



HORSE SPORT

IRELAND

BREEDING PROGRAMME FOR THE IRISH COB STUDBOOK

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SECTION 1 OVERVIEW OF BREEDING PROGRAMME

1.1 INTRODUCTION

The Irish Cob (IC) Studbook is the Studbook of origin for the Irish Cob breed. Horse Sport Ireland is recognised by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine as a breed society and approved to operate a breeding programme for the improvement of the Irish Cob in Ireland and is approved as a Passport Issuing Organisation for this breed. The breeding programme shall operate in the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland.

1.2 DEFINITIONS

For the purposes of this breeding programme, the following definitions will apply:

‘Agent’ A person who has been appointed by an owner giving full authority to act on behalf of the owner and who can be in all respects treated as the owner for the purpose of dealing with the studbook. The agent shall normally be appointed to act for the duration of a breeding season. The appointment of an agent by an owner requires a written instruction of the owner and must be transmitted by post or email to the studbook.

‘AIM’ The Animal Identification and Movement database maintained by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine.

‘Biothermo microchip’ these microchips contain a patented built-in temperature biosensor which can measure a horse’s temperature at the implantation site. These are radio-frequency Identification (RFID) systems which offer unique and unalterable identification for horses. The microchip is a passive transponder, with a unique 15-digit identification number compatible with ISO Standards 11784 and 11785.

‘Breeder’ A person(s) or entity which is recorded in the studbook as the owner of a mare at the time of foaling, shall be recorded as the breeder of the foal. This may be varied in certain circumstances when a signed agreement has been submitted to and accepted by the studbook confirming that another arrangement has been agreed regarding the registration of the breeder of a foal. In circumstances where the owner of a mare at the time of foaling is in doubt, the keeper of the mare shall be recorded as the breeder of the foal.

‘Breeding and Production Equine’ An equine identified in line with all legislative provisions but that has not been entered in a studbook.

‘CEM’ Contagious equine metritis (CEM) is an acute, highly contagious venereal disease of horses (and experimentally of donkeys) characterized by a profuse, mucopurulent vaginal discharge and early return to oestrus in most affected mares. Infected stallions and chronically infected mares show no clinical signs.

‘Classification’ The class within a section of the Studbook in which a horse is entered and the process by which this is determined.

‘Competent Authority’ The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine are the current recognised competent Authority.

‘Covering Certificate’ Certification provided in writing or in electronic format by the owner (or agent) of a stallion which confirms that the named stallion mated with an identified mare. The certificate must also show the mare owner details, the first and last date that the stallion and mare were mated and identify if the mating is through AI.

‘DNA Laboratory’ The HSI-appointed DNA analysis and storage laboratory, currently Weatherbys Scientific, Unit F1, M7 Business Park, Newhall, Naas, Co. Kildare, Ireland. W91 VX86.

‘Duplicate Identification Document’ An identification document issued where the original identification document is lost, and the identity of the animal can be established, through the microchip or alternative reliable method of identity verification; or the animal has not been identified within the time limits, provided that the covering certificate is available and the biological dam is identified or, the competent authority has proof that certain identification details in the existing identification document do not match the corresponding equine animal.

‘EIA’ Equine infectious anaemia or swamp fever is a classical bloodborne infection, and the virus is transmitted by biting flies (mainly horse flies) and contaminated needles and other instruments. All infected horses remain virus carriers for life and can serve as a source of infection for other horses.

‘Entered’ Horses entered in the IC Studbook include all horses entered in the main section of the IC Studbook and all horses endorsed into the main section of the IC Studbook via the Crossbreeding Programme.

‘E-passport’ is the digital version of the horses identification document.

‘Equine Premises Numbers’ (EPN) relate to the premises where the animal is kept are compulsory on all Republic of Ireland (ROI) Applications. Applications cannot be processed without a

valid EPN. EPN numbers are issued by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, [click here](#) for more detail.

‘EVA’ Equine Viral Arteritis is primarily spread by venereal infection of mares by stallions during mating or when artificially inseminated by a carrier stallion. Infected mares but they may shed virus in all her bodily fluids for up to 24 days after exposure and can infect other horses by direct contact or by aerosol. Stallions that are exposed to virus may become long term or permanent venereal shedders and may infect every mare they cover. EVA is a Notifiable disease in Ireland.

‘Fee’ The amounts quoted in the fee schedules produced by Horse Sport Ireland.

‘FEI’ The Fédération Équestre Internationale (International Federation for Equestrian Sports) is the international governing body of equestrian sports.

‘FFS’ Fragile Foal Syndrome is a hereditary disease with symptoms of hyperextensible and abnormally fragile skin, as well as hyperextensibility of articulations. The skin of new-born foals lacks tensile strength due to large spaces between deep dermal fibres. Also, lesions occur across the body and limb joints are extremely lax and hyperextensible. These abnormalities require euthanasia just after delivery. The defect is caused by a gene mutation.

‘Germinal product’ Germinal products include semen, oocytes, *in vivo* derived embryos and *in vitro* derived embryos.

‘Identification Document’ It is a legal requirement that all horses have an identification document issued within a year of birth and the document should always accompany the horse. The Identification document is a single lifetime document for a horse and contains the described particulars of the animal and includes the year of birth, sex, registration dates and microchip information as an aid to its identification and for maintaining a medical record. The document also contains the owner information but is not a certificate of legal ownership and cannot be construed as such. The Identification document remains the property of the Issuing Authority and must be surrendered upon request.

‘IHR online’ This is a web-based data resource which provides information on horses in the database known as the ‘Irish Horse Register’ as maintained and administered by HSI. Animals included in this database are those entered and recorded in the studbooks maintained and administered by HSI, equines issued with breeding and production documents, equines endorsed into a HSI studbook for breeding purposes and those

equines that require to be notified to the central equine database (movement notification). Information on pedigree, progeny and performance detail of horses are entered and recorded in the Irish Horse Register where relevant. The database is publicly available to breeders, registered owners, and registered users.

‘Issuing Authority’ Horse Sport Ireland is the issuing authority for the Irish Cob Studbook.

‘Keeper’ A person(s) or entity which is recorded in the studbook as the keeper of a horse following submission to and acceptance by the studbook of a completed form or notification including the relevant fee.

‘Main section’ The section of a studbook that caters for horses that have met all the rules for entry as outlined in the breeding programme.

‘Microchip’ An electronic device encoded with a unique 15-digit number and encased in biocompatible glass called a transponder. The transponder has no internal power source and remains passive and harmless when implanted in the animal. When a microchip scanner is passed over an animal it sends radio waves to the transponder which gives it sufficient power to transmit a unique signal back to the scanner. The scanner decodes this signal and displays the 15-digit number.

‘Operator’ Any natural or legal person having equine animals under his or her responsibility, including for a limited duration of time, but excluding veterinarians and defined in EU CIR 2021/963. Termed ‘keeper’ in previous legislation and Irish Statutory Instruments and in HSI documents

‘Owner’ A person(s) or entity having completed an ownership declaration on the animal registration form or having completed a Transfer of ownership form, and the form has been accepted as accurate, and the relevant fee has been paid will be recorded in the studbook as the owner of a horse.

‘Passport’ An alternative term for an equine’s identification document.

‘Passport Issuing Organisation (PIO)’ An organisation recognised by the Competent Authority to issue Identification documents for horses.

‘Recorded’ Cobs recorded in the supplementary section of the IC studbook includes all cobs recorded in the supplementary section of the studbook and all cobs endorsed into the supplementary section via the Crossbreeding programme.

‘Radiology Panel’ A studbook-appointed panel of appropriately qualified radiologists which provide veterinary advice and expertise to the Studbook in respect of the interpretation of radiographs of studbook animals.

‘Registration’ Process by which horses receive an Irish Cob Studbook identification document and are entered into the main section or recorded in the supplementary section of the Studbook.

‘Studbook’ The Irish Cob Studbook.

‘Supplementary Section (SUPP)’ The section of a studbook that caters for horses eligible to be entered in that studbook but that are not eligible for entry in the main section.

‘UEN’ The Unique Equine Number which contains 15 digits. The first three digits of the UEN represent the country of origin (372 is the code for Ireland); the next three digits represent the registration authority (414 is the code for the Horse Sport Ireland database); with the remaining 9 digits forming the registration number used to identify the animal.

‘Veterinary Surgeon’ A qualified Veterinary Surgeon who shall not be the breeder, owner or agent of a horse to which a markings certificate, blood sample or microchip implantation relates. A Veterinary Surgeon must be listed on the Veterinary Council of Ireland database.

‘Veterinary Committee’ A studbook-appointed panel of Veterinary Surgeons which provide veterinary advice and expertise to the Studbook.

SECTION 2 NAME OF THE BREED

The name of the breed is the Irish Cob breed. The Irish Cob Studbook is the studbook of origin for this breed.

SECTION 3 SELECTION AND BREEDING OBJECTIVES OF THE IRISH COB BREEDING PROGRAMME

The overall aim of the breeding programme for the Irish Cob is the preservation (conservation) of the breed and the improvement of individual horses within the breed towards the breed standard.

3.1 CHARACTERISTICS OF THE BREED/ BREED STANDARD

GENERAL APPEARANCE - The Irish Cob is compact and powerful, ample both in muscle and bone, yet, with an ability to perform as a good all-purpose animal. Some Irish Cobs tend to be more “stocky” than others. The Irish Cob is well balanced and proportioned, standing straight and square and offering an imposing appearance.

TOPLINE - The head, which should be held proudly should be carried on a powerful and arched, well “set on”, neck. The neck should appear to “carry on” through good withers and to finish at the start of the back (this feature should be particularly evident in stallions). The back which should be short and straight should slope gently upwards to a well-muscled croup (the backbone/spine or the hip bones should not be apparent). The croup, which is quite high and generous should have both croup muscles well defined, the top of the quarters being exceptionally well muscled, broad and ample. The angle of the spine from the croup to the tail should slope gently downwards and should not be exaggerated, this allows for a high, well “set on”, tail and contributes to good well-rounded quarters.

BONE - Irish Cobs are from medium weight to heavy weight (Some allowance in bone measurement can be made for mares and geldings only).

IN MOTION – Irish Cobs with their unique action, luxuriant hair and feathering and the large range of colours available, combine to present a beautiful and varied sight to see when turned out at their best, particularly when in motion.

TEMPERAMENT - The Irish Cob should possess a docile and willing nature, with a friendly disposition towards humans and other animal species. Displays of aggressive and threatening behaviour such as ears back, kicking, biting, rearing and not being under control of the handler, will result in expulsion from Approval Inspection and the Show Ring.

HEIGHT – under 170cms

HEAD - should be straight, handsome and in proportion to the rest of the horse. The forehead should be broad and the muzzle, jaw and cheek should be generous.

MOUTH - should have a level bite.

EYES – should be quite bold, open and set well apart.

EARS - should be neat and well set on.

NECK - should be compact, but not too short and should be generously muscled including the crest (stallion's necks should be particularly well muscled and crested).

SHOULDERS - should be ample, powerful and sloping.

WITHERS - should be of average protrusion or height and should be encased in plenty of muscle and flesh.

CHEST - should be powerful, well-muscled and not too broad or narrow.

BACK - should be short, straight, well covered in muscle and flesh and slope gently upwards towards the croup.

HINDQUARTERS AND HIND LEGS – The hindquarters should be very generous, well rounded, broad and powerful with a well-muscled high croup. The second thigh should also be very generous, quite long and well coupled to good straight powerful hocks. The hind legs should be well boned and muscled.

BODY - should be short and compact with ribs well sprung to barrel shape.

FORELEGS - should be powerful and not too short. There should be a good length of well-muscled forearm and generously boned shins.

KNEES AND HOCKS - should be well developed and of generous dimensions but should be in balance with the proportions of the horse.

FETLOCK JOINTS - should match the other joints in power, size and build.

PASTERNS - should also be of sufficient bone and not too long (straight or over angled pasterns are a fault).

HOOVES - should be well shaped, neat and of a size capable of carrying the frame of the horse without stress.

LEG HAIR/FEATHERING - Leg hair/feathering is a characteristic and decorative feature of the Irish Cob breed. This is especially prominent in the heavier Irish Cobs. However, the amount of leg hair/feathering present may vary considerably, particularly in the case of medium weight Irish Cobs. Leg hair/feathering, should at the very least, fall from the back of the knees and hocks, down

to a thick covering of hair/feathers on the heels. Leg hair/feathering should also fall over the front of the hoof, from at least the coronet.

MANE AND TAIL - The mane and tail should be luxuriant and capable of growing to a substantial length.

MOVEMENT – Movement should appear sound and free from obvious hereditary defects.

COLOUR – The following colours are considered most typical:

- All solid colours including black, bay, brown, chestnut, palomino, grey and roan.
- All solid colours including black, bay, brown, chestnut, palomino, grey and roan, which contain white body markings.
- White body markings are measured in percentages and exclude the head, legs and underbelly. Irish Cobs which have white body markings are described as COLOURED.
- Irish Cobs which have white markings on the underbelly are described as SPLASHED or BLAGDON.

Although described as a 'draught' type animal, the Irish Cob breed also remains a dual-purpose animal, by retaining the docile character attributed to the cold blood breeds, while retaining the breed's agile and versatile capabilities, which are ideally suited to a number of leisure riding pursuits.

3.2 SELECTION CRITERIA IN THE IRISH COB BREEDING PROGRAMME

Details on inspection procedures are outlined in section 7 of the breeding programme with additional documentation in Appendix 1. All traits included in the breed standard are heritable and are assessed at studbook inspections.

Animals presenting for studbook selection undergo a veterinary assessment and have their movement and confirmation traits (section 7.1) scored as per the profile sheet provided in Appendix 1.

A score of 5 indicates the best possible score with 1 indicating the lowest possible score. Studbook animal must achieve minimum scores to attain Class 1 as provided on the score sheet (appendix 1). In order to enter the supplementary section of the studbook animals must achieve a score of 3 or higher for 'EXCELLENCE OF BREED TYPE' to be eligible for entry into the supplementary section of the Irish Cob Studbook.

3.3 DETAILED BREEDING OBJECTIVE

To protect, preserve and improve the Irish Cob breed in its traditional form and type through the following means:

- To inspect animals with a view to entry into the Supplementary Section of the Studbook.
- To inspect stallions, entered in the Main Section and Supplementary Section of the Studbook, with a view to approving suitable stallions for inclusion in the Breeding Programme.
- To inspect mares, entered in the Main Section for the Studbook, with a view to approving suitable mares for inclusion in the Breeding Programme.
- To preserve and protect the Irish Cob breed in its traditional form and type, as a compact, powerful, yet agile working horse (a cold blood).
- Supp Class 3 Irish Cobs are not recommended for breeding.

The Irish Cob is classified as a working draught horse (as opposed to the carriage horse, which may be clean legged – warm blood type). The Irish Cob breed is classified as a working draught horse, so as to ensure that the breed is never allowed to become light of bone, which would also have the effect of losing one of the breeds' renowned characteristics, the leg feathering.

SECTION 4 TERRITORIES

The breeding programme shall operate in the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland.

SECTION 5 DIVISION OF THE STUDBOOK

The Irish Cob Studbook incorporates a main section and a supplementary section.

5.1 MAIN SECTION

To qualify for entry into the main section of the Irish Cob Studbook an animal must:

- Be descended from parents that are entered in the main section of a breeding book of the same breed.
- Have a pedigree established according to the rules set out in the breeding programme.

- Be identified in accordance with the Equine Passport Regulations¹ and in accordance with the rules of the studbook (See section 6 on Entry into the Studbook)
- In the case of entry into the Union of an animal, the animal shall be accompanied by a zootechnical certificate issued in accordance with the Animal Breeding Regulations²
- Where an animal is produced from a germinal product which is traded or which is entered into the Union, it must be accompanied by a zootechnical certificate in accordance with the Animal Breeding Regulations².

The main section of the Irish Cob Studbook is divided into classes in accordance with their merits of which they meet. The Main Section is divided as follows:

- Class 1
- Class 2
- Class 3
- Class 4

Irish Cob Studbook Classification Equivalents	
Historic Classification	Current Classification
Main Basic Register 1A	Class 4
Main Basic Register 1B	Class 4
Main Basic Register 2A	Class 4
Main Basic Register 2b	Class 4
Main Elite Class	Class 1
Main Small Cob Register	Class 2

¹ **COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING REGULATION (EU) 2021/963 of 10 June 2021 laying down rules for the application of Regulations (EU) 2016/429, (EU) 2016/1012 and (EU) 2019/6 of the European Parliament and of the Council with regard to the identification and registration of equine animals and establishing model identification documents for those animals**

² **COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING REGULATION (EU) 2016/1012 of 8 June 2016 on zootechnical and genealogical conditions for the breeding, trade in and entry into the Union of purebred breeding animals, hybrid breeding pigs and the germinal products thereof and amending Regulation (EU) No 652/2014, Council Directives 89/608/EEC and 90/425/EEC and repealing certain acts in the area of animal breeding ('Animal Breeding Regulation')**

5.1.1 CLASS 1

Irish Cob stallions, mares and geldings are classified in this class provided they meet the following criteria:

- Are entered in the main section of the Irish Cob Studbook;
AND
- Are by a stallion classified as Class 1, Class 2, Class 3, Class 4, Supp Class 1, Supp Class 2, Main Basic register or Main elite register and are out of a dam that is classified as Class 1, Class 2, Class 3, Class 4, Supp Class 1, Supp Class 2, Main Basic register or Main Elite register in the Irish Cob Studbook;
AND
- Meet the veterinary requirements and studbook selection requirements outlined in section 7.

5.1.2 CLASS 2

Irish Cob stallions, mares and geldings are classified in this class provided they meet the following criteria:

- Are entered in the main section Irish Cob Studbook.
AND
- Are by a stallion classified as Class 1, Class 2, Class 3, Class 4, Supp Class 1, Supp Class 2, Main Basic register or Main elite register and are out of a dam that is classified as Class 1, Class 2, Class 3, Class 4, Supp Class 1, Supp Class 2, Main Basic register or Main elite register in the Irish Cob Studbook;
- Meet the veterinary requirements but do not meet the studbook selection requirements for Class 1 outlined in section 7.

5.1.3 CLASS 3

Irish Cob stallion, mares and geldings are classified in this class provided they meet the following criteria:

- Are entered in the main section Irish Cob Studbook
AND

- Are by a stallion classified as Class 1, Class 2, Class 3, Class 4, Supp Class 1, Supp Class 2, Supp Class 3, Supp Class 4, Main Basic register or Main elite register and are out of a dam that is classified as Class 1, Class 2, Class 3, Class 4, Supp Class 1, Supp Class 2, Supp Class 3, Supp Class 4, Main Basic register or Main elite register in the Irish Cob Studbook.
- Do not meet the studbook veterinary requirements.

Class 3 Irish Cobs are not recommended for breeding.

5.1.4 CLASS 4

Irish Cob stallion, mares and geldings are classified in this class provided they meet the following criteria:

- Are entered in the main section Irish Cob Studbook
- Have not been presented for the studbook selection.

5.1.5 HISTORIC CLASSIFICATIONS

Prior to 2024, The Main Section was divided into the following:

- Main Basic Register
- Main Elite Stallion and Main Elite Mares & Geldings
- Main Small Cob Register

5.1.5.1 MAIN BASIC REGISTER

The Basic Register was divided into classes as follows:

Class 1a

Males and females, where the sire is entered in the Main Elite Stallion Class, or the Supplementary Elite Stallion Class and the dam is entered in the Main Elite Mare Class or the Supplementary Elite Mare Class.

Class 1B

Males and females, where the sire is entered in the Main Elite Stallion Class, or the Supplementary Elite Stallion Class and the dam is entered in the Main Basic Register, or the Supplementary Basic Register.

Class 2A

Males and females, where the sire is entered in the Main Basic Register, or the Supplementary Basic Register and the dam is entered in the Main Elite Mare Class or the Supplementary Elite Mare Class.

Class 2B

Males and females, where the sire is entered in the Main Basic Register, or the Supplementary Basic Register and the dam is entered in the Main Basic Register, or the Supplementary Basic Register.

5.1.5.2 MAIN ELITE CLASS

Males which were entered in the Main Basic Register and had been approved at inspection were classified in the 'Main Elite Stallion Class'. Females and geldings which were entered in the Main Basic Register and were approved at inspection were classified in the 'Main Elite Mare or Gelding Class'.

5.1.5.3 MAIN SMALL COB REGISTER

Males and females which were entered in the Main Basic Register, were aged at least 3 years of age and have measured by a veterinary surgeon at a studbook inspection to be less than 140cm may be classified in the 'Main Small Cob Register'.

5.2 SUPPLEMENTARY SECTION

To qualify for recording into the supplementary section animals must meet the following criteria:

- Are identified in accordance with the Equine Passport Regulations and in accordance with the rules of the breeding programme (See section 6 on Entry into the Studbook);
- Be descended from parents that are both entered in the Irish Cob Studbook but do not qualify for registration in the main section.

OR

- Are judged to conform to the characteristics of the breed through assessment at inspection by scoring a minimum of 3 points for 'BREED TYPE' (Section 7). Minimum performance is not based on ability or training but in an animal satisfying the Irish Cob Studbook inspector(s) that it has sufficient Irish Cob breed type characteristics to resemble the Irish Cob breed.

The supplementary section of the Irish Cob studbook is divided into classes. Animals that are eligible for classification in the main section of the Irish Cob Studbook are not eligible for classification in the supplementary section.

There are 4 classes in the Supplementary section of the Irish Studbook:

- Supplementary Class 1
- Supplementary Class 2
- Supplementary Class 3
- Supplementary Class 4

Irish Cob Studbook Classification Equivalents	
Historic Classification	Current Classification
Supplementary Elite Class	Supp Class 1
Supplementary Basic Class	Supp Class 2
Supplementary Small Cob Class	Supp Class 2

5.2.1 SUPPLEMENTARY CLASS 1

Irish Cob stallions, mares and geldings are classified in this class provided they meet the following criteria:

- Are ineligible for the main section of the Irish Cob Studbook
 - Are recorded in the supplementary section of the Irish Cob Studbook;
- AND
- Meet the veterinary requirements and studbook selection requirements outlined in section 7.
- AND
- Are by a stallion or mare classified as Supp Class 3 or Supp Class 4 in the Irish Cob Studbook;

5.2.2. SUPPLEMENTARY CLASS 2

Irish Cob stallions, mares and geldings are classified in this class provided they meet the following criteria:

- Are ineligible for the main section of the Irish Cob Studbook
 - Are recorded in the supplementary section of the Irish Cob Studbook;
- AND

- Do not meet the studbook requirements but meet the veterinary requirements outlined in section 7.

AND

- Are by a stallion or mare classified as Supp Class 3 or Supp Class 4 in the Irish Cob Studbook;

5.2.3 SUPPLEMENTARY CLASS 3

Irish Cob stallions, mares and geldings are classified in this class provided they meet the following criteria:

- Are ineligible for the main section of the Irish Part-Bred Cob Studbook
- Are recorded in the supplementary section the Irish Cob
- Do not meet the studbook veterinary requirements.

AND

- Are by a stallion or mare classified as Class 3, Class 4, Supp Class 3 or Supp Class 4 in the Irish Cob Studbook;

Supp Class 3 Irish Cobs are not recommended for breeding.

5.2.4 SUPPLEMENTARY CLASS 4

Irish Cob stallion, mares and geldings are classified in this class provided they meet the following criteria:

- Do not meet the entry requirements for the main section Irish Cob Studbook
- AND
- Are by Irish Cob stallion or mare classified as Supp Class 3/Supp Class 4, Class 3, Class 4.

AND

- Have not been presented for the studbook selection.

5.2.5 GRADE UP REGISTER

Mares that meet the following criteria are classified in this class:

- Are classified in the main section or supplementary section of the Irish Part Bred Cob Studbook and meet the following pedigree requirements:

- Have one parent (either the dam or the sire) classified in the Irish Cob Studbook and one parent that is classified in the Irish Part Bred Cob Studbook;

AND

- Have three grandparents classified in the Irish Cob Studbook

AND

- Be judged to conform to the IC breed standard at an official studbook selection as outlined in section 7.

Mares that are classified in the Grade Up Register of the supplementary section will retain their original classification in the Irish Part Bred Cob Studbook and their identification documents will reflect that they are also classified in the supplementary section (Grade Up Register) of Irish Cob Studbook.

5.2.6 HISTORIC CLASSIFICATIONS

Prior to 2024, the three classes in the Supplementary Section of the Irish Cob Studbook were:

- Supplementary Elite Class
- Supplementary Small Cob Class
- Supplementary Basic Class

5.2.6.1 SUPPLEMENTARY ELITE CLASS

Males which were entered in the Supplementary Basic Class and have been approved at inspection were classified in the 'Supplementary Elite Stallion Class'. Females and geldings which were entered in the Supplementary Basic Register were approved at inspection were classified in the 'Supplementary Elite Mare/ Gelding Class'.

5.2.6.2 SUPPLEMENTARY SMALL COB CLASS

Males and females which were entered in the Supplementary Basic Register, are aged at least 3 years of age and have measured by a veterinary surgeon at a studbook inspection to be less than 140cm may be classified in the 'Supplementary Small Cob Class'.

5.2.6.3 SUPPLEMENTARY BASIC CLASS

Males and females meeting the criteria to be entered in the Supplementary section but not meeting the criteria for classification as Supplementary Elite or Supplementary Small Cob were classified in the 'Supplementary Basic Class'.

5.2.7 UPGRADING OF PROGENY FROM THE SUPPLEMENTARY SECTION

The progeny of dams that are entered in the supplementary section are eligible for entry into the main section of the Irish Cob Studbook providing they are sired by stallions registered in the Irish Cob Studbook with the relevant classification at the time of covering (appendix 3).

The progeny of stallions that are entered in the supplementary section are eligible for entry into the main section of the Irish Cob Studbook providing the dam is of the relevant classification in the Irish Cob Studbook (appendix 3).

5.3 CLASSIFICATION OF HORSES REGISTERED IN OTHER IRISH COB STUDBOOKS

Irish Cob stallions and mares that are registered in other Irish Cob Studbooks are eligible for entry in the Irish Cob Studbook of Origin and will be entered as Class 4 or into the Class that corresponds to the merits of the animal.

5.4 CROSS-BREEDING PROGRAMME

The Irish Cob breeding programme carries out a cross breeding programme. Animals that are entered in the main section of the Studbooks listed in Appendix 2, with established pedigree, are eligible to enter the main section of the Irish Cob Studbook to take part in the crossbreeding programme, under the conditions outlined below. This includes, the Irish Piebald and Skewbald Association, the Gypsy Cob, the Coloured Horse, the Tinker.

Selected females only: Studbook registered Welsh Cobs, Part-Bred Cobs (see 5.2.5) through judging.

SECTION 6 SYSTEM FOR IDENTIFYING IRISH COB AND RECORDING PEDIGREES

This section details the required procedures for Registering equines in the Irish Cob Studbook.

Irish Cob identification documents must be returned to the issuing authority when, a transfer of ownership is to be recorded, the animal to which it refers dies or is destroyed, or the owner / keeper is requested to do so by the issuing authority.

6.1 REGISTERING OF FOALS

6.1.1. REGISTERING A FOAL

6.1.1.1. Initiation of process:

- Once a mare is covered by a stallion entered in the Irish Cob Studbook a completed covering certificate should be submitted by the stallion owner to Horse Sport Ireland.

OR

- The Mare owner can initiate the process by providing a Mare Declaration to Horse Sport Ireland.

OR

- The owner of offspring from germinal products (e.g. embryos, oocytes from donor females, semen from fertilising sires) can initiate the process by contacting HSI and providing a zootechnical certificate for the embryo and, a zootechnical certificate for both the donor male and the donor female where relevant if either are entered in another studbook.

OR

- From June 2024 the mare owner/keeper/breeder submits a foal registration application once the foal is born. In the case of germinal products the owner/keeper/breeder of the surrogate mare.

On receipt of the relevant documentation outlined above, a foal kit (which includes an HSI marking chart with the sire and dam recorded on it, a DNA kit and an explanatory note) is issued to the breeder in the year of foaling. Foal kits may be supplied to the keeper of the foal, if different to the breeder, only when written instructions to this effect have been received by HSI from the breeder.

6.1.1.2 The breeder should arrange to have the foal marked by a veterinary surgeon when the foal is between 8 days and 1 month old. The veterinary surgeon is also required to microchip the foal with transponder issued by a PIO approved by the Department of Agriculture, Food and

the Marine, record the microchip number on the marking chart and take a sample of the foal's hair for the DNA kit. In certain cases, dam and or sire hair samples may be required. This may vary in other jurisdictions depending on national legislation for Equine Identification in place.

6.1.1.3 The keeper should complete the necessary declarations on the form and submit the completed marking chart with the appropriate fee via the online portal to Horse Sport Ireland. The keeper may also name the foal for an additional fee.

6.1.1.4 The keeper should send the DNA kit to Horse Sport Ireland. DNA is also required for germinal products and for sires and dams breeding through Embryo Transfer (ET), Intracytoplasmic Sperm Injection (ICSI) and other artificial methods.

6.1.1.5 On receipt of the completed marking chart, a covering certificate from the Stallion owner, registration fee and confirmation of pedigree from the DNA Laboratory, Horse Sport Ireland will process the registration, issue the identification document to the applicant, and enter the foal in the appropriate section of the studbook. A zootechnical certificate shall also be provided in respect of purebred animals entered in the main section of the studbook. Where animals are recorded into the supplementary section, pedigree information is recorded in the non-statutory section of the passport.

6.1.1.6 Where in extenuating circumstances, the sire's specific genetic markers (DNA profile) is unattainable or being withheld by the stallion owner/agent, the Head of Breeding, Innovation and Development of HSI reserves all rights related to the issuance of an identification document to the respective progeny, subject to the submission of a covering certificate and receipt of the progeny's specific genetic markers (DNA profile). Such decisions will be made on a case-by-case basis by the Head of Breeding, Innovation and Development of HSI with the sole objective of discharging the functions of a studbook.

6.2 REGISTRATION OF OTHER HORSES

The procedures for registering yearlings and older horses are the same as the process described in section 6.1 except the horse is not identified as a foal at foot, the owner of the animal must contact HSI via the online portal to request a DNA kit and the DNA sample should be returned to HSI.

In certain circumstances where it is not possible for the keeper/owner of a horse to obtain a covering certificate for an animal, an identification document may be issued with recorded pedigree

where the horse is identified by DNA analysis at the discretion of the Head of Breeding, Innovation and Development of HSI. This derogation has been authorised by the competent authority.

6.3 REGISTRATION OF CLONES

The registration of clones is permitted in the Irish Cob Studbook. Such animals will follow the same procedures regarding registration and entering the Studbook and inspection/classification as other animals registered and entered in the Studbook. The identification documents of cloned animals will clearly state that the animal is a clone by the suffixing of their name with the term “CLONE”.

6.4 SYSTEM FOR IDENTIFYING ANIMALS IN THE STUDBOOK

6.4.1 IDENTIFICATION NUMBERS USED IN THE IRISH COB STUDBOOK

All animals registered in the Irish Cob studbook are uniquely identified by a Unique Equine Life Number (UELN). This UELN identifies the country and Studbook where the horse was first registered and the registration number within the studbook. All UELN numbers contain 15 digits. The first three digits of animals registered in the Irish Cob Studbook are 372 which is the code for Ireland; the next three digits are 414 which is the code for the Horse Sport Ireland database, their identification document and their e-passport (where relevant) and the remaining 9 digits form the registration number used to identify the animal in the Horse Sport Ireland database.

An animal registered in another studbook retains its original identification number as issued by the approved studbook keeping authority when entered in the Irish Cob studbook.

6.4.2 NAMES USED IN THE IRISH COB STUDBOOK

Horses can be named from birth. To (re)name a horse, the owner must send in the identification document that the horse was issued as a foal, along with a choice of four names for the horse and the relevant fee to Horse Sport Ireland. There is no duplication of names of horses registered in the Horse Sport Ireland database. All horses registered as yearlings or older must be named at the time of registration. If the owner's choices of names for the horse have already been taken Horse Sport Ireland may contact the owner to agree upon a different name that has not yet been used. Horse Sport Ireland will then send the identification document back to the owner/keeper/nominated party with the name of the horse recorded on it.

Intended names will be checked against a number of criteria, and any other matters considered relevant, and the following exclusions will apply: names including prefix should be no more than 30

characters; names should not be too similar to another animal's name; no brand or company names are allowed; names of people living or dead are not allowed; vulgar or obscene words are also excluded as are words that may be offensive to religious, political or ethnic groups. Horse Sport Ireland reserves the right to refuse to register any name for any reason if deemed undesirable and reserves the right to cancel any animal's registered name for any reason if deemed necessary.

6.4.3 PREFIX REGISTRATION

Breeders and owners can register a prefix with the Irish Cob Studbook upon application and subject to the prescribed fee. Prefixes are subject to the rules of naming as outlined in section 6.4.2.

Unless an owner has registered a prefix formally with Horse Sport Ireland, there is no protection from other breeders using the same or similar identifiers in front of horse's names. Further, other studbooks may have similar prefixes already in use.

The benefits of owning a prefix include:

- A breeder prefix cannot be used by another breeder/owner within the HSI studbooks unless written consent is given by the prefix owner.
- An animal that has been named with a prefix cannot have its prefix removed/changed without the written consent of the prefix owner.
- Owners are made aware of the FEI General Regulations prior to purchasing a prefix as follows:

HSI, as the National Federation in Ireland, is obliged to follow the FEI regulations on naming and cannot refuse to change a name when registering a horse with the FEI on the grounds that the horse is registered with a prefix in the IHR.

The FEI General Regulations outline the rules for naming horses registered with the FEI in Article 138 'Names of Horses'.

1. In principle, the first registered name of a Horse entered in the passport shall be the original name under which it was originally registered by its studbook/NF, and this name must remain permanently in the passport.

2. The first registered name may not be the name of a commercial company or product. If this name is considered to be the name of a commercial company or product, a new first registered name must be entered and remain permanently in the passport.

3. A commercial prefix or suffix may be added to the name mentioned in paragraphs 1 and 2 above and must be entered in the passport. However, at Regional and Olympic Games under the patronage of the IOC, such prefix or suffix cannot appear in a programme or be used in any other way.

4. If a new first name shall be used and entered in the passport and/or the commercial prefix/suffix be changed, the Horse must carry the new name and/or the new prefix/suffix for the next twelve (12) months as follows: new name and/or new prefix/suffix ex previous name/prefix/ suffix (see VRs)."

6.4.4 MICROCHIPS USED IN THE IRISH COB STUDBOOK

All horses registered in the Irish Cob Studbook are required to be microchipped with a transponder issued by a PIO by a veterinary surgeon as part of the registration process. Microchips issued to veterinary surgeons by Horse Sport Ireland contain the last nine digits of the UELN. This number is documented by the veterinary surgeon on the marking chart, recorded in Horse Sport Ireland's database and printed on the horse's identification document and entered on the horse's e-passport. Microchips must comply with ISO standard 11784. Only microchips supplied by a PIO approved by DAFM are permitted to be implanted in horses identified in Ireland. Microchips can only be implanted in horses by veterinary surgeons. Veterinary surgeons are required to take all appropriate measures to ensure that a horse has not been microchipped previously.

6.4.5 MARKING CHARTS USED IN THE IRISH COB STUDBOOK

All horses registered in the Irish Cob Studbook are required to have a marking chart completed by a veterinary surgeon as part of the registration process. Marking charts are supplied to mare owners or vets as part of a HSI foaling kit. Markings are documented by the veterinary surgeon on the marking chart, recorded in Horse Sport Ireland's database and printed on the horse's identification document and digitally on the e-passport.

6.4.6 DNA VERIFICATION OF PEDIGREE IN THE IRISH COB STUDBOOK

All horses registered in the Irish Cob Studbook as required to undergo DNA verification of parentage as part of the registration process. A DNA kit and an explanatory note are issued to the owner as part of a foal kit. The veterinary surgeon marking a foal will take a sample of the foal's hair for the DNA kit, in some cases a dam hair sample may be required. The owner should send the DNA kit to Horse Sport Ireland. For yearlings and older horses, the DNA sample should also be returned to HSI. Confirmation of pedigree from the DNA Laboratory is required for Horse Sport Ireland to issue the

identification document. Confirmation of pedigree from the DNA Laboratory OR returned genotype is required for Horse Sport Ireland to issue the passport. Confirmation of the pedigree via the genotype must be completed by a suitably qualified geneticist and approved by the HSI Head of Breeding.

The HSI-appointed DNA analysis and storage laboratory is currently Weatherbys Scientific, Unit F1, M7 Business Park, Newhall, Naas, Co. Kildare, Ireland. W91 VX86. Information on DNA profiles is recorded in Horse Sport Ireland's database.

6.5 SYSTEM OF RECORDING PEDIGREE

Pedigrees of horses entered in the Irish Cob Studbook are recorded in Horse Sport Ireland's electronic database. For each horse entered on the database, the following information is recorded where applicable: name of the horse, UELN, studbook of registration, date and country of birth, parents and known ancestors, sex, microchip number, DNA profile details, markings, human consumption status, name and contact details of breeder, name and contact details of keeper, name and contact details of owner, name and contact details of agent, section and class of the studbook, classification in other studbooks managed by HSI, insemination or covering information, links to performance results, details including date of death, slaughter or export, other relevant information to the registration process.

The database complies with all the requirements of Animal Identification and Movement database maintained by the Department of Agriculture, Food, and the Marine.

6.5.1 IHR ONLINE

IHR online is a web-based data resource of animals entered or recorded in the HSI database and includes animals entered in HSI studbooks. It provides information on the pedigree, progeny, and performance information to breeders. The classification of horses following selection is also provided to enable breeders to make informed breeding decisions. See Section 1.2 for full definition of IHR.

6.6 PROCEDURE FOR ENTRY OF PUREBRED BREEDING ANIMALS AS PART OF THE CROSS-BREEDING PROGRAMME

6.6.1 ENDORSING IDENTIFICATION DOCUMENTS FOR MARES FOALING IN IRELAND FOR INCLUSION IN THE IRISH COB CROSS-BREEDING PROGRAMME:

Horse Sport Ireland will endorse the identification documents of mares eligible for the Irish Cob Cross-Breeding programme following studbook classification. Owners must send the mare's identification document and zootechnical certificate which must include a completed marking chart (or contain a microchip number) and the relevant fee to Horse Sport Ireland. If eligible, Horse Sport Ireland will enter/record the details of the mare into the Irish Cob Studbook and will return the identification document to the owner. Details of the entry into the Irish Cob Studbook Cross-Breeding Programme may be entered on the "Other Breeding Society Registrations" page of the mare's identification document, if available.

6.6.2 ENDORSING IDENTIFICATION DOCUMENTS FOR STALLIONS STANDING IN IRELAND FOR INCLUSION IN THE IRISH COB CROSS-BREEDING PROGRAMME:

Horse Sport Ireland will endorse identification documents for stallions standing in Ireland that are eligible for inclusion in the cross-breeding programme following studbook classification. Owners must send the stallion's identification document and zootechnical certificate, which must include a completed marking chart, and the relevant fee to Horse Sport Ireland. The stallion must also be named with its studbook of origin. If eligible, Horse Sport Ireland will record the details of the stallion and will return the identification document to the owner. Details of the entry into the Irish Cob Studbook Cross-Breeding Programme may be entered on the "Other Breeding Society Registrations" page of the stallion's identification document, if available.

6.6.3 ENTERING OF OFFSPRING OF FERTILISING MALE AND DONOR FEMALES FOR INCLUSION IN THE IRISH COB CROSS-BREEDING PROGRAMME:

Horse Sport Ireland will enter into the Studbook the offspring of fertilising males and donor females that are eligible for inclusion in the cross-breeding programme. Owners of the offspring resulting from the purchase of germinal products must send in the appropriate zootechnical certificates, which must include a completed marking chart, and the relevant fee to Horse Sport Ireland. Additional administration fees may apply in cases where incomplete documentation is submitted. The fertilising male and/or donor female must also be named with its studbook of origin. Details of stallions eligible for the cross-breeding programme and standing outside of Ireland may also be included in the Studbook, database and publications for breeder information and progeny evaluation purposes. Fertilising males and donor females are not required to meet any additional performance testing or genetic evaluation criteria in addition to the eligibility criteria for the cross-breeding programme.

6.7 COVERING CERTIFICATES

HSI provides a facility to participating stallion owners to record stallion online covering certificates using a secure login facility to the HSI website at:

<https://breeding.horsesportireland.ie/Person/Login.aspx?ReturnUrl=%2fCovering%2fCoverings.aspx>.

As an alternative, a book of covering certificates can be issued to stallions that are entered or recorded in the Irish Cob Studbook and are actively breeding at the start of each breeding season. An active stallion is defined as a stallion that produced a registered foal in the previous two years. Stallions that are not issued with covering certificates can request covering certificates by applying directly to HSI.

All stallion owners are obliged to do the following with regard to covering certificates:

- Record full details of all coverings to mares entered in the Irish Cob Studbook;
- Submit the Certificates of all mares covered by the stallion by 1st October in the year of covering;
- Return a Covering Book to HSI upon request;
- Notify HSI of the death of the stallion.
- In cases where a mare is inseminated using Artificial Insemination techniques, a veterinary declaration of insemination identifying the stallion and the mare and showing the date of insemination may be accepted in place of a covering certificate. A zootechnical certificate must be provided where the donor is entered in another breeding book.

In cases involving *in vitro* derived embryos, the zootechnical certificate relating to the embryo may be accepted in place of a covering certificate.

Agents of stallions must register with the Irish Cob Studbook for each stallion in order to be an authorised signature for covering certificates. An 'Application for agents to declare covering certificates' form is available from the Horse Sport Ireland Registration Unit.

In cases where germinal products (for example, semen, oocytes or embryos) have been traded, zootechnical certificates may comprise the covering certificate.

In certain circumstances where it is not possible for the owner of a horse to obtain a covering certificate for an animal an identification document may be issued with recorded pedigree based on DNA analysis at the discretion of the Head of Breeding, Innovation and Development of HSI.

6.8 MARE DECLARATIONS

A mare owner may complete an online Mare Declaration by recording the details of a covering between their mare and the covering stallion. By submitting a mare declaration, the mare owner will receive the foaling kit in time. Any issues that might delay the process can also be resolved using mare declarations online. Should a change of ownership be needed for your mare, this can be requested when submitting your mare declaration.

6.9 SUBMISSION OF ZOOTECHNICAL CERTIFICATES FOR GERMINAL PRODUCTS

An owner may declare an embryo by submitting a zootechnical certificate for germinal products (if they are registered in a different studbook), at the birth of the resulting foal. By submitting the zootechnical certificate(s), the owner will receive the foaling kit in time.

6.10 PROCEDURE FOR THE PROVISION OF DUPLICATE IDENTIFICATION DOCUMENTS

If the identification document is lost, the loss should be reported immediately to the Issuing Authority and the procedure to obtain a duplicate identification document should be initiated.

Duplicate identification documents will be issued in accordance with Article 25 of Commission Regulation (EC No 2021/963) laying down rules pursuant to Council Regulations 2016/429, 2016/1012 and 2019/6 as regards the methods for the identification of Equidae.

Where an identification document is lost, stolen or destroyed and the identity of the animal can be established the owner can apply to HSI for a duplicate identification document. The following is required to issue a duplicate identification document:

- A signed declaration from the owner recorded on the database confirming that the initial identification document was lost, stolen or destroyed. If the current owner is not the recorded owner in the IHR, then a statement is required from the owner as recorded on IHR that they agree to have the replacement identification document issued to the applicant.
- The prescribed fee;
- A new set of markings must be taken by a veterinary surgeon and the animal must be microchipped if a microchip is not already present;

- In certain circumstances the Studbook may require that DNA confirmation of the animal's identity is required.

6.11 TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP OF ANIMALS IN THE IRISH COB STUDBOOK

Transfer of ownerships will be conducted in accordance with S.I. 201 of 2016.

When an animal transfers ownership, the new owner is legally obliged within 30 days of purchase, to return the identification document and the appropriate fee to the issuing authority with his/her contact details and a completed Transfer of Ownership form. HSI will record the new owner's details in their database and return the identification document to the new owner.

The identification document is issued as an identifying document of the equine and is not a certificate of legal ownership and should not be construed as such. The identification document remains the property of the studbook and must be surrendered to the studbook upon request.

If the identification document / Identity document is lost, the loss should be reported immediately to the Issuing Authority and the procedure to obtain a duplicate identification document should be initiated.

6.12 ISSUING OF ZOOTECHNICAL AND SUPPLEMENTARY CERTIFICATES

Zootechnical certificates are issued by the breed society for horses entered in the main section in the model format outlined in Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2017/1940³ are provided in addition to the identification document to breeders at the point of entry into the breeding book. Zootechnical certificates will distinguish where horses are entered in the main section of the studbook. Cobs recorded in the supplementary section will receive a supplementary certificate at the back of their identification documents.

6.13 DEROGATION CONCERNING ZOOTECHNICAL CERTIFICATES FOR GERMINAL PRODUCTS

³ *COMMISSION DELEGATED REGULATION (EU) 2017/1940 of 13 July 2017 supplementing Regulation (EU) 2016/1012 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the content and format of zootechnical certificates issued for purebred breeding animals of the equine species contained in a single lifetime identification document for equidae*

HSI has been authorised a derogation by the Competent Authority to permit the listed semen collection and storage centres issue zootechnical certificates based on the information received from the society.

Information regarding these facilitates is provided on the Department of Agriculture, Food, and the Marine [website](#):

- Centres authorised to issue zootechnical certificates for germinal products for the Irish Cob breed:
Approved semen storage centres for intra-Community trade in approved semen collection centres for intra Community trade in semen of domestic animals of the equine species (Regulation (EU) 2016/429)
- Equine Semen Storage Centres: Approved semen storage centres for intra-Community trade in semen of domestic animals of the equine species (Regulation (EU) 2016/429)

Zootechnical certificates are required to accompany germinal products when traded and when the offspring produced from these germinal products are intended to be entered in another breeding book. For example, when semen from breeding animals has been exported to other Member States it must be accompanied by a zootechnical certificate where the offspring is to be entered in another breed book of that Member State. The model form for semen is set out in Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/602⁴. It will be noticed the zootechnical certificate for semen is in two parts with Part A providing information on the donor male and Part B on the identification of the semen.

SECTION 7 PROCEDURES FOR ASSESSING HORSES IN THE IRISH COB STUDBOOK

The Studbook shall operate assessments of breeding animals including performance testing at inspection.

HSI reserves the right to terminate any inspection for health and safety reasons. Failure to satisfy the conditions of Studbook inspections may result in a horse being disqualified from inspection/classification.

⁴ COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING REGULATION (EU) 2020/602 of 15 April 2020 amending Implementing Regulation (EU) 2017/717 as regards the model forms of zootechnical certificates for breeding animals and their germinal products

7.1 PROCEDURES FOR INSPECTING STALLIONS FOR CLASSIFICATION IN THE IRISH COB STUDBOOK

Stallions that are eligible for inspection will be assessed following the process outlined below. All stallions must be named prior to inspection.

STALLION INSPECTION PROCEDURE

Two inspectors (to include at least one Grade 1 inspector) or more shall be involved in the inspection of all Irish Cob stallions seeking main or supplementary section Class 1 classifications. All animals entered for selection must also be examined by a Qualified Veterinary Surgeon.

Inspection procedure - Conformation and Movement

- Stallions are assessed on their conformation and movement in hand in walk and trot. The inspectors shall record the scores given to inspected males on the Stallion Inspection Sheet. An example of this sheet is shown in Appendix 1.

Inspection procedure - Veterinary inspection

All stallions will be measured, and these measurements shall be regarded as official measurements for the purpose of stallion classification. Stallion's eye, mouth and cardiorespiratory and gait soundness will be assessed.

- Stallions which have passed the conformation and movement inspection must pass a stallion Veterinary examination.
- Where a stallion passes the Veterinary examination, the Veterinary Surgeon shall sign the Stallion Veterinary Inspection Form, endorsing the stallion as being physically fit for use as a Class 1 stallion.

Note: DNA samples will be taken from all horses inspected on the day of inspection. HSI reserves the right to terminate any inspection for health and safety reasons. Failure to satisfy the conditions of Studbook inspections may result in a horse being disqualified from selection/classification.

Updating the Identification document

Where males attain a new classification, HSI shall update Part II of the Zootechnical Certificate for purebred breeding animals and the Supplementary Certificate for animal in the supplementary section. This will verify those males as having been upgraded to their appropriate Classification. For example, Class 1 stallion zootechnical certificates shall be updated with the words Class 1. Supplementary Class 1 stallion supplementary certificates shall be updated with the words Supplementary Class 1.

7.2 PROCEDURES FOR INSPECTING MARES AND GELDINGS FOR CLASSIFICATION IN THE IRISH COB STUDBOOK

Eligible mares and geldings must be a minimum of three years of age to be presented for inspection. Mares/geldings must be named prior to their inspection. Although not breeding animals, geldings may be presented for inspection to add value for their owner and to provide extra information for the studbook.

MARE/GELDING INSPECTION PROCEDURE

At least two inspectors shall be involved in the inspection of all Irish Cob females and geldings seeking Class 1 approval. The inspectors involved must include at least one Grade 1 inspector.

Inspection procedure

- Mares/geldings undergo a basic veterinary check to ensure they are fit, healthy and sound to participate in the inspection process.
- Mares and geldings are assessed on their conformation and movement in hand in walk and trot. The inspectors shall record the scores given on the Inspection Sheet (see appendix 1).
- Mares and geldings are required to score the minimum number of points for each individual trait to attain Class 1 or 2 as appropriate (Appendix 1).

Note: DNA samples will be taken from all horses inspected on the day of inspection. HSI reserves the right to terminate any inspection for health and safety reasons. Failure to satisfy the conditions of Studbook inspections may result in a horse being disqualified from inspection/classification.

Where animals attain a new classification, HSI shall update their zootechnical/supplementary certificate so as to verify those females as having been upgraded to the appropriate Class. For example, Class 1 mare passports shall be updated with the words Class 1.

7.3 RE-PRESENTATIONS AND APPEALS PROCEDURES FOR INSPECTIONS

The owners of horses that do not meet the inspection requirements (appendix 1) (conformation, type, movement, or athleticism requirements) will be given the opportunity to re-apply for inspection by completing the appropriate forms and fees and to present the horse on one occasion

at a subsequent inspection date in accordance with the procedure in section 7.1 or section 7.2 as appropriate.

Appeals relating to inspection must be dealt with under the procedures outlined in the Horse Sport Ireland Studbook Procedures and Guidelines.

7.4 IRISH COB STUDBOOK INSPECTORS

Grade 1 Inspectors

Grade 1 Inspectors are utilized by the Irish Cob Studbook:

- To judge animals for conformity with the breed standard with a view to entry into the Supplementary Section.
- To inspect males and females entered in the Stud Book with a view to approving suitable stallions and mares for upgrading to Class 1 or Supplementary Class 1.

To qualify as a Grade 1 Inspector, such inspectors must have been trained by the Irish Cob Studbook to judge an animal for conformation with the Irish Cob Breed Standard and, have been trained by the Studbook to judge Irish Cobs for excellence of breed and good conformation. The studbook reserves the right to utilise or remove any inspector from the studbook inspection panel at any stage.

Grade 2 Inspectors

Grade 2 Inspectors are utilized by the Irish Cob Studbook to judge animals for conformity with the breed standard with a view to entry into the Supplementary Section.

To qualify as Grade 2 Inspectors, such inspectors must have been trained by the Studbook to judge an animal for conformation with the Irish Cob Breed Standard. The studbook reserves the right to utilise or remove any inspector from the studbook inspection panel at any stage.

SECTION 8

PERFROMANCE TESTING: GENETIC EVALUATION

Routine genetic evaluation is not carried out in the Irish Cob Studbook of Origin. Performance testing is carried out through the inspection process as outlined in section 7.

IRISH COB STUDBOOK INSPECTION SHEET

NAME: _____ COLOUR: _____

<u>RESULT OF INSPECTION</u>	<i>✓ in appropriate box</i>					MINIMUM POINTS REQUIRED
REG. NO.	5	4	3	2	1	BREED:
1. EXCELLENCE OF BREED TYPE						Must score at least 4 to be Class 1 (M/S) Must score at least 3 for Class 2 (M/S)
2. PRESENCE						Must score at least 4 to be Class 1
3. TOPLINE						Must score at least 4 to be Class 1
4. HEAD AND MOUTH						Must score at least 4 to be Class 1
5. NECK						Must score at least 3 to be Class 1
6. WITHERS						Must score at least 3 to be Class 1
7. SHOULDERS						Must score at least 3 to be Class 1
8. BACK						Must score at least 4 to be Class 1
9. HINDQUARTERS						Must score at least 4 to be Class 1
10. CHEST						Must score at least 3 to be Class 1
11. BODY						Must score at least 4 to be Class 1
12. FORELEGS & FEET						Must score at least 4 to be Class 1
13. HIND LEGS & FEET						Must score at least 4 to be Class 1
14. LEG FEATHERING						Must score at least 4 to be Class 1
15. MANE & TAIL						Must score at least 3 to be Class 1
16. MOVEMENT <u>WALK – 2pts</u> <u>TROT – 3pts</u> 3 pts may only be given for Trot where step/action is present						Must score at least 3 to be Class 1
TOTAL POINTS SCORED						
MEDIUM HEAVY	TEMPERAMENT /BEHAVIOUR Aggressive & threatening behaviour such as ears back, kicking, biting, rearing and not being under the control of the handler, will result in expulsion from ICS Inspection					
Signature of two ICS Inspectors:					Date & Stamp:	
Non-studbook animals scoring 2 or lower for 'EXCELLENCE OF BREED TYPE' are not eligible for entry into the supplementary section of the Irish Cob Studbook.						

