leave bringing them until they are older and their mature height is clearer – please contact us to discuss if you are in any doubt. With all sizes of pony/horse, as well as assessing the conformation, paces and temperament, the judges also look at suitability as a dam of sports ponies and the pass mark is 65%. Which Studbook a successful mare is placed in depends on how complete her pedigree is and her score. More information about the SPSS Mare Studbooks can be found in our Rules (www.sportpony.org.uk/docs/SPSSRules.pdf).

If she is accepted at our grading, then the SPSS will issue passports to her progeny, including any foal at foot (whether or not the sire is SPSS graded). However, please note that the SPSS does not issue passports to any foals that are eligible for registration as a pure-bred pony with any Mountain and Moorland (indigenous pony breed) studbook listed with DEFRA. Other than this, the SPSS will issue passports to any progeny of an SPSS graded/licensed mare (including part-bred Mountain & Moorland) and pure-bred Mountain & Moorland progeny can be overstamped by the SPSS once passported by their native breed society.

Assessment Process -In-person Grading

At the in –person grading, each mare is assessed in hand for confirmation then in hand and loose for paces. Mares are not normally seen loose jumping or under saddle. Mares are NOT disadvantaged by not doing these stages. For mares with a foal at foot, if the owner is concerned that letting the mare loose may risk the safety of the foal, then that stage too may be omitted – however, it does limit the mare’s opportunity to show her paces. For more information on aspects such as turnout and presentation, please see our website “Information & FAQ” page - www.sportpony.org.uk/info.shtml

Video assessments

The video footage needs to be sufficient for the judges to assess conformation and paces. Your mare will not be assessed on the quality of the video footage or your editing skills, so keep it simple, and don’t worry, videos taken on a smart phone or tablet are perfectly suitable for this. Equally, you can use any type of arena or other surface you have available. If you don’t have an arena, a straight bit of paddock is absolutely fine, as long as the grass is nice and short.

The first section of video will cover the conformation assessment. For this, you need some hard standing, and a straight bit long enough to show a few steps of walk and trot. You will show your pony standing up and then in hand walking and trotting away from and towards the camera. When your pony is stood, please include footage of both sides from side on as well as from the front and back (from the top of the hindquarters all the way down).

The second section of video will cover the walk, trot and canter assessment. Loose jumping MUST NOT be included. You will need to get some footage of your pony on both reins in all three gaits. Try and get as much footage side on as possible, as this makes it easiest to assess. For this part, you can use a fenced arena if you have one available, but if not, a flat paddock with short grass is equally fine.

The walk is usually best shown in hand, make sure you take long and active strides, as this will encourage your youngster to do the same. The trot should be shown loose and in hand and the canter shown loose. Ideally, please show at least a 20m circle of walk in hand and 20m circle of trot in hand, then a decent length of video of your pony free in trot and canter on both reins.

Costs

- **Entry Costs.** To summarise entry costs:
 - You need to be a member - £30 annual individual membership, £40 annual family, £250 individual life, £350 family life. Form here www.sportpony.org.uk/membership.shtml
 - She needs to be registered with us, a one-off fee of £25. If you wish to do this ahead of entering the grading, then please use the form here www.sportpony.org.uk/registration.shtml#Forms. Or, if you wish to register her when entering for grading, then just send back the grading entry form with the higher fee of £105 as this includes the £25 registration fee.
 - You need to enter her for grading - £80 (for mares with SPSS passports or who are already SPSS registered/overstamped); £105 for all others (includes the one-off £25 registration fee). An entry form can be downloaded here once entries open - www.sportpony.org.uk/events-entry-forms.shtml
 - You can send all the forms/fees together and we will accept payment by cheque or bank transfer – or you can join as a member and do the registration ahead of entering for the grading.
 - There is an additional charge for the optional Mare Performance Testing of £50.
- **Post Grading Requirements.** If she passes then you will need to provide a DNA hair sample for us to store in case testing is required (in which case the cost of testing is £50), unless she has already had a DNA profile done that either you can supply or we can access. We intend to take hair samples from all mares at the in-person gradings to make it easier for everyone.



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Mare Grading Pathway

