



# SPSS Information Sheet 5A

## SPSS Stallion eAssessment Information

Stallions can be presented for a pre-grading virtual assessment “eAssessment” that, should they pass, will allow them to cover as interim stallions for the year of assessment and the following stud season and issue SPSS Covering Certificates for this period. They will then be required to be presented at a full SPSS stallion grading before the end of the year following eAssessment.

Entry can be anytime. Please send your video(s) showing conformation and paces (correctness and athleticism), completed entry form, membership application/renewal form (if not a current member) and scans/clear photos of the pedigree & other key pages in the passport to us via WeTransfer ([wetransfer.com](http://wetransfer.com)). The fees due can be paid either by bank transfer (details on forms) or by posting a cheque. Once all the necessary information has been received and the fee has been paid, there are 3 stages to acceptance.

**Stage 1** The SPSS judges will review the video(s) and make a decision on whether or not the stallion can proceed to the next stage of the eAssessment or not.

**Stage 2** The owners of stallions permitted to go forward to the next stage will have to:

- (a) provide evidence that he is free from hereditary disease or defects either by getting a vet out to complete the SPSS vetting form or by providing a recent vet’s certificate (that equates to our form and specifically includes freedom from hereditary disease and defects) or evidence from another studbook/breed society that he has passed an equivalent vetting (this should be in the form of a copy of the vets form supplied to that society).
- (b) either supply a copy of an existing DNA profile for your stallion or send us a DNA hair sample (taken by a vet) and £50 (by cheque or bank transfer) so that we can get a DNA profile done.
- (c) for stallions on or near our height limit of 158cm, provide proof of current height and, following acceptance at the full stallion grading, 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 Should a stallion prove to be over the height limit at any time after grading then SPSS graded status will be withdrawn and the entry and other fees will not be refunded.
- (d) send the stallion’s passport into the SPSS Studbook Office

**Stage 3** The stallion owner will be formally notified that their stallion may issue SPSS Covering Certificates for the year of eAssessment and the following year and provided with a book of 10 certificates. The stallion will be promoted alongside the graded SPSS Stallions but MUST attend a full “in-person” SPSS Stallion Grading before the end of the year following eAssessment where they will be fully assessed, including loose jumping and ridden (depending on age). There will be no additional entry fee to attend the full in-person Grading and the SPSS team will make every effort to consider the location of these pre-entered stallions when planning events, especially if there are 3 or more in a region.

Please note that:

- Loose jumping is NOT a requirement of eAssessment and should NOT under any circumstances be included in videos but is mandatory at the subsequent full grading.
- Only stallions that have been accepted at a full SPSS grading are eligible for the Stallion Champion title in any year.
- There will not be any scores, detailed feedback or mark sheets from the eAssessment process.
- Stallions that are not accepted at Stage 1 but the judges feel may mature and develop to be acceptable given time may be presented at a full SPSS Stallion Grading in the future at no further entry fee or may choose to receive the partial refund detailed in FEES below.

### **Stallion eAssessment and subsequent full Grading Entry Fee:**

- £250 for stallions already SPSS passported or overstamped.
- £300 for other stallions – includes £50 registration fee for overstamping of ungraded stallions not already SPSS passported or overstamped.

Note that:

- You need to be a current SPSS member. £30 annual individual membership, £40 annual family, £250 individual life, £350 family life. Form here [www.sportpony.org.uk/membership.shtml](http://www.sportpony.org.uk/membership.shtml)
- £150 will be refunded if a stallion is rejected at the eAssessment stage.

### **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 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% at the full grading, 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 an SPSS stallion and we would also issue passports to any progeny born from that year.

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 young stallions which are accepted at a full SPSS stallion grading will generally be given an initial 3 year license to allow time for them to prove themselves and provide 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.

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. Older stallions which have such evidence at the time of the full grading can be given Permanent Approval status from the beginning.

### **Video Requirements - What do I need to do?**

The online entry system will open on 1st July. This means that if you have several ponies you would like to enter, you can spread them out a bit, making it more manageable for you.

Your stallion 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. There are links to example videos on our website for you with some useful hints and tips to show you what to watch out for.

Above all, please ensure you stay safe and adhere to the latest government guidelines including maintaining appropriate social distancing. We have designed this year's approach with that in mind.

The first section of videos will cover the conformation assessment. For this, you need some hard standing, and a straight bit long enough to show as 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 videos 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. Think about the practicalities of having to catch your pony in a large field, and choose one that is not too big, with good, safe fencing. Please avoid anywhere with long grass or tall weeds (or get them mowed first!), as this will obscure parts of the movement.

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 stallion free in trot and canter on both reins.

Happy Filming! If you have any questions or want some further advice, we are only every a phone call away, so do not hesitate to get in touch - plus we have included links to sample videos on our website [www.sportpony.org.uk/grading20](http://www.sportpony.org.uk/grading20)

## Preparation for the Full Stallion Gradings

### Flu Vaccination Requirements

No stallion may take part in a full SPSS Stallion Grading unless it has a current vaccination against Equine Influenza which complies with the conditions considered necessary that year. Currently these are:

- 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 stallion'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.

### At the Full 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](http://www.sportpony.org.uk/info.shtml)

### Costs post acceptance at eAssessment

- **Membership.** You need to be a member to stand a stallion and present one at a full SPSS Grading.
- **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). The first year's annual covering fee is included in the eAssessment entry fee then it's £50 per year for subsequent years. 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.

### Questions

If you have any questions, please email us on [sportsponies@gmail.com](mailto:sportsponies@gmail.com) or call the Studbook Office on 07703 566 066



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## Stallion Grading Pathway

