

# British Skewbald and Piebald Association



*Everything for the Coloured Horse Enthusiast*

## **GRADING RULES and ENTRY FORMS**

**Grading Officer**

**B.S.P.A., Stanley House, Silt Drove, Tipps End,  
Welney, Cambs PE14 9SL**

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**GRADING IS OPEN TO SPECTATORS**

**NO DOGS ALLOWED · CHILDREN MUST BE SUPERVISED**

**There will be a panel of three graders who will mark  
independently.**

The organisers of stallion and mare gradings reserve the right  
to refuse entry without explanation.

Applicants must read these grading rules thoroughly.  
(Please read Help Sheet on page 8)

Entry into the grading scheme constitutes agreement  
to abide by these rules.

January 2009

## PROCEDURE ON ARRIVAL

1. Report to Chief Steward and inform of the whereabouts of the animal.
2. Do not leave the animal unattended at any time until grading is completed.
3. You will be informed, in advance, of your grading times. Should you have any problems with the given times, please inform us **immediately** and we will try our utmost to help.
4. Handlers must wear numbers, that will be issued to them, when leading/riding their animals, if over 20 entries.
5. Please allow plenty of time, ask if in doubt on procedure.

## BENEFITS OF GRADING

The object of grading is to ensure that all breeding stock is sound, and will enhance their type. We are aware that conformation goes hand-in-glove with soundness; potentially unsound and badly conformed stock is of little value to breed from.

### PLEASE NOTE – IMPORTANT

Exhibitors are reminded to read the Grading Rules thoroughly. By signing the entry form, they confirm that the Grading Rules have been read and declare all information given to be correct to the best of their knowledge and belief. They also acknowledge, that is a condition of entry, that no liability whatsoever is accepted by the B.S.P.A., its judges or officials for any accident, injury or damage to animals, vehicles, equipment or persons connected with the grading. Additionally, B.S.P.A. is not liable for any loss of value to the animals or loss of income, either hypothetical or actual, arising out of the decision of the judges at this grading. Signing of entry form also constitutes agreement to abide by the grading rules of B.S.P.A. and to accept that the judges' decision is FINAL.

An animal deemed by the grading panel to be unsound for any reason will be asked to be re-presented at a later timer – a veterinary report is required.

The health and safety of all animals is paramount. Misuse of whips is prohibited. The graders reserve the right to discontinue if they feel these rules are breached or if at any time during **any** stage of the grading process an animal becomes distressed

## GRADING RULES

1. All stallions and mares must be registered or have registration pending. (Any stallion failing the grading will have the registration fee refunded if its registration is pending).
2. All handlers/owners must be full paid up members of B.S.P.A. and horse registered in either name.
3. Grading is open to mares and stallions, 3 years and over, with no upper age limit. Age taken from 1st January of the current year.
4. All animals will come pre-vetted; a veterinary certificate for use by the appointed veterinary surgeon, who should be the veterinary surgeon who normally attends the animal, will be supplied with the entry form. Stallions require a 5-stage vetting. Mares require a 3-stage vetting. **All sections to be filled in.**
5. Veterinary certificates must be sent to entry office no later than two weeks prior to grading date. No retrospective certificates will be accepted.
6. Veterinary certificates that have been carried out no longer than two months prior to the grading date will be accepted, as long as they conform to veterinary rules. **Veterinary reports for purchase are not acceptable.** Veterinary reports will be retained by B.S.P.A. and are non-returnable – make sure you have a duplicate for your records.
7. The decision of the grading panel is final. No objections will be allowed except on grounds of animal eligibility.
8. The results of animals passing the grading will be published in the society's newsletter.
9. The society endorses the results of the grading panel.
10. No stallion/mare of any type may be handled by anyone under the age of 16 years.
11. No substance other than normal nutrients may be administered to the stallion/mare, which could by their nature affect the performance or condition of the animal during the grading process. This is defined by Jockey Club rules and the offender will be disqualified (random blood samples may be taken).
12. It is mandatory that all animals attending the Grading be covered by at least third party insurance.
13. Stallions/mares failing grading may be represented if their score is 3 (three) marks from the pass %.
14. If any animal, at any stage of the grading, is deemed to be behaving in such a way as to be a danger to the handler, any member of the grading panel, or any other person attending the grading in any capacity, that animal will be disqualified and asked to leave the premises. No refund of entry fees.

15. Full entry fees must be paid in advance by cheque or postal order. Late entries: The cheque **must clear** before results are issued.
16. Any stallion which has been granted full graded status by a Full Member of the World Breeding Organisation **may be** crossed over at BSPA discretion. All documents must be presented.
17. Disgraceful conduct by members of the society participating in or attending a grading session may be asked to leave the premises and have their membership revoked.
18. Any objections must be accompanied by a fee of £200. 50% of this fee will be refunded if the complaint is upheld. Complaints may **only** come from paid up members of B.S.P.A. and must be lodged within 24 hours from receipt of grading score. **No complaints will be allowed after this time. The decision of the grading panel is final.**
19. The colour and markings or blue/wall eyes will not be penalised.
20. Stallions/colts registered with the Shetland Pony Society must hold a Shetland Pony Society licence before applying for grading.
21. Injuries that affect the animal in any way must be accompanied by a veterinary report. Blemishes or injuries do not prohibit an animal from grading but the animal must be sound (see rule 12). Animals that are permanently lame from injury cannot be graded.
22. Stallions over the age of 12 years will not be required to jump and will be inspected in-hand and may be ridden. It is optional for them to be ridden. They will be loose schooled.
23. Animals **not** fulfilling the pedigree requirements (e.g. one generation verified pedigree), who in the opinion of the grading committee have demonstrated and can prove their own exceptional performance or that of their progeny, may with the committee's approval be presented for grading as a meritorious example of type.
24. Requests for refund of grading fees will only be accepted when accompanied by a veterinary certificate. A 50% deduction for administration fees applies.
25. **All grading results will be sent to the owner in writing, within 14 days from grading date. Results will, under no circumstances, be available on the day.**
26. Pass rates are 70% for stallions, 65% for all mares.
27. **It is a condition that stallions which pass their grading undertake to issue society covering certificates. Failure to do so will result in the licence being revoked. Stallion owners must be current members (renew annually) to receive covering certificates.**
28. No prolonged dialogue will be allowed regarding grading results.
29. If in the Grader's opinion there is a veterinary problem, a second opinion will be sought at a specialist veterinary practice at stallion owner's expense.
30. A DNA sample will be required from all entrants regardless of whether if it is already on file with another society. DNA fees will not be refunded

## PREPARATION & PRESENTATION

1. Please make sure animals coming forward for grading are well handled, used to having their limbs touched, and used to a show ground environment.
2. All animals must be in a fit condition. Excessively fat or poor animals may find their condition reflected in low marks.
3. No stallion may be exhibited in stallion harness.
4. All stallions/mares must be bitted. (No double bridles)
5. All animals will be expected to trot up in-hand in a controlled and correct manner. Any animal deemed out of control will be asked to retire (rule 15).
6. All animals must be presented in 'show condition', i.e. plaited, hogged or traditional.
7. All animals must be clean, in good condition and recently shod or trimmed. Handlers/owners must understand that first impressions are paramount. All tack must be clean and safe.
8. All handlers must wear:  
**Hard hats with chin straps must be worn** conforming to British standards.
9. No hind boots may be worn when jumping.

### **Loose schooling**

All animals, except broodmares with foals at foot, will be free schooled to assess their natural paces and presence. No boots may be worn.

Sportshorses, Hunters, Warmbloods and Competition/WH Ponies **will be required to loose jump.** The fence height will start at 2ft and will not be allowed to exceed 3ft 9 inches\*. The height of the jump shall be at the owner's discretion with animals being marked on approach and technique **not** on the height of the fence jumped. Loose jumping will be on the left rein and will consist of three fences, which will be jumped twice as a practice followed by four assessed attempts. Animals refusing three times will have no marks allocated. Stallions grading as Sportshorses must submit a print-out of BSJA BHT BD results within two years of Grading, any failure to do this may mean the Stallions is recategorised The jumping lane shall be set by the Assessors **and may not be moved by any entrant.** It will be set for A) Ponies 153cm & under; B) Horses over 153cm. Jump distances will be as recommended by the BSJA.



## Jumping

Front boots may be worn, running martingales may be used. Small spurs only may be worn but **no spurs on ponies 153cm and under**. Jumping whip permitted.

## Ridden Display

Snaffle, double bridle or pelham, running martingale permitted with snaffle. No boots. Simple display walk, trot, canter **on both reins**, also extended canter required. Rein back not mandatory.

The graders will be assessing trainability, submission, paces and general manners during this section, **not level of schooling**.

## Jumping Heights – Loose

\*Jump heights will start at 2’3” and will not exceed 3’9”/

Jump heights will be at owner’s discretion.

\* *B.S.J.A. heights for loose schooling will be observed for those stallions wishing to jump under B.S.J.A. Rule. A B.S.J.A. observer will attend the grading. See B.S.J.A. Guidelines.*

Please note: For B.S.J.A. Assessment ponies are 148cm and under.

## 9. Dress for handler/rider:

**In-Hand:** String boots or shoes and trousers (not jeans) or suit, shirt & tie, hacking jacket **or** sweatshirt (over shirt & tie) of a plain colour (white, navy, dark green), no motive on sweatshirt. Remember you are running, so a jacket may be too hot etc. Gloves, hard hat, show cane/short whip. All animals must be bitted.

**Jumping:** Hard hat, shirt & tie, jacket or sweatshirt (as above), jodhpurs, beige or canary. Riding boots (long or short), jumping whip (not exceeding 30”), spurs (small), **no** spurs on ponies.

## GENERAL RULES FOR MARES

1. **All** mares will be required to walk and trot around the school on both reins. Extended trot strides **must** be shown (Please ensure the **handler** is fit enough to complete this assessment.)
2. Mares that are in foal or with foal at foot will also trot around school.
3. All mares to be assessed in-hand for conformation, movement and temperament and marks awarded accordingly and be schooled loose to assess paces.
4. In foal mares must have a certificate of pregnancy or have it noted on their veterinary certificate.
5. Mares that have been covered, no earlier than one month prior to grading, but have not been scanned or blood tested in foal, will have their grading certificates retained until a pregnancy certificate is submitted, should they pass the grading (only applicable to mares grading as broodmares).
6. Foals at foot must exceed four weeks of age.
7. For the final conformation assessment all mares will return to the in-hand arena in a group. This will take place at the end of in-hand assessment and prior to ridden assessment (separate to stallions) time permitting.
8. No mare that is in foal or with foal at foot will be ridden.
9. Ridden assessment times will issued prior to grading.

## GENERAL RULES FOR STALLIONS

1. All stallions will be required to trot and walk a pattern in indoor school.
2. All stallions will be presented in-hand before the grading panels where its conformation, movement and temperament will be assessed and marks awarded accordingly, and shown loose.
3. Marks out of 10 (ten) will be allocated, **to all animals attending the grading**, as follows:
  - Feet (10)
  - Foreleg (10)
  - Hindleg (10)
  - Front: Head/Neck/Shoulder (10)
  - Body: Barrel/Back/Quarters (10)
  - Action (true to type): (10)
  - Correctness of type (10)
  - Movement/Action (15)
  - Temperament/Manners (5)
  - Presence: (5)
  - Masculinity/Femininity (5) TOTAL: 100 max.
  - Jumping: Approach (10), Technique (10) TOTAL: 120 max.
4. All stallions will return to the in-hand arena in a group (separate to mares) for the final conformation assessment (see mare rule 7).
5. Please see definition of types for jumping requirements.
6. Stallions grading as Sportshorse/Pony will be expected to compete under BSJA, BE, BHT within 2 years. Failure to do so may result in grading status being revoked.
7. Stallions passing Grading as 3 year olds will be required to return for a Ridden Assessment prior to entering any BSPA Ridden Show.

## DNA TESTING

A DNA sample will be taken at the completion of the grading process. DNA profiling is the modern equivalent to finger printing, enabling a permanent record to be kept of an unalterable characteristic of your horse/pony. The procedure: DNA is extracted from a non-invasive sample of the animal, e.g. mane or tail hair, **which will be taken at the completion of grading**. The sample will be processed if animal passes, a refund of DNA fee if it fails.

## ALL ABOUT 'ELITE'

BSPA have the following 'Elite' Scheme for Graded Mares and Stallions

### WHAT IS 'ELITE' STATUS?

'Elite' status is required demonstration of success over a sustained period of performance either as a Sportshorse or at National Championship level. Three categories are in operation: 'Performance' Elite, 'Showing' Elite and 'Broodmare' Elite.

### WHAT IS 'PERFORMANCE' ELITE?

Performance elite is attained when a graded mare or stallion reaches one of the following verifiable levels in affiliated disciplines:

Show Jumping – Grade B or above;

Dressage – Medium Level or above;

Eventing – Intermediate Level or above.

Verification of the above levels will be required from the relevant governing bodies – the British Show Jumping Assoc, British Dressage Group, British Horse Trials Assoc or has represented GB in any discipline. There are also categories for driving, western, distance riding.

### WHAT IS 'SHOWING' ELITE?

Showing Elite offers 'Show' horses the same status as Performance Horses and is dependent on points gained by a proven showing record over 3 or more years at BSPA National Championship shows.

Graded mares will require an accumulation of a minimum of 1000 points, whilst graded stallions will require a minimum of 2000 points.

Should an animal gain the required minimum points in two season it must compete a further season and gain an additional 500 points to qualify.

Points may also be accumulated from any progeny's results at National Championship Shows. Points gained by first-generation progeny of either the sire and/or dam would be awarded at 50% of progeny's points, whilst second-generation progeny would count at 25% of progeny's points and generations thereafter at 20% of progeny's points. Verifiable parentage is required and DNA matching may be required to be provided at cost of the owner.

### WHAT IS 'BROODMARE' ELITE?

For BSPA Graded Broodmares who produce a BSPA Graded Stallion or whose combined progeny achieve at the BSPA World Championships of Colour, an accumulation of 4000 points (this may be achieved over 3 or more years), OR is the dam of a BSPA registered progeny achieving Elite Performance status.

### When are points eligible from?

Showing Elite points for graded mares can be accrued from as early as the first National Championship Show attended where points were gained. Stallions may only count points gained as a yearling or two year old if they are graded as a three year old. From Jan 99 stallions graded after three years old may only accrue points from date of grading awards.

### What points are awarded?

Points are awarded as follows:

Qualification for Nationals – 50pts.

Class Placing – 1st 100pts, 2nd 50pts.

Qualifier finals – 1st 150pts, 2nd 75pts.

Type Championship – champ 50 pts, Res 25pts. (Stallion, Mare, Hunter, etc.)

Ring Championship – Champ 150pts, Res 75pts. (Pony, Horse, Youngstock, Traditional.)

Working Hunter Supreme Championship – Champ 250pts, Res 125pts.

British Coldblood Supreme/Traditional Championship – Champ 250pts, 2nd 125pts.

Supreme Championship – Champ 300pts, Res 150pts. Grand Champions +300pts

### WHAT DO I DO TO OBTAIN 'ELITE' STATUS?

If you think your graded mare or stallion is eligible for Elite status then you should apply to the Society Secretary giving details of your animal together with a print-out of either competition results from the relevant governing body, or a list of results from 3 or more National Championship shows, not necessarily consecutively which we will then check, which will be verified by the Society.

It is acceptable for an animal to achieve the Performance Elite in addition to the Showing Elite, but must fulfil BOTH criteria.

## GUIDELINES FOR BSJA JUMPING STALLIONS

1. All stallions that wish to register with the BSJA should be assessed over the following heights by a Judge approved by the BSJA:

Horses before 1st June:

4 years old	Height 95cms min
5 years old	Height 1.15m min
6 years old plus	Height 1.20m min

Horses after 1st June exceeding 148cm:

4 years old	Height 1.05m min
5 years old	Height 1.15m min
6 years old plus	Height 1.20m min

Ponies 148cm and under:

4 years old	Height 85cms
5 years old plus 128cms	Height 85cms
138cms	Height 95cms
148cms	Height 1.05m

Loose schooled and/or ridden. If only ridden, a minimum of 7 fences which must include a double. **All horses 5 years and over, must be jumped ridden. After 1st June each year, all 4 year olds, must also be jumped ridden.**

2. Horses that have been graded since 1st January 2005, by only loose jumping over fences, must return before the end of their **4th year** for a final ridden jumping assessment.

Please consult with BSJA for distances between fences if required.

**Horses will not be permitted to wear boots on hind legs, in any BSJA Jumping Assessment.**

3. The BSJA Stallion Show held in the autumn will have a selection of competitions for BSJA Graded Stallions. The show also enables stallions to be **assessed ridden** for their jumping ability if they have passed a breed society's grading that **did not include ridden jumping**. These BSJA Stallion Jumping Classes can count as an assessment for registration at the standard rate for 12 months, prior to the horse attending and passing a full Breed/Performance Society Grading. *In the case of horses registered in Weatherbys Thoroughbred and Non Thoroughbred Register these horses will need to go forward for a full grading with another Breed/Performance Society.*
4. Stallions will only be graded on the BSJA database with details supplied by the relevant Breed/Performance Society.

## GUIDELINES FOR VETERINARY INSPECTIONS OF STALLIONS BY BODIES AFFILIATED TO THE NATIONAL STALLION ASSOCIATION

**OBJECT** The object of the examination is to exclude stallions which may pass on veterinarily undesirable traits. Allowance may be made for obvious or proveable injury. The examination will be carried out using a similar procedure to the five stage examination for purchase.

**APPEALS** In the event of dispute or doubt concerning the examination by the original veterinary surgeon, the stallion may be referred by the original veterinary surgeon to a recognised centre of excellence of the stallion owners choice for a second opinion. This second opinion will be the financial responsibility of the stallion owner and its result will be binding.

### STATIC INSPECTION

**CONFORMATION** General appearance is a matter for the breed society, details conformation is a matter for the veterinary surgeon.

**HEAD MOUTH:** There should be no evidence of malformation or misalignment of teeth and/or jaws, parrot mouth (defined as there being no overlap of incisor tables) cleft palate of any degree.

**EYES:** There should be no evidence of abnormality of the lens, iris or retina.

**THROAT** There should be no signs of operation for wind defects.

**LIMBS** There should be no evidence of limb or foot abnormalities and/or disease likely to compromise the performance of offspring.

**GENITALIA** Both testicles should be of normal texture, freely mobile and correctly orientated within the scrotum. There should be no evidence of inguinal or scrotal hernia.

**BODY** There should be no evidence of umbilical hernia.

## MOVING INSPECTION

**IN-HAND** Movement will be studied at walk and trot, turning and backing. The stallion will be examined for locking patella, stringhalt, shivering and wobblers disease. Any lameness will be investigated for cause.

**LUNGEING OR UNDER SADDLE** Movement will be studied at canter. The stallion will be examined for evidence of laryngeal hemiplegia. Any lameness will be investigated for cause.

**NOTES** At the examining veterinary surgeon's request, special techniques such as endoscopy, radiology or haematology may be used if thought necessary to fulfil the purpose of the examination.

Although this protocol is extensive it is not exclusive. The examining veterinary surgeon may bring to the attention of NASTA any condition displayed by the stallion which in his or her opinion may conflict with the purpose of the examination.

**PREPARATION** The stallion should be well handled and capable of being lunged and having his feet picked up.

## DANGEROUS OR BADLY BEHAVED STALLIONS WILL HAVE THEIR EXAMINATION DISCONTINUED

### DEFINITIONS OF TYPE

(R = riding display required)

1. WARBLOOD. Imported or British-bred horses with European or British papers from recognised societies; must have three generation minimum verified parentage. R
2. SHETLAND (pure-bred). Three generation verified pedigree. Colts/stallions **must be licensed** as a stallion with the Shetland Pony Society, proof will be required.
3. HUNTER. 15hh and over. One generation pedigree. R
4. HACK/RIDING HORSE. Lightweight types, usually 3/4 TB, showing minimum one generation verified pedigree, over 14.2hh. R
5. SPORTHORSE. Exceeding 15hh. Examples: Warmblood X, TB X thought suitable for dressage, showjumping or eventing. Sportshorses must have a minimum three generations verified pedigree. R
6. UTILITY. All horse or pony with no verified parentage. R
7. AMERICAN BREED//TYPE. Registered with their appropriate society. Minimum three generation verified pedigree. No height restriction. R
8. PART-BRED ARAB. 12 1/2% minimum Arab blood, three generations minimum verified pedigree. No height restriction. R
9. MINIATURE. Registered with their appropriate society. Not exceeding 34". One generation verified pedigree.
10. RIDING/RIDDEN/SHOW HUNTER PONY. Quality lightweight or middleweight type pony with no feather; shown plaited and trimmed. One generation verified pedigree. Under 15hh. R
11. COB/TRADITIONAL. shown with full mane and tail with an abundance of feather. R
12. COB/SHOW. Exceeding 14.2hh but not exceeding 15.1hh, shown hogged and trimmed. R
13. CON/VANNER. Usually considered the traditional type of a tradesman's horse of pre-motor days. Of mixed breeding, active and capable of a good trot. Frequently has upright shoulders and may exceed 16hh. Can be shown traditionally with full mane, tail and feather – or pulled tail and hogged mane. R or driving display.
14. NATIVE TYPE (Part-bred). No height restriction. R
15. TROTTER/DRIVING TYPE. No height restriction. Will be required to give a long rein display/driven to a vehicle.
16. SPORTS/COMPETITION PONY (not exceeding 15hh)/WORKING HUNTER PONY (not exceeding 15hh). Thought to be suitable for dressage, showjumping, P.C. eventing. R

# GRADING HELP SHEET

Fill in the Entry Form Completely.

Get your stallion/mare vetted, make sure the vet fills in forms correctly and signs the declaration. Send completed forms and cheque to BSPA, Stanley House, Silt Drove, Tipps End, Welney, Cambs PE14 9SL (cheques payable BSPA).

Make sure that the animal is properly prepared, will trot up in-hand, and stand still to be assessed. Practice loose schooling, if your horse is to be assessed for jumping get in plenty of practice, if you need an assistant to help you on the day make sure they and you know what you are doing.

## WHAT WILL HAPPEN ON THE DAY?

You will find a Grading Steward and tell them you have arrived.

When it is your turn (you will have been given a starting time) make sure your horse is ready in plenty of time. Your horse/pony will be stood up ready for the in-hand inspection on concrete, you will walk away then walk back towards the Graders, then trot away and trot back towards them again, you may be asked to do this more than once.

Directly after in-hand inspection you will go into the indoor school and will be asked to walk and trot around the school on both reins again in-hand, the Steward will give you instructions on what to do (please be fit enough to do this!), this takes a maximum of five minutes.

Directly after the in-hand inspection you will loose school your horse/pony, you will unclip the lead rein from the bridle, and your animal will trot and canter around the indoor school on both reins showing its paces to its best advantage (galloping flat out is to be avoided). **At this stage you will be in charge of encouraging your horse/pony to perform, if you need assistance bring your own helper, this is essential.**

If you are Grading as a Sports Horse or Pony/Warmblood or Competition/Working Hunter Pony or want to be BSJA assessed the loose jumping part of the Grading takes place now (remember for BSJA assessment loose jumping is for 3 and 4 yr old stallions only, older stallions will jump under saddle).

You may put boots on your horse at this stage if you wish to, make sure you have an assistant to help, you will get three practice jumps that will not be counted towards the assessment, then up to four assessed attempts. The Graders will inform you if they have seen enough to make an assessment of jumping ability.

Stallions will then come back into the indoor school as a group (maximum five at a time) to be assessed for temperament and behaviour, they will walk and be asked to trot individually – mares will do the same in an all female group time permitting.

The final stage is the ridden/driven assessment. All stallions/mares will be ridden at walk, trot and canter on both reins with some extension required. Horses/ponies are being judged on temperament, behaviour, movement and rideability. Ponies not exceeding 133cm will not be ridden/driven.

Those stallions 5 years and over being assessed for BSJA will be required to jump to heights as instructed by the BSJA (see enclosed guidelines).

No broodmare will be ridden or jumped. Stallions 12 yrs and over will be loose schooled only.

**No results will be available on the day**

# ***ELITE GRADING***

*Only for graded mares and stallions*

## **Performance Elite • Showing Elite**

*For further details contact your grading officer*

**Grading Officer**

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