



SPSS Information Sheet 5

SPSS Stallion Grading Information

When and Where

The 2019 stallion grading venues & dates are:

Part 1

- Saturday 14th September AM - Sidewood Dressage, Sidewood Farm, Forth, Scotland ML11 8ET
PM - Newton Rigg College, Penrith CA11 0AH
- Sunday 15th September AM - Brookfield EC, Brindle, Preston, Lancashire PR6 8PG
PM - Equiti Riding Centre, St Asaph, Denbighshire LL17 0AA
- Monday 16th September AM - Kings EC, Sturts Farm, Winslow, Bromyard, Herefordshire HR7 4SR
PM - Coleg Sir Gar (Pibwrlwyd Campus), Pibwrlwyd Ln, Carmarthen SA31 2NH
- Tuesday 17th September AM - Fairlight Stud, Clapton in Gordano, Somerset BS20 7RJ

Part 2

- Friday 27th September PM - Wellow Equestrian, Scott's Farm, Wellow, Newark, Notts NG22 0EQ
- Saturday 28th September AM - Queenholme Bloodstock Stables, Sponge Drove, Willingham, Cambridge CB24 5JN
PM - Hadlow College EC, Hadlow, Tonbridge, Kent TN11 0AL
- Sunday 29th September AM - Catherston Stud, Croft Farm, Over Wallop, Stockbridge, Hants SO20 8HX (TBC)
PM - Hyperion Equestrian, Exeter, Devon EX6 7YQ

Entries will open by 1st July and close on the 24th August 2019. 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.

Eligibility & Post-Grading

We accept entries to our grading for any breed of stallion provided they: have a full 3 generation pedigree in their passport (exceptions to this are dealt with on a case by case basis); are no more (and don't mature above) 158cm; and are at least 2.5 years old. With all sizes of pony/horse, as well as assessing the conformation, paces and temperament, the judges also look at suitability as a sire of sports ponies and, along with a pass mark of 75%, this does make the assessment quite stringent and not all candidate stallions are accepted but each one is judged on his own merits. If he is accepted at our grading and fulfils the post grading requirements (ie vetting & DNA see below), then he can stand as a SPSS stallion from 2019 and we would also issue passports to any progeny born from 2018. 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 stallion (including part-bred Mountain & Moorland). Note that stallions for which evidence of their own and/or their progeny's performance under saddle (the level required will depend on age of stallion/progeny) and of the quality of their youngstock will generally be given an initial 3 year license to allow time for them to prove themselves. Note that when reviewing youngstock quality particular weight being given to SPSS evaluation results but BEF Futurity results and, for pure-bred native ponies, breed society approvals/results/medals/etc will also be

considered. At the end of the initial license period, the stallion's owner is invited to provide evidence to see if he can be elevated to Permanent Approved status or if his license should be extended to allow him more time to prove himself.

At the Grading

At the grading, each stallion is assessed in hand for confirmation, then in hand and loose for paces and loose down a jumping lane (normally 3 fences). Then, in general:

- 2 year old stallions are not ridden
- 3 year old stallions may be ridden if they are ready but those that aren't are not disadvantaged
- We expect 4 year old stallions will be ridden, but the judges will take into account how long they've been backed when assessing them
- We expect older stallions to be ridden but will consider exceptions on a case by case basis. Exceptions will normally only be made when an older stallion has proven progeny.

All entrants are seen in-hand/loose before any are seen ridden. For more information on aspects such as turnout and presentation, please see our website "Information & FAQ" page - www.sportpony.org.uk/info.shtml

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
 - He needs to be registered with us, a one-off fee of £50. 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 him when entering for grading, then just send back the grading entry form with the higher fee of £200 as this includes the £50 registration fee.
 - You need to enter him for grading - £150 (for stallions with SPSS passports or who are already SPSS registered/overstamped); £200 for all others (includes the one-off £50 registration fee). An entry form can be downloaded here - 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.
- **Post Grading Requirements.** If he passes then you will need to have him vetted (we have a specific form) or supply a recent vet's certificate (that equates to our form and specifically includes freedom from hereditary disease and defects). A DNA hair sample has also to be supplied for testing (current testing cost is £50), unless he has already had a DNA profile done that either you can supply or we can access. Stallions on or near our height limit of 158cm may have to provide proof of height before or after attending the grading and, if successful, a JMB height certificate once at mature height (normally age 7) and before a permanent licence is issued. Should a stallion prove to be over the height limit at any time after grading then SPSS graded status will be withdrawn and the entry and other fees will not be refunded.
- **Annual Costs.** Then, every year that you want to stand him at stud with SPSS covering certificates and be promoted by the SPSS (on the website & display boards) during the year, you will need to be a member (current costs as above) and there's a £50 annual covering fee. You will also need to have completed any post grading/acceptance requirements. One free covering /insemination book is included in the registration fee, if required. Further books may be purchased from the Head Office throughout the year if required. Note that there is an additional fee to include a stallion in the annual printed SPSS Stallion Guide but this is optional.

If you have any questions, please email the Grading Tour organiser, our Studbook Manager, Lucy Sheldrake, on either entries@sportpony.org.uk or studbookmanager@sportpony.org.uk

Alternatively, you can call the Studbook Office on 07703 566 066

