

## **Hannoveraner Verband e.V. STATUTES (valid May 11, 2022)**

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## **Statutes of the Hannoveraner Verband e.V.**

These Statutes regulate the Verband's activities as well as the breeding work of the Hannoveraner Verband, in the latter case subject to specific provisions in the respective Breeding Programs.

The Statutes are composed of legal provisions governing associations as well as breeding provisions. Further detailed provisions are included in the Breeding Programs, which do not constitute part of the Statutes.

Furthermore, the Hannoveraner Verband has established a Code of Conduct ("Good Governance") which applies equally to voluntary office holders as well as to full-time employees. It does not form an integral part of the Statutes but stipulates the fundamental principles of responsible actions within the Verband.

The strength of the Hannoveraner Verband is the knowledge and commitment of its breeders. The structure of the Verband offers various possibilities to become involved in the management and development of the Verband - in the Board, the Committees and in the Supervisory Board. Appointment to these positions should take place in such a way that all Regional Societies are represented appropriately.

## **A Legal Provisions Governing Associations**

### **A.1 Name, Registered Office and Financial Year**

- A.1.1.** The Breeding Society bears the name Hannoveraner Verband, hereinafter also referred to as Verband. It is registered in the Register of Societies. The registered office of the Verband is located in Verden (Lower Saxony, Germany). The Verband's sign is the legally protected brand-mark of the Hannoveraner Main Studbook.
- A.1.2.** The financial year is the calendar year.

### **A.2 Purpose**

- A.2.1.** The purpose of the Verband is the promotion and support of breeding and keeping horses in accordance with the provisions of the Statutes as well as the respective Breeding Programs.
- A.2.2.** The Verband exclusively pursues purposes which are in compliance with these Statutes. Any profits are to be used solely for purposes stipulated in the Statutes. The organs of the Verband work in an honorary capacity, members do not receive any share in potential profits or any other form of contribution from the Verband's funds. The Verband, furthermore, will not favor any persons through non-related administrative expenditures or disproportionately high remuneration. The Verband finances itself predominantly by means of subscriptions and fees.
- A.2.3.** The objective of all breeding measures is to breed Hannoveraner, the Hannoveraner half-blooded race horse and Rheinländer horses ("Rhenish Riding Horse"). The purpose of the Verband and the breeding aim are to be attained in particular by:
- organization and implementation of the respective Breeding Programs,
  - the keeping of the Studbooks according to the respective Breeding Programs,
  - advising members of the Verband on all questions pertaining to the breeding, keeping and feeding of horses, the combating of ill-health etc.,
  - furtherance of sales of breeding and riding horses by means of suitable measures,
  - support and promotion of young breeders,
  - the holding of auctions, licensings, performance tests, shows and supplying material for exhibitions.

### **A.3 Membership**

The Verband has regular and associate members.

#### **A.3.1. Regular members (Hannoveraner breeders)**

These are natural persons, partnerships or legal persons of private or public law (for example groups of breeders). These members are owners of at least one breeding horse registered in the Studbook of the breeds supervised by the Breeding Society, and have their main place of business (in which the member's horse(s) is/are kept on a permanent basis) in the geographical area where the Breeding Program applies and also participate in the Breeding Program of their breed(s).

#### **A.3.2. Associate members (Hannoveraner partners)**

These are supporting members who support the aims and efforts of the Verband in a non-material or material way without being breeders of horses of the breeds supervised by the Verband, or Hannoveraner breeders for whom, following acquisition of membership, conditions according to A.3.1 of the Statutes cease to apply.

#### **A.3.3. Young breeders**

Hannoveraner young breeders can be children and adolescent persons between the ages of 8 and 21, without being owners of a registered breeding horse.

#### **A.3.4. Honorary members**

These are persons appointed on account of having rendered extraordinary services to the breeding of the breeds supervised by the Verband. Honorary membership can be held both by Hannoveraner partners and Hannoveraner breeders.

### **A.4 Acquisition of Membership**

Breeders with their main place of business within the Verband's geographical area of activity, who fulfil the pre-conditions for sound breeding work, are entitled to membership if they recognize the Statutes as well as the relevant Breeding Program.

Membership applications are to be submitted to the Verband's Office in writing. Furthermore, membership applications can also be submitted via other communication channels, if such channels are provided by the Verband for this purpose. Legal persons and partnerships must submit their statutes with the application. In the case of membership of legal persons or partnerships (for example groups of breeders), one person with sole right of representation must be nominated to the Verband together with the membership application. Nomination is to be submitted to the Verband in the form of a joint written declaration from all persons authorized to represent. If several owners share a breeding horse without being a group of breeders, only one owner can acquire regular membership, as it is only possible to accept one membership per breeding horse. The other owners of this breeding horse have the opportunity to acquire extraordinary membership. In such a case the owners of the horse decide who is to become an ordinary member by means of a joint declaration submitted to the Verband in written form.

Decisions concerning new applications are taken by the Board. Whatever the outcome, the applicant is to be informed about the decision regarding acceptance or rejection in text form.

Honorary members are appointed by the Delegates Assembly on the basis of proposals made by the Board.

## **A.5 Loss of Membership**

Membership terminates in the case of the following events or alterations.

- Membership of natural persons ceases through death, membership of legal persons and partnerships when the entity is dissolved. It is also possible to terminate membership. Notice is to be submitted at least in text form to the Verband's Office. Furthermore, membership terminations can also be submitted via other communication channels, if such channels are provided by the Verband for this purpose. Membership is to be terminated to the end of the financial year.
- The membership also terminates if the Board declares the exclusion of a member. The Board is entitled to implement such a measure if a member is behind with payments, despite two reminders (the second reminder being in writing with a reminder period of two weeks). A member can also be excluded from the Verband by resolution of the Board, in the case of gross violation of membership obligations, fundamental breeding principles or the interests of the Verband. Prior to passing of the resolution, the member is to be given the opportunity of explaining himself in writing within an appropriate period. The member's statement is to be read aloud at the meeting of the Board prior to passing of the resolution. The resolution on exclusion, including reasons for the decision, is to be sent to the member by registered mail. The member has the right to appeal to the dispute settlement body against the exclusion resolution passed by the Board. Termination of membership is suspended pending outcome of the appeal. The appeal must be submitted to the Board in writing within one month of receipt of the exclusion resolution. If the member does not exercise the right of appeal against the exclusion resolution or misses the deadline for appeal, he/she thus accepts the exclusion resolution with the consequence that membership is terminated. Re-admission to the Verband following exclusion is only possible after a period of one year at the earliest, providing the excluded member can present facts indicating that the reasons for exclusion no longer exist.

Should conditions according to A.3.1 of the Statutes cease to be valid for a member following acquisition of membership as a Hannoveraner breeder, their membership will be transformed into a membership as a Hannoveraner partner according to A.3.2 of the Statutes at the end of the financial year in which the conditions ceased to be valid. If conditions for regular membership according to A.3.1 of the Statutes ensue subsequently in the case of a Hannoveraner partner or a Young Breeder, their membership will be transformed into membership as a Hannoveraner breeder according to A.3.1 of the Statutes upon fulfilment of the conditions. Simultaneously the provision applies that the membership fee for membership as a Hannoveraner breeder is payable for the entire financial year. Fees already paid will be taken into account.

## **A.6 Rights and Obligations**

### **A.6.1. Rights and Obligations**

Members of the Verband have, in particular, the following:

- membership and participation in the Breeding Program,
- eligibility for election to the organs and positions of the Verband, providing they are regular members,

- registration of their pure-bred breeding horses as well as their pure-bred progeny in the Main Section of the Studbook of the breed, providing conditions for registration are fulfilled and the breeder participates in an approved Breeding Program,
- recording of their horses in an additional Section of the Studbook providing the Breeding Program provides for an additional section,
- issuing of animal breeding certificates for breeding horses that are participating in a Breeding Program of the Verband,
- issuing of a written confirmation of registration for their horses that are registered in an additional section of the Studbook
- participation in performance tests and breeding evaluations according to the Breeding Program as well as provision of the latest results of the performance tests and breeding evaluation of their breeding horses on request and depending on availability,
- free choice concerning selection and breeding match of their breeding horses,
- exercise of ownership rights regarding their breeding horses,
- access to all services made available by the Verband to the participating breeders within the scope of the Breeding Program,
- participation in determining and further developing the Breeding Program according to the provisions set out in the Statutes, providing they have been elected to the appropriate Committees,
- the right to appeal to the dispute settlement body pursuant to A.7 against decisions made by the Verband when executing the Statutes and the Breeding Program, if the rights of the member in question are personally and directly concerned, as well as
- accessing contracts and other agreements of the Verband with third parties at the Verband's Office, under strict adherence to data protection law and providing such documents concern their personal breeding matters.

#### **A.6.2. Obligations of Members**

All members have, in particular, the following obligations:

- to adhere to the Statutes as well as the respective Breeding Programs of the Verband, to uphold the statutory duty of allegiance to the Verband and not to do anything which violates the purpose of the Statutes and might damage the authority of the Verband,
- to present the registered horses and their progeny to bodies of the Verband and their representatives, provide any information that serves to support breeding, as well as to provide access to inspect stud breeding documents,
- to carry out the evaluations required for implementation of the Breeding Program and to support its implementation and, if necessary, to take part in the required performance tests with their animals and participate in the measures determined by the Verband within scope of the Breeding Program.
- to provide all necessary data truthfully, in the proper form and due time for implementation of the Breeding Program. This obligation of the member in particular includes releasing - completely and free of charge - and transferring performance and health data as well as data relating to covering, insemination and other biotechnological measures, genomic information and breeding evaluation, as required for the Breeding Program and keeping of the studbook.
- to provide data, for example from veterinary examinations, so as to set up a database, and to provide genetic material of the mares, stallions and foals in order to focus breeding work on the criteria complex "health" as well as all other characteristics relevant for the breeding aim. Based on acknowledged scientific methods, this data is processed for specific improvement of the criteria defined in the breeding aim.
- to acquiesce to direct transmission of the pedigree test results from the testing laboratory to the Verband,
- to ensure that identification of the foal takes place within the set period according to legal provisions,
- to permit publication of any data relevant for breeding and relating to all horses which they have bred or are/were in their ownership,
- to pay contributions, fees and levies as stipulated by the society bodies,
- to comply with livestock breeding directives and animal protection rights,
- to keep themselves informed about genetic defects including suffering relevance as well as genetic characteristics concerning the horse breed(s) bred by them,
- to save all breeding-relevant documents for a period of at least 5 years.

### A.6.3. Rights and Obligations of the Verband

The Verband is entitled and obliged to take any measures relevant for pursuing the purpose of the Verband. Therefore, the Verband is in particular

- responsible for the proper implementation of the Breeding Programs in accordance with the Statutes, the correct and complete recording of pedigree and performance data, proper keeping of the Studbook, performance testing and breeding evaluation as well as legally correct identification of the horses registered in its Studbooks.
- obliged to comply with data protection regulations and only to pass on data to third parties if it is necessary for the statutory execution of the Breeding Program or on the basis of legal requirements.
- obliged to arbitrate disputes according to A.7 of the Statutes.
- obliged to carry out work in such a manner that the rights of the members are observed and all members are treated equally.
- obliged to store the breeding relevant data for at least 10 years, providing there are no legal stipulations to the contrary.
- obliged to grant access to all regular members, on request, to inspect contractual agreements with third parties at the Verband's Office, as far as their breeding matters are personally and directly affected and no infringement of data privacy interests of third parties is involved.
- obliged to make services within the scope of the Breeding Program for the breeds of the content-related field of activity exclusively available to members. The Verband is entitled, however, to undertake action on behalf of non-members, e.g. if a non-member has a legitimate interest or a concern exists that breeding work could be compromised.
- entitled, subject to livestock breeding regulations, to collaborate with other breeding societies in the area of breeding evaluation. Equally, the Verband is entitled to collaborate with other agencies or third-party service providers or to incorporate them into its task fulfilment procedure as far as this is necessary for the Verband in execution of its statutory tasks.
- obliged to publish the fundamental principles of the Breeding Programs, for the purpose of which it keeps the Indigenous Studbook, on the Verband's website and to inform the subsidiary breeding organizations in a timely manner should there be any changes.
- obliged to inform the regular members (Hannoveraner breeders) participating in a Breeding Program about approved changes within their Breeding Program in a transparent and timely manner.

### A.7 Dispute Settlement

The Board is to establish a dispute settlement body, whose members are to be approved by the Delegates' Assembly. The dispute settlement body consists of one delegate and two further regular members. Board members are not members of the dispute settlement body. The members of the dispute settlement body are appointed by the Board for a period of five years. In order to be able to substitute one or more members in specific cases where bias may exist, the Board is to appoint one deputy per member of the dispute settlement body. The deputies are also to be approved by the Delegates' Assembly.

The dispute settlement body is responsible for regulating disputes

- between members of the Verband and
- between the Verband and its members,

which ensue from the execution of the Breeding Programs or these Statutes.

The dispute settlement body can impose the following disciplinary measures:

Reprimand, penalties, temporal prohibition of exercising voluntary work within the Verband, temporary or permanent exclusion from the Verband. It can impose procedural costs on the participants. Furthermore, it can take appropriate measures to preserve the legal and correct execution of the proceedings.

Details concerning the disciplinary measures and procedure itself can be regulated by dispute settlement provisions.

The decision of the dispute settlement body, including reasons for the decision, is to be sent to the parties concerned by registered mail. The losing party is entitled to submit an appeal against the decision to the Delegates' Assembly. The decision of the dispute settlement body is suspended pending outcome of the appeal. The appeal, including reasons for the appeal, must be submitted to the Verband's Office in

writing within one month of receipt of the decision. Providing an appeal is submitted in time, the Board will present the matter at the next Delegates' Assembly for resolution concerning the appeal. If the member does not exercise the right of appeal, does not provide reasons for the appeal or misses the deadline for appeal, they thus accept the resolution with the consequence that the decision becomes final. It is prohibited to resort to ordinary courts without permission of the Verband, as long as the sphere of competence of the dispute settlement body is justified.

## **A.8 Use of Data**

To enable the Verband to fulfil its statutory tasks, the member as a Hannoveraner breeder authorizes the Verband to request all relevant data concerning the execution of the Breeding Program, even if the data have been collected by a third party, and assert its rights concerning data access and disclosure of data. The Verband will only make use of this for statutory purposes within the internal relationship to the member, and under adherence to all legal requirements. The Hannoveraner breeders give permission to the Verband to pass on all data relating to their breeding horses, if the Verband finds it necessary within the scope of breeding work, the fulfilment of statutory tasks and in breeding cooperation with other breeding societies, or for task fulfilment of other involved organizations and agencies (e.g. accounting offices, insemination stations etc.).

The power of attorney is considered granted on commencement of membership. The power of attorney for the Verband which is connected with this provision also applies to members who are already registered, as from the date when it comes into force. Should third parties demand further evidence concerning the power of attorney, the member is obliged to provide the Verband with this, after notification that the data is to be used for statutory purposes (e.g. for central animal database).

## **A.9 Members' Subscriptions and Scale of Fees**

Members' subscriptions and the scale of fees shall be stipulated by the Members' Assembly and published on the Verband's website.

Annual membership subscriptions as well as annual contributions for registered stallions and mares are due and payable annually on 15th January of each respective financial year.

## **A.10 Organs and Structure of the Verband**

Organs of the Verband are:

- the Delegates' Assembly (A.10.1),
- the Board (A.10.2),
- the Supervisory Board (A. 10.3),
- the Breeding Committee (A.10.4),

### **A.10.1. Delegates' Assembly (Members' Assembly)**

**A.10.1.1.** The Delegates' Assembly consists of the regular members of the Verband elected as delegates by the Horse Breeding Clubs, the chairpersons of the Regional Societies and a maximum of 20 delegates from the Regional Society Hannoveraner International. Every recognized Horse Breeding Club is to send at least one delegate. Furthermore, the number of delegates to be sent by each Horse Breeding Club is calculated as the rounded quotient based on the number of regular members of the respective Horse Breeding Club (dividend) divided by fifty (divisor). If, for example, a Horse Breeding Club has 278 regular members, this Club elects and sends six ( $278 / 50 = 5.56$ ) delegates.

The horse breeding clubs outside Germany are excluded from the above regulation for the election of delegates. They belong to the Regional Society "Hannoveraner International" and elect a maximum of 20 delegates in their Regional Assembly in accordance with the above quotient.

Recognition of a Horse Breeding Club by the Board of the Hannoveraner Verband requires a minimum number of 25 regular members (Hannoveraner breeders) of the Horse Breeding Club in question.

Recognitions already granted remain unaffected.

A Regional Society may present a maximum of 75 delegates.

Members of the Board and the Supervisory Board are not delegates. They participate in the Delegates' Assembly according to their statutory rights and obligations. If a chairperson of a Regional Society becomes a member of the Board of the Hannoveraner Verband, he ceases to be a delegate. He will be replaced as a delegate by the deputy chairperson of the Regional Society.

- A.10.1.2.** The Board calculates the number of delegates each Horse Breeding Club is to elect to the Members' Assembly. The basis for this is the number of regular members of the Club per 01 January of the current financial year in which the elections of the Verband's delegates take place.
- A.10.1.3.** Delegates shall be elected for a period of four years by the Members' Assemblies of the Horse Breeding Clubs. A member is only eligible for election if, at the time of election, they have been a member of the Delegates' Assembly for less than 16 consecutive years. Periods of office prior to 2020 are only counted at 50%. After the maximum period of office, re-election is only possible if the person in question stood down for one period of office, involving a minimum period of at least two years. In the case of the election of a delegate to the Board or the Supervisory Board, as well as in the case of delegates resigning during the ongoing period of office, a by-election is required for the remaining period of office of the delegate who resigned.
- A.10.1.4.** A resolution is passed on the basis of the majority of the "yes" and "no" votes cast. In the case of parity of votes the application is to be rejected..
- A.10.1.5.** The regular Delegates' Assembly meets once a year within the first six months of the financial year. Further meetings of the Delegates' Assembly shall be called at the request of the Supervisory Board, the Board, 1/5 of the Verband's members or 45 delegates of the Delegates'.
- A.10.1.6.** The Delegates' Assembly is convened by the Chairperson of the Supervisory Board or his Deputy 14 days beforehand, under inclusion of the agenda in text form (email or letter). The period of notice begins on the day after the letter of invitation was sent out. For regular elections to the Supervisory Board, the Board or the Breeding Committee, a candidate list - compiled by the Supervisory Board - is to be attached to the agenda. Delegates can propose additional candidates to the Supervisory Board up to seven days prior to the Delegates' Assembly. The names of these nominated candidates are to be passed on to the delegates prior to the Delegates' Assembly. Each Delegates' Assembly which has been convened in a proper manner shall be capable of passing resolutions..
- A.10.1.7.** Each delegate has a vote. Transfer of votes is only permissible for the delegates of the Regional Society Hannoveraner International, with the number of votes which can be transferred to one delegate being limited to.
- A.10.1.8.** All elections in the Delegates' Assembly take place by a show of hands with a simple majority of the "yes" and "no" votes cast. Voting by ballot paper is to take place if such a procedure is requested by a delegate. If voting is taking place to elect persons and no candidate achieves an absolute majority in the first round, a run-off vote is to take place between the two candidates with most votes. In the case of equal votes the election is to be repeated until one of the candidates achieves the relative majority of votes cast. Losing candidates are not excluded from further elections.
- A.10.1.9.** The Delegates' Assembly has, in particular, the following tasks:
- A.10.1.9.1.** Acceptance of the business report,
  - A.10.1.9.2.** Acceptance of the auditor's report,
  - A.10.1.9.3.** Approval of the annual financial statement and management of the capital, as well as exoneration of the Supervisory Board, the Board and the Executive Director,
  - A.10.1.9.4.** Election of the president of the Verband, the deputy president and the further members of the Board, as well as their dismissal from office,
  - A.10.1.9.5.** Election of the chairperson of the Supervisory Board, the deputy chairperson and further members of the Supervisory Board, as well as their dismissal from office,
  - A.10.1.9.6.** Election of the Breeding Committee as well as their dismissal from office,
  - A.10.1.9.7.** Approval of a budget (annual estimation of costs) drawn up by the Board,
  - A.10.1.9.8.** Stipulation of membership subscriptions and fees for services within the scope of the Breeding Programs and administration relating to members,
  - A.10.1.9.9.** Election of Honorary Chairpersons and Honorary Members,
  - A.10.1.9.10.** To undertake amendment of the Statutes. This requires a majority of 2/3 of the delegates present,
  - A.10.1.9.11.** Decision concerning the commissioning of third party agencies with (a) technical tasks (e.g. management of the Studbook) or (b) conducting performance tests or (c) breeding evaluations,

- A.10.1.9.12.** Decision concerning the appeal submitted by potential members who have not been accepted by the Board, or excluded or sanctioned members (see A.7),
- A.10.1.9.13.** Disbanding of the Verband,
- A.10.1.9.14.** To pass on certain tasks to the Board or the Supervisory Board in individual cases or specific spheres,
- A.10.1.9.15.** To take decisions concerning the content-related field of activity (for example inclusion of new Studbooks),
- A.10.1.9.16.** Approval of persons appointed to the dispute settlement body,
- A.10.1.9.17.** Approval of the Good Governance Officer.

**A.10.1.10.** The Delegates' Assembly shall be open to all members of the Verband. It will be announced in the Verband's magazine "DER HANNOVERANER" 2 months in advance. Every member of the Verband is entitled to make applications. Applications must be submitted to the management 4 weeks before the meeting in order to be included in the agenda. Minutes are to be taken concerning the Assembly. They must be signed by the Chairperson of the Supervisory Board and the Executive Director, and approved by the next Delegates' Assembly.

The aforementioned periods of notice (period of notice for announcements and period of notice for applications) may be shortened in the case of imminent danger or a special need for urgency. The shortened application period is to be pointed out in the announcement of the Delegates' Assembly.

## **A.10.2. The Board**

**A.10.2.1.** The Hannoveraner Verband is represented by the Board in judicial as well as extra-judicial proceedings (section 26 BGB (German Civil Code)). Representation is carried out jointly by two Board members, including the Chairperson and/or the Deputy Chairperson. The Board is released from the restrictions of section 181 BGB (German Civil Code).

**A.10.2.2.** In urgent cases - even if these may be outside their area of responsibility or require approval of another organ - the Board, in conjunction with the Executive Director, is entitled to implement measures, also in a financial context, which must be presented to the responsible organs for approval without delay. If approval is denied, the Delegates' Assembly is to decide.

**A.10.2.3.** The Chairperson of the Verband, or in his absence his deputy, shall convene and chair the Board meetings. He is responsible for ensuring that the resolutions which are passed by the Board and the Delegates' Assembly are carried out. The Chairperson is entitled to have resolutions of the Committee passed according to the circulation procedure (by letter, telefax or email), providing no Board member objects to such a procedure in the individual case in question. The Executive Director and the Breeding Manager normally participate in meetings of the Board in an advisory capacity, providing the chairperson of the meeting does not decide otherwise. Moreover further persons may be summoned by the Chairperson to attend in an advisory.

The Board is to be convened for meetings by the Chairperson in writing, with a copy of the agenda, at least 7 days before sitting. Invitations by email are permissible. Urgent cases may be discussed without adhering to the deadline if all Board members agree.

The Board meets as required, but at least four times per financial year. A meeting is to be convened upon the request of at least three Board members.

The Board constitutes a quorum when three Board members, including the Chairperson or his Deputy, are present. Minutes are to be taken at all meetings, and signed by the Chairperson as well as the person who wrote the minutes.

**A.10.2.4.** The Board consists of the Chairperson, the Deputy Chairperson and four further members. With the exception of the Chairperson, the remaining members of the Board are elected to take responsibility for one department:

- ,loyalty to / of breeders'
- ,dressage'
- ,show jumping'
- ,marketing'
- ,finance/personnel/legal'.



Other departments such as public relations, marketing, IT, etc. will be assigned by the Chairperson based on the individual suitability of the Board members.

Each Board member responsible for a department is in charge of a Committee for this department. This Committee develops proposals for its specific area of expertise, which require approval by the Board in order to have a binding effect:

- Committee ‚loyalty to / of breeders‘:  
This Committee is comprised of the chairpersons of the Regional Societies as well as the Verband's spokesperson of young breeders.  
In addition to participation in this Committee, chairpersons of a Regional Society are only allowed to become an active member of one further Committee. If a Chairperson of a Regional Society becomes a member of the Board, he ceases to be a member of other Committees. He nevertheless remains a member of the Committee ‚loyalty to / of breeders‘.
- Breeding Committee: see A.10.4
- Committee ‚marketing‘: The Committee ‚marketing‘ includes the Board member responsible for marketing as an inherent member and chairperson of the Committee. The Committee also includes four further permanent and topic-related advisory members, which are recommended by the Board member responsible for the marketing department and appointed as well as dismissed by the Board. Members are appointed for a period of five years.
- Committee ‚finance/personnel/legal‘: The Committee ‚finance/personnel/legal‘ includes the Board member responsible for finance/personnel/legal as an inherent member and chairperson of the Committee ‚finance/personnel/legal‘. The Committee also includes four further permanent and topic-related advisory members, which are recommended by the Board member responsible for the finance/personnel/legal department and appointed as well as dismissed by the Board. Members are appointed for a period of five years.

The Chairperson participates in the meetings of the Committees where he has an advisory function.

**A.10.2.5.** The six Board members are elected by the Delegates' Assembly for a period of five years. In order to ensure consistent work by the Board, its members are not elected simultaneously, but according to the following system: In the first year, the Chairperson and one other Board member are elected. In the second year, the Deputy Chairperson is elected, followed by the 4th Board member in the following year, the 5th Board member the next year and the 6th Board member the year after that. Board members are to remain in office until re-election takes place.

At the first election under these Statutes, all Board members will be elected irrespective of the aforementioned considerations. In the following year, the Board will already be re-elected according to the aforementioned procedure. However, lots will be drawn to determine in which order the Board members are to be newly elected.

Eligible for election is any member who, at the time of election, has been a member of the Board for less than 10 consecutive years. Eligible for election as Chairperson is any member who, at the time of election, has been a member of the Board for less than 15 consecutive years and, during this period, Chairperson for less than 10 consecutive years. Periods of office in the Executive Board or the extended executive board are only counted at 50%. After the maximum period of office, re-election is only possible if the person in question stood down for one period of office, involving a minimum period of at least two years.

Eligible for election as a Board member for the department ‚loyalty of/to breeders‘, furthermore, are only members who at the time of election are chairperson of a Regional Society. The chairpersons of the Regional Societies, in consultation with the Supervisory Board, nominate one of them as a candidate for election to the Delegates' Assembly. Should the person elected cease to be chairman of the Regional Society during his period of office, his successor will take his position in the Committee loyalty of/to breeders as an inherent member. This does not affect the position of the elected person in the Board as person responsible for the department ‚loyalty of/to breeders‘.

**A.10.2.6.** Regular members only may be elected to the Board. A person obtaining the absolute majority is elected as a Board member. If no candidate achieves an absolute majority of votes cast, a run-off vote is to take place between the two candidates with the most votes. Here, a decision is made with the relative majority of votes cast. Losing candidates are not excluded from further elections. Should a Board member retire during a period of election, then a new member is to be elected at the next Delegates' Assembly for the remaining period of office of the retired member. It is sufficient if the

Board has 3 members. If there are less than 3 Board members to hand, then an extraordinary Delegates' Assembly is to be called immediately in order to vote for substitute Board members. The work of the Board members is done in an honorary capacity. The level of regular allowance for the Board is decided by the Supervisory Board.

#### **A.10.2.7. Tasks and working procedure of the Board**

The Board runs the Verband's business and promotes the duties and responsibilities of the Verband.

The Board has the following tasks in particular:

- to develop and decide on the Breeding Programs concerning the breeds supervised by the Verband,
- to propose the members of the Breeding Committee to be elected by the Delegates' Assembly to the Delegates' Assembly,
- to appoint and dismiss the members of the Committees for Marketing and finances/human resources/legal,
- to appoint and dismiss members of the Commissions for Stallions and Mares as well as their deputies and of the Appeal Commissions, following proposal by the Breeding Committee, for a period of 4 years. It is also possible to recommend persons who are not members of the Verband,
- to engage and dismiss the Executive Director, the Breeding Manager and, following proposal by the Executive Director, all other department managers,
- to approve the pay scale for employees of the Verband,
- to appoint a Youth Officer,
- to determine the date of Marketing events, shows and other fixtures,
- to establish Auction Conditions for sales events of the Verband,
- to draw up the annual accounts,
- to prepare the preliminary estimate for the annual budget,
- to make proposals to the Delegates' Assembly about the amount to charge for subscriptions and fees according to A.10.1.9.8,
- to establish fees for the sales events,
- to decide on admission or exclusion of members or other measures and sanctions which concern the interests of the members,
- to approve the statutes of the Horse Breeding Clubs and Regional Societies,
- to establish a dispute settlement body according to A.7,
- to appoint a Good Governance officer,
- to award the golden pin of honor for special services to the Verband,
- to make proposals to the Delegates' Assembly concerning honorary presidents and honorary members.
- all other management tasks, providing no decision has been made or instruction issued to the contrary by the Delegates' Assembly.

The Board is to inform the Supervisory Board on a half-year basis - upon request or in case of important events also at shorter intervals - about business development of the Verband, business planning (in particular about financial requirements and investments), and compliance with business policy principles.

In order to execute these tasks, the Board consults with

- the committees,
- the commissions,
- the employees of the Verband, in particular the Executive Director and the Breeding Manager.

#### **A.10.3. The Supervisory Board**

The Supervisory Board advises the Board concerning Management of the Verband and supervises its management. The Supervisory Board, as a representative of the Verband's breeders/members, collaborates trustingly with the Board for the benefit of the Verband.

**A.10.3.1.** Every member of the Supervisory Board should have the knowledge, skills and professional experience required for proper fulfilment of his duties, and should be sufficiently independent. The Supervisory Board members in their entirety should be familiar with the special characteristics of a

breeding society. At least one member of the Supervisory Board should have expertise in the areas of accounting and auditing.

Members of the Committees are not allowed to be members of the Supervisory Board. Supervisory Board members are not allowed to hold official functions in the bodies or advisory capacities for important competitors of the Verband. Every Supervisory Board member is to disclose any conflict of interests.

**A.10.3.2.** The Supervisory Board consists of five members: the chairperson, the deputy chairperson and three further members. The chairperson is the leading person for collaboration with the Board. He is to prepare and execute the resolutions of the Supervisory Board.

Members of the Supervisory Board are elected by the Delegates' Assembly for a period of 5 years. In order to ensure consistent work by the Supervisory Board, its members are not elected simultaneously, but according to the following system: In the first year, only the Chairperson is elected. In the second year, the Deputy Chairperson is elected, followed by the 3rd Supervisory Board member in the following year, the 4th Supervisory Board member the next year and the 5th Supervisory Board member the year after that. Supervisory Board members are to remain in office until re-election takes place.

At the first election under these Statutes, all Supervisory Board members will be elected irrespective of the aforementioned considerations. In the following year, the Supervisory Board will already be re-elected according to the aforementioned procedure. However, lots will be drawn to determine in which order the Supervisory Board members are to be newly elected.

Eligible for election to the Supervisory Board is any member who, at the time of election, has been a member of the Supervisory Board for less than 10 consecutive years. Eligible for election as Chairperson of the Supervisory Board is any member who, at the time of election, has been a member of the Supervisory Board for less than 15 consecutive years and, during this period, Chairperson for less than 10 consecutive years. After the maximum period of office, re-election is only possible if the person in question stood down for one period of office, involving a minimum period of at least two years.

**A.10.3.3.** Regular members only may be elected to the Supervisory Board. A person obtaining the absolute majority of the votes cast is elected as a Supervisory Board member. If no candidate achieves an absolute majority of votes cast, a run-off vote is to take place between the two candidates with the most votes. In this vote, relative majority of votes cast shall be sufficient. Losing candidates are not excluded from further elections.

Should a Supervisory Board member retire during a period of election, then a new member is to be elected at the next Delegates' Assembly for the remaining period of office of the retired member. It is sufficient if the Supervisory Board has 3 members. If there are less than 3 Supervisory Board members to hand, then an extraordinary Delegates' Assembly is to be called immediately in order to vote for substitute Supervisory Board members.

The work of the Supervisory Board members is done in an honorary capacity.

**A.10.3.4.** The Supervisory Board has the following tasks:

- monitoring and advising the Board concerning strategy, planning, business development, risk management and Good Governance,
- convening of the Delegates' Assembly,
- setting the agenda for the Delegates' Assembly
- chairing of the Delegates' Assembly by the Chairperson,
- preparation of the election or dismissal of Supervisory Board members by the Delegates' Assembly
- preparation of the election or dismissal of Board members by the Delegates' Assembly
- creation of and decision concerning a remuneration system for the Board
- selection and appointment of the auditors according to A.12.2 as well as acceptance of the auditor's report,
- preparation of a recommendation for the budget estimate of the Board for the Delegates' Assembly
- preparation of a recommendation for the annual financial statement and management of the capital of the Board for the Delegates' Assembly

- approval of transactions concerning purchase or sale of real estate as well as material encumbrance of property of the Verband
- approval of loan agreements which involve liabilities of more than €250,000.00,
- approval of other transactions which bear significant risks regarding the economic situation of the Verband,
- preparation of recommendations of the Board to the Delegates' Assembly concerning the content-related field of activity (for example inclusion of new Studbooks) ,
- approval of business transactions with the Verband undertaken by Board members and persons close to them, with regard to business which exceeds presentation/sales at breeding and sales events,
- constructive intervention and advice in disputes between members of the Board

**A.10.3.5.** The chairperson of the Supervisory Board calls a meeting of the Supervisory Board at least two times per year. The invitation is to be sent out at least two weeks prior to the meeting, unless extraordinary circumstances require a shorter period of notice. The invitation is to be issued in writing and, if possible, include a copy of the agenda. Forms and deadlines can be waived by unanimous decision. Resolutions of the Supervisory Board - without adhering to a period of notice - can also be passed in writing or by email (circulation procedure), if no member of the Supervisory Board objects to this procedure. Casting of votes is considered to be approval of the circulation procedure. The members of the Board, the Executive Director and the Breeding Manager participate in meetings of the Supervisory Board, unless the chairperson of the Supervisory Boards decides otherwise. The chairperson of the Supervisory Board may also invite further advisory members. The Supervisory Board constitutes a quorum if at least three members are present. Resolutions require a simple majority of the votes cast, unless these Statutes stipulate a different majority. In the case of equal votes, the chairperson of the Supervisory Board has the casting vote. An abstention is considered as a vote which has not been cast.

#### **A.10.4. The Breeding Committee**

**A.10.4.1.** The Breeding Committee is comprised of

- the Board member responsible for breeding and dressage as an inherent member
- the Board member responsible for breeding and show jumping as an inherent member
- six further members who, on proposal of the Chairperson, are elected from amongst all regular members by the Delegates' Assembly for a period of five years. These six further members are to represent the disciplines of dressage, show jumping and eventing in the Breeding Committee with two members for each discipline. A person obtaining the absolute majority of the votes cast is elected as a Breeding Committee member. If no candidate achieves an absolute majority of votes cast, a run-off vote is to take place between the two candidates with the most votes. Here, a decision is made with the relative majority of votes cast. Losing candidates are not excluded from further elections.
- The Chairperson of the Verband, the Executive Director and the Breeding Manager, as well as the State Stud Manager of the Lower Saxony State Stud in Celle and the chairperson of the private Hannoveraner stallion keepers' association participate in meetings of the Breeding Committee in an advisory capacity. Moreover, following consultation with the Breeding Manager, further persons may be summoned by the chairpersons of the Breeding Committee to attend in an advisory capacity.

**A.10.4.2.** Tasks and working procedure of the Breeding Committee

The Board members responsible for breeding and dressage as well as breeding and show jumping jointly manage the Breeding Committee.

The Breeding Committee is responsible for development and compiling of Breeding Programs (esp. regarding horses for dressage, show jumping and eventing) as well as measures in connection with the Breeding Programs, including, for example, matters concerning animal health and information of the breeders. Furthermore, the Breeding Committee has the task of proposing commission members for the evaluation of stallions and mares to the Board, to train them and to make decisions within the scope of the Breeding Programs concerning the registration of stallions and mares, The Breeding Committee can form subcommittees and invite further experts as advisory members to such committees in order to prepare specific issues.

Breeding Committee resolutions are to be passed by a simple majority of the valid “yes” and “no” votes cast. In the case of parity of votes the application is to be rejected.

#### **A.10.5. Regional Societies and Horse Breeding Clubs**

The Hannoveraner Verband is organised as an umbrella organisation. All members of the Verband inherently also become members of existing subdivisions of the Verband. The society territory is subdivided into independent Regional Societies and Horse Breeding Clubs. The Regional Societies and Horse Breeding Clubs are of fundamental importance for local breeding work, regional cohesion as well as communication within the Verband. They promote the exchange of information and represent the interests of the members vis à vis Verband’s management as well as, vice versa, the interests of Verband’s management vis à vis the members. The Delegates’ Assembly is entitled, under consideration of economic necessities and local horse breeding traditions, to alter and re-organize the geographical affiliation of member Societies.

Every regular member of the Verband must also at the same time be a member of a Horse Breeding Club.

The member is free to select a local Regional Society. If the member fails to select his own local society, he will become a member of the local society in his own geographical district. Membership in the Regional Society follows membership of the Verband.

Verband’s members in the Federal Republic of Germany, who have not selected a local society and are not registered in any Horse Breeding Club, will be allocated to one of the nearest societies, in a different federal state if necessary, by means of a resolution to be passed by the Board.

Horse Breeding Clubs in German federal states which are not geographically organised in a Regional Society, are to be affiliated to the nearest Regional Society following a resolution to be passed by the Verband’s Board.

In order to fulfil their rights and obligations under these Statutes, Horse Breeding Clubs and Regional Societies must be recognised by the Board. A prerequisite for such recognition is that the statutes of the Regional Societies and Horse Breeding Clubs include the minimum requirements defined by the Delegates’ Assembly in the sample statutes, in order to maintain uniformity within the Verband. The Board may approve deviating statutes following examination of the individual case. The statutes must not contradict the Statutes of the Verband. Prior to recognition, they are to be presented to the Board or a person authorised by the Board for approval.

**A.10.5.1.** Regional Societies within the Hannoveraner Verband are: Braunschweiger Bezirksverband im Hannoveraner Verband, Bezirksverband Hannover im Hannoveraner Verband, Bezirksverband Hessen-Süddeutschland im Hannoveraner Verband, Lüneburger Bezirksverband im Hannoveraner Verband e.V., Bezirksverband Nordrhein-Westfalen im Hannoveraner Verband, Bezirksverband Osnabrück/Emsland im Hannoveraner Verband, Bezirksverband Ostfriesland/Oldenburg im Hannoveraner Verband, Stader Bezirksverband hannoverscher Warmblutzüchter, Bezirksverband Hannoveraner International im Hannoveraner Verband

#### **A.10.5.2.** The Hannoveraner Verband Abroad

Horse breeding organizations abroad whose constitution gives reason to expect correct and reliable breeding work in the sense of the Breeding Regulations of the Hannoveraner Verband can become affiliated to the Verband. These breeding organizations (Horse Breeding Clubs abroad) are members of the Regional Society Hannoveraner International of the Verband.

The Verband is at the same time an umbrella organisation for existing, independent societies abroad which are organised as corporations of breeders of Hannoveraner horses. These independent organizations located outside Germany are to be supported by the Verband in their organizational and breeding work.

The following independent, corporately organised societies are currently affiliated to the Verband as an umbrella organisation:

American Hanoverian Horse Society with registered office in Lexington, Hanoverian Horse Society of Australia with registered office in Brisbane, The British Hanoverian Horse Society with registered office in Witcham, Hanoverian Society of New Zealand with registered office in Kapiti Coast.

These independent organizations are members of the Regional Society Hannoveraner International with the same rights and obligations as the Horse Breeding Clubs. Their delegates are involved in the formation of ideas and intentions of the Hannoveraner Society by means of participation with voting rights in the Delegates’ Assembly.

**A.10.5.3.** In addition to the tasks assigned to them by their own Statutes, the Regional Societies are also responsible for the following:

**A.10.5.3.1.** to promote and support breeding, the association and communication within the Regional Society

**A.10.5.3.2.** to find out the attitude of members to measures which are planned, or to proposals from the members and to inform the members elected to the Delegates' Assembly accordingly

**A.10.5.3.3.** to recommend suitable breeders to the Board as commission members

**A.10.5.3.4.** to implement mare performance tests

**A.10.5.3.5.** to promote and implement supra-regional events, such as elite shows

**A.10.5.3.6.** to support and promote up-and-coming young breeders, also with regard to voluntary work

**A.10.5.3.7.** to support society members in marketing their horses

**A.10.5.3.8.** to foster contact with equestrian organizations in the region.

**A.10.5.4.** In addition to the tasks assigned to them by their own Statutes, the Horse Breeding Clubs are also responsible for the following:

**A.10.5.4.1.** to elect the delegates for the members' assembly of the Regional Societies. The number of delegates per Horse Breeding Club is calculated as the rounded quotient of the number of members divided by thirty. Every Horse Breeding Club is to send at least one delegate to the members' assembly of the Regional Society.

**A.10.5.4.2.** to elect the delegates for the Delegates' Assembly of the Verband,

**A.10.5.4.3.** to provide support for the Verband in implementation of the Breeding Program. This is to focus particularly on the organisation of breeding events

**A.10.5.4.4.** to provide publicity for the Hannoveraner Verband and its breed,

**A.10.5.4.5.** to support Society members in marketing their horses.

**A.10.5.4.6.** to find out the opinion of members to measures which are planned, or to proposals from the members and to inform the members elected to the Delegates' Assembly accordingly,

**A.10.5.4.7.** to promote society life by means of events relevant to breeding

#### **A.10.6. Lower Saxony State Stud in Celle**

The foundation stone of Hannoveraner breeding was laid in 1735 with the establishment of the State Stud in Celle. The purpose of this state establishment was and still is to make good stallions available to Hannoveraner breeders at favorable covering rates. A joint meeting, following an invitation by the Chairperson, takes place at least once a year with the Board of the Verband and the Directorship of the State Stud.

#### **A.10.7. Private Owners of Hannoveraner Stallions**

The interests of private Hannoveraner stallion keepers are represented in the Verband by the "Verein Hannoveraner Privathengsthälter e.V.". The association committee represents the association's interests and requirements in the Verband. A joint meeting of the Board of the Verband together with the committee of the private Hannoveraner stallion keepers' association takes place at least once a year following an invitation by the Chairperson.

### **A.11 Commissions of the Verband**

Responsible for the evaluation of horses are committees, appointed by the Society, whose decisions are taken on the basis of expert knowledge, independence and neutrality. The body must consist of competent breeders' representatives and the Breeding Director or a representative appointed by him. Breeders' representatives can also be persons who are not members of the Verband. Biased persons are not permitted to participate in the decision-making process. Members only, who have not yet reached the age of 80 years, may be nominated to the Commissions.

#### **A.11.1. The Commissions for Stallions**

**A.11.1.1.** The Commissions for Stallions (Licensing Commissions) evaluate all stallions presented for entry in Stallions' Book I within the scope of the Breeding Program. Three commissions for stallions are formed:

- a) the Young Stallions' Commission for the evaluation of young stallions according to the Breeding Programs,
- b) the Old Stallions' Commission for the evaluation of all other older stallions.

- c) Concerning the evaluation at farm licensings for stallions having completed at least part of their performance test under rider, or stallions of the Thoroughbred, Anglo-Arab, Shagya-Arab, Arabian Thoroughbreds and Arabs parts of the Old Stallions' Commission (Farm Licensing Commission).

**A.11.1.2.** The members and deputy members of these Licensing Commissions, at the proposal of the Breeding Committee, are nominated by the Board for a period of four years. Each Commission selects its own chairperson. Resolutions of the Commission are decided on a majority basis. In the case of parity of votes the application is to be rejected.

**A.11.1.3.** The Young Stallions' Commission consists of four members, at least two of whom are to be regular members of the Verband, as well as the Breeding Manager of the Verband or his Deputy as an inherent member. The members of the Old Stallions' Commission are deputy members of the Young Stallions' Commission.

**A.11.1.4.** The Old Stallions' Commission consists of three members, at least two of whom are to be regular members of the Verband, as well as the Breeding Manager of the Verband or his Deputy as an inherent member. The members of the Young Stallions' Commission are deputy members of the Old Stallions' Commission.

**A.11.1.5.** The Licensing Commission for Farm Licensings consists of at least two members of the Old Stallions' Commission, although at the licensing of internationally successful sport stallions one licensing commissioner can be replaced by a member of the Mares' Commission.

**A.11.1.6.** Commission for the Pre-Selection of Stallions

For the pre-selection within the scope of the pre-selection of stallions, the Board establishes a Commission. This Commission consists of the Board members breeding and dressage/show jumping or, in their absence, Member of the breeding committee, the Breeding Manager or his Deputy as well as two to four members of the Young Stallions' Commission.

**A.11.1.7.** Appeal Commissions for Licensing Decisions

Decisions concerning appeals against decisions of the Commissions are taken by an Appeal Commission. The following responsibilities apply for appeals:

- appeals against decisions of the Young Stallions' Commission and the Pre-Selection Commission will be decided on by the Old Stallions' Commission.
- appeals against decisions of the Old Stallions' Commission and the Farm Licensing Commission will be decided on by the Young Stallions' Commission.

If members of the Appeal Commission were involved in the decision being appealed, they are excluded from the decision concerning the outcome of the appeal.

## **A.11.2. The Evaluation Commissions for Mares**

**A.11.2.1.** The Mares' Commissions evaluate all mares presented for registration and decide about entry in a division of the Studbook within the scope of the Breeding Programs. All members of the Mares' Commissions, at the proposal of the Breeding Committee, are appointed by the Board for a period of four years (A 10.2.7). Resolutions of the Commission are decided on a majority basis. In the case of parity of votes the application is to be rejected.

**A.11.2.2.** The Mares' Commissions are comprised of one or two regular members of the Verband and the Breeding Director of the Verband or his Deputy. In the case of registrations which are undertaken at the applicant's home yard a qualified representative of the Breeding Management shall be entitled to undertake the evaluation and registration alone.

**A.11.2.3.** The Breeding Committee is to decide on the composition and assignment of the individual Mares' Commissions from the ranks of all appointed members (A 10.2.7) of the Mares' Commissions. Later appointments can be made by the Breeding Manager in consultation with the Board member breeding and dressage or the Board member breeding and show jumping

**A.11.3.** Reimbursement of expenses of regular members is regulated according to the cost and reimbursement rates stipulated by the Lower Saxony Chamber of Agriculture for persons who work on an honorary basis.

## **A.12 Breeding Management and Management**

**A.12.1.** The Board of the Verband, following approval by the Lower Saxony Ministry of Agriculture, appoints a Breeding Manager, who is responsible for breeding work and supervision of Studbook management, and an Executive Director. The Breeding Manager provides a personal guarantee for impeccable breeding work in accordance with the Livestock Breeding Regulations in their currently valid version. Executive Director and Breeding Manager are entitled to participate in all meetings of the Board and the committees, as well as Delegates' Assemblies and meetings of the Regional Societies, as well as meetings of the Horse Breeding Clubs, providing the chairperson in question does not decide otherwise based on the merits of the individual case.

The Executive Director is responsible for managing the business of the current administration and, following instructions from the Board and in accordance with the Rules of Procedure, has the following tasks in particular:

- management and governance of the Verband
- planning and strategic orientation of the Verband as well as further development of the existing business
- optimization of all Verband processes to ensure profitability, productivity and efficiency
- leadership, motivation and qualification of employees and executive personnel
- responsibility for budget, results and personnel (including management of the accounts and monetary affairs)
- reporting to the Board, the Supervisory Board and the Delegates' Assembly
- maintaining of business relationships to customers and strategic partners
- external representation of the Verband

The Executive Director is authorized as a special representative of the Verband within the meaning of § 30 BGB (German Civil Code) to take care of economic, administrative and personnel matters; within this framework he or she is authorized to represent the Verband alone. The Board shall regulate the details by official instructions and/or by the Rules of Procedure.

The Executive Director has disciplinary authority over all department managers. The Executive Director can be authorised by the Board to represent the Hannoveraner Verband and can be released from the restrictions of section 181 BGB (German Civil Code).

**A.12.2.** After the annual financial statement has been compiled, the statements and accounts are to be examined by a certified auditor. The audit, which is to be conducted in accordance with the principles of commercial law within the meaning of the HGB (German Commercial Code), must investigate in particular whether the statutory provisions and the supplementary provisions of the Statutes and Verband's Regulations (e.g. schedule of fees) have been observed. The audit is to be conducted in such a way that inaccuracies and violations of the aforementioned provisions that have a material effect on the Verband's net assets, financial position and results of operations are detected in the course of conscientious professional practice. During the audit, care is to be taken to carry out an appropriate inspection of the vouchers submitted. The auditors are to prepare a written report on the result of the respective audit. The auditors are to attend the Delegates' Assembly in order to answer any questions. The annual financial statement (balance sheet, profit and loss account) shall be available for viewing at the Verband's Office during the 14 working days prior to the Delegates' Assembly which is responsible for the approval of the annual financial statement, so that any regular member has the opportunity to examine them.

## **A.13 Verband's Regulations and Rules of Procedure**

Each body of the Verband pursuant to A.10 is to establish Rules of Procedure to regulate processes and responsibilities. The work of other Committees and full-time employees is to be regulated by Rules of Procedure established by the Board.

The Breeding Programs for the breeds of the content-related field of activity have the status of Verband's Regulations. The Board is responsible for issuing, amending and repealing the Breeding Programs.

The Hannoveraner Verband's guidelines concerning premium award ceremonies for mares, the show regulations or the awarding of prizes also have the status of Verband's Regulations.

Verband's Regulations, with exception of the schedule of fees, are to be approved by Board resolution with a simple majority.

Amendments will be published immediately on the Breeding Society's website, the Hannoveraner Forum and in the Verband's magazine "DER HANNOVERANER".



#### **A.14 Disbanding of the Verband**

The disbanding of the Breeding Society can be proposed by the Board only. The decision on the proposal is at the sole discretion of the Delegates' Assembly, which is to be convened exclusively for this purpose. The resolution to disband the Verband requires a three-quarters majority of the votes cast. If this majority is not achieved, a resolution may be adopted by a further Delegates' Assembly, for which an invitation must be sent out within a period of 6 weeks after the first Delegates' Assembly, with a two-thirds majority of the votes cast. In the event of disbanding of the Breeding Society, discontinuation of the purpose of the Verband, or discontinuation of tax-deductible purposes, any assets of the Breeding Society which may still exist are to be transferred to the German Equestrian Federation (breeding department) with the purpose of supporting German horse breeding according to A.2 of the Statutes.

#### **A.15 Publication of Resolutions and other Arrangements**

Resolutions passed by the Board and Delegates Assembly, as well as other communications of the Verband, shall be made known to all members on the Verband's website and in the Verband's newspaper "DER HANNOVERANER".

#### **A.16 Provisions for the Auctions and Stallion Market**

**A.16.1.** In order to promote sales (A.2.3) the Verband conducts auctions for riding horses, stallions, mares and foals. Only horses with an animal breeding certificate in the form of evidence of pedigree (equine passport) of the Hannoveraner Verband and of the Rheinisches Pferdestammbuch (Rhenish breed society) are permitted to participate in the sales events for riding horses, mares and foals. Horses with an animal breeding certificate of other populations / breeding societies are also accepted to the stallion sales events. Their exhibitors must be members of the Verband.

**A.16.2.** Horses are permitted to participate under the condition that the relevant provisions of the Hannoveraner Verband are fulfilled and the result of a pedigree test (DNA) can be presented.

**A.16.3.** Stallions which meet the pedigree requirements for the acceptance into the Stallions' Book I for Hannoveraner are entitled to take part in the main licensing for dressage and show jumping stallions. Their exhibitors must be members of the Verband.

## **B Fundamental Breeding Provisions**

### **B.1 Fundamentals**

The Verband works according to the provisions of the Directive (EU) 2016/1012 as well as the relevant provisions of European law, provisions governing animal breeding and animal rights, as well as veterinarian provisions adopted by the government and its federal states.

The Verband, as a member of the German Equestrian Federation (FN), accepts the provisions of the Breeding Society Regulations (ZVO) in accordance with the FN's Statutes and its Breeding Programs. Furthermore, the work is based on the guidelines and recommendations of the FN. The Verband thus bindingly specifies that when handling and training horses, it will comply with the "Guidelines on Animal Welfare in Equestrian Sport" of the Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection, the "Ethical Principles of the True Horseman" and the "Resolution of Equestrian Attitude towards the Horse/Pony" of the FN, as well as orientating itself according to the "Guidelines for Horse Riding and Driving" of the FN.

If this organisation makes amendments to the guidelines and resolutions which affect the Breeding Program, the members and responsible authorities are to be informed immediately by the Verband and, if necessary, to have them approved by the responsible authorities.

The contractual regulations of the Verband including the organizations mentioned in the Breeding Programs under item 16 and the corresponding contracts are also part of the fundamental principles.

### **B.2 Duties and Responsibilities of the Verband**

The duties of the Verband are carried out in accordance with the provisions of these Statutes and the individual Breeding Programs.

The duties of the Verband, in particular, include:

- Establishment and implementation of Breeding Programs for breeds of the content-related field of activity
- Communication with breeding societies or organizations which keep a subsidiary studbook. This duty may be transferred to third parties.
- Keeping Studbooks for breeds of the content-related field of activity,
- Ensuring the identity of all horses registered in Studbooks,
- Issuing equine passports incl. animal breeding certificate and confirmation of entry as well as the corresponding ownership certificates,
- Issuing of those parts of the animal breeding certificates for breeding material (semen, ovules, embryos) concerning information regarding the donor animal(s),
- Advising breeders as well as
- Identification and marking of the foals that are to be registered.

### **B.3 Content-related and Geographical Scope of Activity of the Verband**

The content-related field of activity of the Verband includes the Breeding Programs of the Hannoveraner, Hannoveraner half-blood racehorse and Rhenish riding horse breeds. The Hannoveraner Verband keeps the Indigenous Studbook for all breeds. Concerning the Hannoveraner and Rhenish Riding Horse breeds, the American Hanoverian Society, the British Hanoverian Horse Society, the Hanoverian Horse Society of Australia and the Hanoverian Society of New Zealand keep a subsidiary studbook.

The geographic field of activity is regulated within the individual Breeding Programs of the respective breed.

### **B.4 Fundamental Provisions concerning the Breeding Programs**

The Verband implements the Breeding Programs, following approval by the Lower Saxony Ministry of Agriculture, independently and at its own responsibility. The Breeding Programs encompass all measures which are suitable to achieve breeding progress with regard to the respective breeding aim aspired to. This includes in particular the evaluation of the selection criteria (assessment of external appearance, performance, fertility and health) and breeding values as well as the selection and consequently the entry in the respective divisions of the Studbook based on the evaluated features as well as age and/or sex. In the evaluation of the breeding value it is possible to consider results of such other breeding societies and organizations in addition to the results of the Hannoveraner population. Provisions concerning the breeding populations involved in the Breeding Program are an integral part of the respective Breeding Programs.

### **B.5 Minimum Information to be included in the Studbook**

A separate Studbook is kept for each Breeding Program of a breed of the content-related field of activity, which must contain all breeding relevant data for each horse. All amendments to pedigree and performance-related data must be documented.

1. Name, address and email-address (if available) of the breeder as well as the proprietor/owner and the keeper, if applicable
2. Last covering date of the dam
3. Date of birth, if known, breed, sex, color, markings and special identifying features, if applicable
4. Life number (15-digit UELN), code of the country of birth
5. Active identification (transponder and/or breed brand and number brand)
6. Category of the Studbook (section, division) in which the horse is registered
7. Parents: color, life number (15-digit UELN if known or a 15-digit FN-register number and Studbook category (section, division)
8. All generations of ancestors as far as known to the breeding society, including life number (15-digit UELN if known or 15-digit FN register number)
9. Date of issue of the Equine Passport incl. animal breeding certificate
10. Evaluation of the external appearance, with indication of date, as well as all results of performance test known to the breeding society, with indication of date
11. Show successes and Premium Awards
12. Date and (if known) the cause of death
13. Results of the pedigree test (DNA test number or blood type) with indication of date
14. Indications about birth of twins
15. For breeding horses ensuing from an embryo transfer, the genetic parents and their blood type or DNA profiles according to ISAG standard required for ascertainment of identity and pedigree of their progeny as well as the recipient animal
16. For breeding horses whose semen is intended for use in artificial insemination their blood type or DNA profiles according to ISAC standard required for ascertainment of identity and pedigree of their progeny.
17. Results of genetic tests in accordance with the Breeding Program
18. Decisions about entries and alterations in the Studbook with indication of date

Furthermore, all amendments to the information are to be documented according to legal requirements.

### **B.6 Fundamental Provisions concerning Classification of the Studbooks**

The Studbook of each breed registers stallions as well as mares separately in different sections and divisions. The classification into sections is based on information regarding the pedigree, the classification into divisions is based on criteria directly regarding the horse.

### **B.7 Fundamental Provisions concerning the Keeping of the Studbook**

The Studbook is kept by the Verband. In this context the Verband uses the services of vit (Vereinigte Informationssysteme Tierhaltung w.V.), Verden, in accordance with the relevant contractual agreement. The Studbook is kept by the Verband according to the legal provisions relating to animal breeding, on the basis of the data and information provided by the breeder, which are collected within the scope of the performance tests and breeding evaluation. vit works on behalf of the Verband and according to the Verband's instructions, and makes the Studbook data available to the Verband.

### **B.8 Fundamental Provisions concerning Entry in the Studbook**

Entry of a breeding horse in the respective section and division of the Studbook of its breed is carried out in accordance with the provisions of Regulation (EU) 2016/1012, section 1, and providing the horse's identity has been ascertained beyond doubt by the Verband in accordance with the provisions stipulated in these Statutes. When the horse is registered, the requirements relating to pedigree and selection criteria for the respective division must be fulfilled.

In exceptional cases, following ascertainment of identity of the horse, it can be registered without evaluation. Exceptional cases can mean illness of the horse, or acute injuries which do not permit an objective evaluation of the horse.

Mares which have already died can be registered subsequently, i.e. after their death. This subsequent entry serves the exclusive purpose of issuing an animal breeding certificate for the last born foal.

Breeding horses of other populations or breeding societies are accepted on application with the pedigree data previously registered and, under consideration of the performance data, entered in the respective division of the Studbook.

Entry in the Studbook is to be revoked by the Verband if at least one of the conditions for entry did not exist.

Entry in the Studbook is to be revoked by the Verband if at least one of the conditions for entry subsequently ceased to exist, or if entry was connected with a requirement which the owner failed to fulfil or did not fulfil in time.

An objection to this decision can be submitted in writing within a period of 4 weeks to the Verband's Office by the owner of the horse in question. Reasons for the objection are also to be given in writing. The Executive Board decides on acceptance or rejection of the appeal.

If the appeal is accepted, the Executive Board also decides about the composition of a new evaluation commission. In this context, with the exception of the Breeding Director and the Chairperson of the commission (composition of the commissions and definition and nomination of the commission chairperson are to be regulated separately, see A.11) all members are to be re-appointed. In the case of stallions and mares, a decision is also made regarding place and time for another presentation of the horse.

Retired or disqualified members do not continue to feature in the Studbook.

### **B.8.1. Fundamental principles for the entry of stallions**

**B.8.1.1.** Registration takes place in response to a written request made by the stallion owner after fulfilling the stipulations of the respective Studbook Regulations.

**B.8.1.2.** It is always limited to one year only. It will be updated on request.

**B.8.1.3.** All stallions that are actively registered in Stallions' Book I of the Verband will be published annually in the Verband's magazine "DER HANNOVERANER" and in the stallion distribution plan on the Verband's website.

### **B.8.2. Fundamental principles for the entry of mares**

**B.8.2.1.** Registration takes place in response to presentation of the mare for entry in the Mares' Book by the mare owner or, in case of mares already entered in the Studbook, in response to a written request made by the mare owner.

**B.8.2.2.** De-registration of mares

Notice of de-registration of mares must be submitted in writing by the owner, at the latest by 31.12. of each year for the following year. The Verband is to be informed immediately in the case of cancellation of registration on account of death or slaughter due to illness or injury.

**B.8.2.3.** Re-registration of mares

A de-registered mare can be re-registered again at any time at the previous entry status following a written communication by the owner. The re-registration is subject to a fee.

**B.8.2.4.** Change in ownership of mares

Change in ownership of a mare is entered in the Studbook on the basis of a written communication by the new owner. A pre-condition for this is

- a) that the new owner is or becomes a regular member of the Verband,
- b) that the mare is registered in a section of the Studbook..

The Verband is entitled to request presentation of the pedigree for this purpose.

## **B.9 Fundamental Provisions concerning Issuing of the Equine Passport incl. Animal Breeding Certificate/Confirmation of Entry and the Certificate of Ownership**

### **B.9.1. Equine Passport incl. Animal Breeding Certificate/Confirmation of Entry**

Application for issuing of the equine passport incl. animal breeding certificate

When registering the birth of a foal, the breeder applies for the issuance of the equine passport incl. the animal breeding certificate for the foal as well as identification and marking.

The equine passport incl. animal breeding certificate serves as a document for identification according to the Livestock Movement Regulation and is to be issued for all registered foals.

The Verband, following an application by the owner or registration of birth of the foal by the breeder, issues the equine passport incl. animal breeding certificate according to articles 30 and 32 of Regulation (EU) 2016/1012 in conjunction with Implementation Regulation (EU) 2015/262.

If the respective Breeding Program includes performance tests and/or breeding evaluations the equine passport incl. animal breeding certificate has to include the following information:

- all results of the performance test and/or
- current results of the breeding evaluation

As an alternative, reference can be made to a website on which the results are published, if the website is indicated on the animal breeding certificate.

Genetic defects and anomalies are, in accordance with the respective Breeding Program, to be included in the equine passport.

Furthermore, information regarding slaughter of the horse is to be included in the equine passport and the Studbook.

An animal breeding certificate for a breeding horse can be issued as evidence of pedigree or as a birth certificate according to the provisions stipulated in the Breeding Program. It is based on the registration of the parents in the Studbook of the breed. For mares and stallions, registration of the mare and the stallion is valid at the latest in the year of the foal's birth (up to and including 31.12. of the year in question).

If the horse is registered in an additional section of the Studbook of the breed, a pre-Studbook certificate can be included in the respective section of the equine passport according to legal requirements. This differs from the animal breeding certificate for a pure-bred animal and includes the distinct note: "Confirmation of entry for an animal registered in the additional section - not an animal breeding certificate according to the legal provisions relating to animal breeding."

#### **B.9.2. Certificate of Ownership**

The certificate of ownership is issued with an identical life number (UELN) in addition to the equine passport incl. animal breeding certificate and contains the following (minimal) information

- Life number (15-digit UELN) of the horse
- Name of the horse, if available
- Breed
- Sex
- Color
- Date of Birth
- Name and address of the breeder,
- Active identification (transponder number and breed and/or number brand, if applicable)
- Pedigree of three generations (if available)
- Name, address and stamp of the issuing society
- Date of issue and signature of the signatory

#### **B.9.3. V Procedural Instructions for Equine Passport incl. Animal Breeding Certificate and Certificate of Ownership**

The equine passport incl. animal breeding certificate and/or certificate of ownership is only to be issued to the animal keeper/horse owner registered in the Verband's Studbook.

The equine passport incl. animal breeding certificate and/or certificate of ownership belong to the horse and remain the property of the issuing society / issuing body. The documents can be retracted for an important reason, e.g. if they include incorrect or incomplete details. Holder of the certificate of ownership is the owner of the horse in accordance with the provisions of the "BGB" (German Civil Code).

On request, the keeper is required to hand out the equine passport incl. animal breeding certificate and/or certificate of ownership.

In the case of change of possession, the equine passport incl. animal breeding certificate is to be handed over to the new possessor. The Verband is to be informed about changes in possession.

In the case of change in ownership the equine passport incl. animal breeding certificate and/or certificate of ownership are to be handed over to the new owner. The Verband is to be informed about changes in ownership.

In the case of death, killing, theft, loss or slaughter of the horse, for purposes of epidemic control the equine passport incl. animal breeding certificate and/or certificate of ownership are to be returned to

the issuing society / the issuing body, unless the the equine passport incl. animal breeding certificate is destroyed under official supervision at the slaughterhouse. The Verband is to be informed about the death of the horse.

If a horse is presented to the Verband for registration in a Studbook without inclusion of an animal breeding certificate in the equine passport although the horse fulfils the requirements for registration, the relevant section of the equine passport is to be completed within the scope of the Studbook registration.

#### **B.9.4. Copies/Duplicates**

Copies/Duplicates of equine passports incl. an animal breeding certificate are to be issued in accordance with the provisions of Implementing Regulation (EU) 2015/262.

A copy of evidence of pedigree, a birth certificate as well as an equine passport (incl. animal breeding certificate) and a certificate of ownership can only be issued on application of the person who has lost the original document(s), on presentation of a statutory declaration attested by a notary confirming loss of the original document(s). Such copies can be issued exclusively by the Breeding Society which issued the original document. Any copy is always to be marked clearly as such and to be numbered.

#### **B.9.5. Issue of identification documents for equids imported into the EU**

Registration of the existing identification documents for equids imported into the EU or, if necessary, issuing of an equine passport incl. animal breeding certificate takes place in accordance with article 15 of Implementing Regulation (EU) 2016/262.

### **B.10 Provisions concerning Animal Breeding Certificates for Breeding Material**

Animal breeding certificates according to Regulation (EU) 2016/1012 are also issued for the donation of breeding material if the donor animal is registered in the Studbook of the Breeding Society.

In this context model forms of the Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2017/717 are used. The animal breeding certificate for semen, ovules and embryos consists of several sections. Information regarding the donor animal(s) is entered into the animal breeding certificate which is signed by the Verband. The Verband's signature and the signatures of the authorised persons are inserted at the end of section A and, in the case of embryos, at the end of sections A, B, and if necessary D of the animal breeding certificate.

### **B.11 Identification**

Identification of horses by the Verband is carried out according to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2015/262 using the following methods:

#### **B.11.1. Data collection**

Within the scope of identification, at least the following data is recorded for each horse:

- Sex
- Date of Birth
- Genetic parents incl. life number (UELN)
- Description of color and markings
- Completion of the markings diagram

#### **B.11.2. Active Identification**

All foals, according to the Livestock Movement Order in conjunction with Implementing Regulation (EU) 2015/262, are to be actively marked in connection with the identification. The transponder is mandatory for active identification (Article 18 Implementing Regulation (EU) 2015/262). As an additional, optional active identification, the foal may be brand-marked, if permitted by the respective national animal welfare legislation.

##### **B.11.2.1. Transponders**

The transponders required for identification are issued by the Verband and must be coded in accordance with Implementing Regulation (EU) 2015/262 in conjunction with section 44 of the Livestock Movement Order.

### B.11.2.2. Foal Brand (Breed brand mark and number brand)

A foal brand is allocated by the Verband following application by the breeder, normally in the year of birth. The foals are marked with the respective breed brand mark. In addition to the breed brand mark, they receive a number brand which ensues from the life number (B.11.3). Branding is only permitted on the near hind thigh. The breed brand marks are graphically depicted in the respective Breeding Programs. Foals for which only a birth certificate is issued only receive the number brand. Branding may only be carried out by persons authorised by the Verband to perform branding. Exceptions require prior approval by the Breeding Director. The person authorised to perform branding must ascertain the identity of the respective foal with absolute certainty by checking the documents relating to the foal prior to branding. Potential "subsequent branding" must also be authorized by the Breeding Director.

Identification marking by means of the thigh brand is only carried out in member countries in which it is permitted.

### B.11.3. Allocation of the UELN (Unique Equine Life Number)

Each breeding horse born in a member state is allocated a UELN at the time of initial registration. Horses which have not been allocated a UELN must receive one upon entry in a Studbook at the latest. The UELN is an international and EU-wide standardized life number.

The UELN consists of 15 alphanumeric digits and is comprised as follows:

The first three digits (alphanumeric) refers to the country of origin in which, for the first time, the horse has been allocated a universal equine life number. The following three digits (alphanumeric) refer to the breeding society with which the respective horse has been registered and branded and/or actively identified. The next nine digits (alphanumeric) form a consecutive registration number within the breeding society and can be allocated freely by the society, with the exception of the last two digits. For the purpose of active identification the 12th and 13th digit of the international life number serve as the brand number, the year of birth is in 14th and 15th position.

The UELN does not change during the lifetime of the horse and is maintained even if the horse is registered in a different Studbook.

UELN of horses born abroad are to be taken over upon entry into the Studbook.

If horses which have not been allocated a UELN are registered in the Studbook of the Verband, they are allocated an FN registration number compatible to UELN, irrespective of the horse's origin. The task of researching and allocating an FN registration number is carried out by the Breeding Section of the German Equestrian Federation on behalf of the Verband.

For horses which were born abroad without an international life number, the FN registration number is allocated as follows:

	<b>Position 1 to 3</b>	<b>Position 4 to 6 Large horses</b>	<b>Position 7 and 8</b>	<b>Position 9 to 13</b>	<b>Position 14 to 15</b>
Born before 2000	276 or DE+space	304 / 302	Double-digit coding of the issuing body	Consecutive registration number	Year of birth of the horse/pony (if known) - otherwise "00"
Born 2000 or later	276 or DE+space	404 / 402	Double-digit coding of the issuing body	Consecutive registration number	Year of birth of the horse/pony (if known) - otherwise "00"

## B.12 Assurance of Identity / Parentage Verification Testing

### B.12.1. Methods of parentage verification testing:

The Verband makes use of and accepts the following methods of parentage verification testing:

- DNA-typing according to ISAG-standard
- Pedigree assessment report from a gene laboratory accredited according to DIN EN ISO/IEC 17025:2005
- DNA profile comparison
- SNP-based parentage verification

Each foal to be registered is pedigree tested.

#### **B.12.2. Measures in the case of apparent deviations from the pedigree:**

In the case of deviations from the recorded pedigree becoming apparent, efforts will be made to ascertain the actual pedigree of the possible parents. If clarification can be achieved, the pedigree will be corrected on the basis of the respective pedigree in the Studbook and the equine passport incl. animal breeding certificate.

If the pedigree cannot be clarified, the pedigree will be withdrawn. Breeding animals registered in the Main Section of the Studbook of their breed will be relocated to the Additional Section of the Studbook. If the Studbook for the breed in question does not contain an Additional Section, the animal is to be removed from the Studbook. The information in the Studbook and the equine passport incl. animal breeding certificate are to be corrected accordingly.

The costs for the pedigree test are to be borne by the party responsible, if the pedigree transpires to be incorrect.

#### **B.12.3. Documentation**

A DNA type card or test results ensuing from other criteria for assurance of identity are kept at the Verband.

Deviations determined within the scope of the pedigree test are recorded and kept together with all other documentation relating to the pedigree test by the Verband for a minimum period of 10 years.

### **B.13 Breeding Documentation**

In order to guarantee correct and reliable breeding work in the Verband, every breeder is obliged to contribute in accordance with these Statutes, statutory regulations as well as the relevant Breeding Program of the breed(s) in question. In particular, the breeders have the following obligations

#### **B.13.1. Records of the breeding establishment (breeding documentation)**

Every breeder keeps a Stable Book (hand-written or in electronic form) for the breeding horses of his stock, in which all relevant information relating to the horse in question including the pedigree and all current data. Every breeder is obliged to submit the Stable Books to the Breeding Director on request, or to his representative, for purposes of checking. In order to guarantee a correct and reliable Studbook management it is necessary to provide representatives of the Verband with information and to allow inspection of the breeding documents including the Stable Books.

The breeding documentation is to be carried out in a timely and impeccable manner. On application of the breeder, the Stable Book can also be kept electronically via the MeinHannoveraner online tool of the Hannoveraner Verband. The breeder can access this data at any time and perform the notifications and entries required for the Stable Book himself.

Commissioning a third party to handle the breeding documentation does not relieve the breeder from his responsibility for the correctness of the entries. Corrections are to be made by means of deletion and have to be confirmed with the date and a signature. If MeinHannoveraner is used, the correction is made by notification to the Verband.

The breeding documentation has to be retained for a minimum period of 5 years from the last entry.

Measures in case of incorrect breeding documentation:

- The breeder is given a warning in combination with a request to correct and/or complete the documentation.
- If deviations concerning pedigree data are determined, an investigation according to the regulations stipulated in B.12 of these Statutes is to be carried out.

Any violations are documented and these records are retained for a period of 10 years in the Verband's Office.

#### **B.13.2. Responsibility of the stallion keeper**

Stallion keepers of the Verband are obliged to keep their stallions in such a way that any violations of these Statutes as well as the respective Breeding Programs are excluded. In the case of violations the Committee is to be informed immediately, and subsequently the Breeding Director who will decide upon suitable measures according to these Statutes (A.5). This also applies if the stallion keeper provides the mare owner with incorrect information or neglects hygiene regulations or fundamental principles of stallion keeping in any other way. The stallion keeper is obliged to provide the mare owner with information, to the best of his knowledge, concerning any disease-relevant genetic defects according to the respective Breeding Program.



### **B.13.3. Notification of insemination/covering (breeding certificate)**

After payment of the members' subscription, a breeding certificate is sent from the Verband's Office to the owner of every registered mare or is made available for download. The name and address of the owner as well as basic data relating to the mare are entered in this certificate. Prior to covering, the breeding certificate is to be handed over to the stallion keeper. The breeding certificate is to be completed in full by the stallion keeper following covering and signed by the stallion keeper or his representative. The breeding certificate has to contain at least:

- name and UELN of the mare,
- name and UELN of the stallion,
- all covering data,
- the covering registration number,
- if required, date and result of the pregnancy examination,
- name and address of the mare owner
- signature of the stallion keeper or of his representative.

Covering certificate forms of other breeding societies which comply with the legal provisions concerning animal breeding are accepted if they contain at least the following information:

- Name, UELN, color, markings and studbook category (section, division) of the mare
- Name, UELN, color, markings and studbook category (section, division) of the stallion
- Date of all coverings / inseminations
- Type of covering (live cover, artificial insemination, embryo transfer)
- Name and address of the mare owner
- Signature of the stallion keeper or of his representative
- Signature of the inseminating veterinarian (in the case of insemination with deep-frozen semen)

Notification of covering can also be transmitted electronically. A contractual agreement between the stallion keeper and the Verband is required for this purpose.

The owner of the covered mare is to receive a copy of the covering certificate from the stallion keeper. This copy must be kept as a certificate of covering until the mare gives birth to her foal. If the mare is sold, the buyer is obliged to take on this obligation. If the owner uses the MeinHannoveraner online tool, he is provided with covering information via this tool. In this case, he receives a copy of the covering certificate from the stallion keeper upon request only.

The stallion keeper collects the covering certificates and sends them to the Verband's Office by 30.09. of the current calendar year. The same registration deadlines apply for EDV-supported administration programs and internet notifications of covering. In case documents are submitted late, charges according to the Committee resolution apply.

As a matter of principle, a blank covering certificate may only be used in the case of mares which are not yet registered at the time of covering.

For registration of a foal, the copy of the covering certificate of the mare owner is sufficient if the mare was registered in the Studbook of another society at the time of covering and an original covering certificate is not available.

### **B.13.4. Notification of the birth of the foal**

Identification of the foal has to take place prior to weaning. The birth of a foal must be registered with the responsible officer at the State Stud and/or at the Verband within 28 days, at the latest however by 31st October. In case of late notification of foals, registration within the set period cannot be guaranteed in all cases. The consequences regarding issue of the Equine Passport are the responsibility of the breeder. The notification can also be transmitted online. A date for registration is to be arranged with the responsible officer following notification about the foal. On application for registration, the breeder also applies to the Hannoveraner Verband for an equine passport. If the registration is not effected by the due date, registration of the foal takes place within the scope of a "subsequent branding date". This is to be authorized by the Breeding Management following verification of pedigree. In this case higher fees have to be paid (according to the scale of charges).

The officer completes the registration of foaling and identifies the foal. He passes on the foaling registration to the Verband. The equine passport incl. animal breeding certificate is then issued or sent by the Verband's Office to the mare owner, on whose behalf the foal was registered.

If a mare does not give birth to a foal or if the foal dies shortly after birth, the registration of foaling is also to be completed, giving details of the reasons, and to be passed on to the Verband either by the

mare owner or the person in charge of the covering station. This also applies in the case of stillborn foals.

The notification of the birth of the foal has to contain at least the following information:

- Date of Birth
- Place of Birth
- Sex
- Fundamental color of the foal as well as markings, if applicable
- If applicable, information about stillbirth, birth of twins or death shortly after birth
- Signature of the mare owner (except in the case of online notification)

#### **B.13.5. Alteration of breeding data and Studbook entries**

All amendments and supplements concerning breeding data, color and markings, change in ownership and/or relocation, performance test results and other breeding relevant information, as well as loss of a transponder, are to be communicated to the Verband's Office immediately by the horse owner, in writing or electronically, without any special request being made to do so. As far as legally required, alterations are to be documented in the equine passport incl. animal breeding certificate as well as in the central animal database.

#### **B.14 Control of Genetic Defects**

Genetic defects involving suffering relevance and genetic anomalies are taken into consideration in the respective Breeding Programs of the Verband. Furthermore, prior to the mating of two parent animals, the stallion keeper is to inform the breeder about the genetic status of the selected stallion in regard to known and relevant genetic defects and anomalies. The stallion keeper is obliged to provide this information.

Genetic defects and genetic anomalies are to be registered in the Equine Passport in accordance with the relevant Breeding Program, and, within the scope of breeding evaluations for stallions, to be published by the Verband or the commissioned third body, if a breeding evaluation is intended in the relevant Breeding Program (see B 9.1).

#### **B.15 Fundamental Provisions concerning the Evaluation of Breeding Horses**

Breeding horses are evaluated according to the selection criteria defined in the Breeding Program relating to each breed. Each selection criterion is evaluated as a partial mark. This evaluation normally takes place at a Verband's event (licensing, studbook registrations, mare shows, performance tests, etc.) to ensure the comparison of a sufficiently large number of horses. In exceptional cases, particularly regarding entry of mares, evaluation can be conducted in a context other than a Verband's event. The minimum age for evaluation is regulated in the respective Breeding Program.

Unless regulated otherwise in the Breeding Program, evaluation of breeding horses is conducted in full grades for Studbook entry and licensing and in half grades for mare performance test and licensing in accordance with section 57.1.2 of the FN Rules for Competitive Events (LPO) according to the following grade system:

10 = excellent	5 = sufficient
9 = very good	4 = deficient
8 = good	3 = quite poor
7 = fairly good	2 = poor
6 = satisfactory	1 = very poor

If the result of the evaluation is expressed in a full grade, it represents the arithmetical average of the part grades of the evaluated selection criteria, adjusted to one decimal place. Deviations are regulated in the respective Breeding Program.

Furthermore, a description of the linear description evaluation method, which is common in horse breeding, is possible. In this context, the selection criteria defined in the Breeding Programs are described in detail. The description takes place around the basis of 0 on a scale from -3 to +3, according to the quality of the features. The selection criteria listed in the Breeding Programs may vary in the number of features for linear description.

## **B.16 Licensing**

Licensing is the initial selection decision of a breeding society for stallions, depending on the respective Breeding Program.

### **B.16.1. Authorization**

The application is to be submitted to the Verband's office in writing or electronically. To ensure an orderly licensing event, a pre-selection of the stallions registered for licensing can be carried out. The minimum age for stallions for authorization to take part in licensing and further requirements for stallions for authorization to take part in licensing are stipulated in the respective Breeding Programs.

### **B.16.2. Evaluation of suitability for breeding**

Ascertainment of suitability for breeding is carried out within the scope of a veterinary examination by a contractual veterinarian of the Verband (specialist veterinarian for horses). With regard to the suitability for breeding the following criteria are assessed:

- Anomalies of the testicles
- Anomalies of the jaw

### **B.16.3. Evaluation and determination of the result**

Evaluation of the stallions within the scope of licensing is carried out according to the fundamental principles of B.15 by the Licensing Commission. For licensing of young stallions, at least four members of the respective commission (incl. the Breeding Manager) must be involved in the evaluation and decision, and for licensing of old stallions at least three members of the respective commissions (incl. Breeding Manager).

The licensing score represents the arithmetical average with one decimal place. The main features are described in the Breeding Programs of the individual breeds.

### **B.16.4. Licensing Decision**

The licensing decision can be as follows:

- Licensed
- Not licensed
- Preliminarily not licensed

For the "licensed" selection decision, the minimum criteria according to the Breeding Program must be fulfilled. The licensing decision is announced publicly at the licensing event. The "licensed" decision is documented in the equine passport incl. animal breeding certificate as well as in the Studbook. The licensing decision "preliminarily not licensed" applies if the stallion does not fulfil the requirements relating to the overall mark, one of the partial marks and/or suitability for breeding, but can be expected to fulfil them in future. This licensing decision may be combined with a set deadline by which the stallion is to be presented once again for licensing.

The licensing decision "not licensed" applies if the stallion does not fulfil the requirements relating to the overall mark and/or one or several of the partial marks, and/or the requirements relating to suitability for breeding. If the requirements regarding suitability for breeding are fulfilled, the stallion may be re-presented for licensing a further time.

The owner of the stallion is to be informed about the licensing decision in writing. The licensing decision "licensed" is documented in the stallion's evidence of pedigree after the stallion has been evaluated at a licensing event.

### **B.16.5. Medication controls**

Stallions are not entitled to participate or, if necessary, are subsequently excluded from licensing/pre-selection if they have been given a forbidden substance pursuant to the lists and implementation regulations of the Rules for Competitive Events (LPO) currently valid (part C legal basis - FN anti-doping and medication control regulations - ADMR) or which have been subjected to any kind of forbidden procedure or manipulation with the intention of influencing performance, performance ability or willingness to perform shall not be authorized to participate in licensing procedures. The Licensing Commission/Pre-Selection Commission is entitled to ask for medication controls at any time. Execution of the medication controls is carried out according to the implementation regulations of the respective Rules for Competitive Events in the currently valid version (part C legal basis - FN anti-doping and medication control regulations - ADMR).

Stallions are also not entitled to participate or, if necessary, are subsequently excluded from licensing/pre-selection if they have been positively tested for a prohibited substance, a prohibited method or a prohibited surgical procedure according to subsection 1 in the same or another breeding society or an equestrian society within a period of 3 months (anabolic substances 12 months) prior to licensing/pre-selection.

#### **B.16.6. Withdrawal, revocation, objection**

Licensing is to be withdrawn if a condition for the licensing was not fulfilled at the time. If the party concerned can be accused of fraudulent misrepresentation, providing incorrect and incomplete details or consequences of gross negligence, the results of the licensing are reversed and the stallion's status reverts to the status prior to the licensing, i.e. as if there had never been any positive licensing decision. Licensing is to be revoked if one of the conditions subsequently ceases to exist. It can be revoked if it is connected to a requirement which the beneficiary failed to fulfil or did not fulfil in time. A reversal does not take place in the case of a revocation.

The owner of the stallion has the possibility to submit an objection to the licensing decision to the Verband's Office. Reasons for the objection are also to be given in writing. The deadline for submitting objections is two weeks after announcement of the licensing decision. The responsible body of the Breeding Society decides whether or not to accept the objection. If the objection is accepted, the responsible body decides on the composition of a new Evaluation Commission. It also decides on the place and date for re-presentation of the stallion.

In the case of positive evidence relating to medication or manipulation, the licensing decision is to be revoked and the respective Studbook entry is withdrawn. The stallion owner is entitled to submit an objection to the revocation of the licensing decision in writing to the competent body of the Breeding Society, c/o Verband's address. The deadline for submitting objections is two weeks after announcement of the decision. Reasons for the objection are to be submitted within a further week. By way of advance payment, a sum of money is to be specified by the relevant breeding society and either paid directly or secured by the end of this additional week at the latest.

#### **B.16.7. Farm Licensing**

In particularly exceptional cases (stallions successful in international sport or after injuries), licensing can be conducted at the breeder's premises following an application by the stallion keeper. A commission is appointed for this purpose (see A.11.1.1). The costs for the procedure are borne by the stallion keeper.

### **B.17 Premium Distinctions awarded by the Verband**

#### **B.17.1. Hannoveraner Premium Mares**

Particularly high quality Hannoveraner and Rhenish mares may be awarded the distinction of "Hannoveraner Premium Mare" (Hann.Pr.St.) if they fulfil the Guidelines of the Verband for this distinction (2).

#### **B.17.2. Performance mares**

Mares with above-average success in competitive sport or in racing may be awarded the title "Performance Mare" after an appropriate application has been made by the owner. Details relating to the conditions to be fulfilled for award of the Performance Mare title are to be found in the guidelines which have been drawn up by the Verband's Committee.

#### **B.17.3. Hannoveraner Premium Stallions**

Particularly high-quality Hannoveraner and Rhenish stallions may be awarded the distinction of Premium Stallion on the occasion of licensing.

### **B.18 Fundamental Provisions concerning Performance Test and Breeding Evaluation**

#### **B.18.1. Performance test**

##### **B.18.1.1. Recognition of test results**

Results of performance tests conducted according to current Animal Breeding Law, the current Rules for Competitive Events (LPO) of the German Equestrian Federation (FN) and/or the regulations of the Federation Equestre Internationale (FEI) as well as the Direktorium für Vollblutzucht und Rennen (Society for Thoroughbred breeding and racing) will be recognised.

Results of national competitive sport events / horse performance shows held outside Germany will be recognised if they can be considered as equivalent tests.

Conditions specific to the breed regarding the own performance test are stipulated in the Breeding Programs of the individual breeds.

#### **B.18.1.2. Responsibilities for test forms**

Within the Verband, stallions and mares can participate in performance tests conducted either by the Verband or other organizations or test centers. The Verband concludes contracts with the test centers and/or organizations commissioned with conducting tests. These contracts form the basis for the organisation and implementation of the commissioned tests. The Verband operates a controlling system to ensure adherence to the contractual agreements as well as the correct execution of the performance tests.

#### **B.18.2. Breeding evaluation**

##### **B.18.2 Breeding evaluation**

All data recorded for performance tests within the scope of the Breeding Program are to be made available to the Breeding Society by the Verband's members and commissioned third bodies immediately and free of charge. Data transfer can also take place directly to the bodies commissioned to conduct the breeding evaluation (vit Verden).

vit Verden, following a plausibility check of the reported data, carries out Breeding Evaluations on the basis of the recorded features and according either to a procedure approved by the competent authorities or to a procedure corresponding to the requirements of the Breeding Society in coordination with the decisions of the respective umbrella organisation (FN).

#### **B.19 Controlling**

The organizations commissioned by the Breeding Society with conducting performance tests and breeding evaluations are continuously monitored by the Breeding Society to ensure the reliability of the performance tests and breeding evaluation. The controlling procedures in operation are stipulated in corresponding agreements with the organizations.

#### **B.20 Legal Validity**

The Statutes with the provisions relating to the Verband as well as legal provisions concerning animal breeding were adopted at the Delegates' Assembly of February, 20 2020 and come into force following approval by the Lower Saxony Ministry of Agriculture and registration with the registry court.