



## **AWHA LTD MARE CLASSIFICATION INFORMATION**

### **Why is Classification important?**

A mare that is AWA Ltd registered in the Stud Book Appendix or Warmblood Performance Registration Book (WPRB = ex Warmblood Identification Register (WID)) stamped eligible for classification, of Thoroughbred or Anglo-Arabian breeding must be classified into the Stud Book category.

Thereby their progeny by a stallion with an AWA Ltd active breeding permit, i.e. is Approved, Licensed, Performance Accepted, Imported Frozen Semen (IFS) listed or Imported Chilled Semen (ICS) listed, can be registered into the Stud Book Appendix.

**The Classification of a mare consists of an evaluation of her exterior** (type and conformation) **and movement** (correctness, impulsion, swing and rhythm) when led at the walk and trot. As at March 2014, the AWA Ltd has also incorporated the optional choice of having your mare classified in free movement (walk, trot and canter). This allows the canter to be included in the Mare Summary Classification Score Sheet. Mare owners are able to choose whether or not to free run their mare. The score sheets have been set up to ensure that mare owners are not disadvantaged if they choose not to have their mare classified at free movement. The AWA Ltd Mare Classifiers will determine on the day if conditions are safe enough to have the mare free run.

In order to be eligible to present your mare for classification you must be a current financial member of the AWA Ltd. Mares must be branded or micro-chipped when presented for classification and her **original registration paper must be handed into the AWA Ltd Classifiers at the time the mare is presented for classification**, unless you have already forward them with your Application for Mare Classification to the AWA Ltd Registrations Administrator.

### **Preparation leading up to the Classification Day**

Before the Classification Day, train your mare to lead willingly at the walk and trot, and to stand still for inspection. The better she shows her movement, the higher she should score. The Classifiers will also want to look at her teeth, the soles of her hooves and underneath her tail, so she should be comfortable with being handled in this way. If you wish to have your mare classified in free movement (walk, trot and canter), ensure that she has been free run in an arena and is able to be easily caught once the free run component of the classification has been completed. Assistance can be used to ensure your mare moves in both directions freely, without stressing her.

Example: 60 x 20 metre enclosed arena – 3 people with a lunge whip can stand on the centreline in the middle of each 20 metre circle point. This helps to keep the horse moving towards the outside of the arena and to continue in the same direction. Classifiers can then fully view your mare at the walk, trot and canter, or have her change lead without the handlers running around from one side to the other in front of them thus blocking their view.

Example: 40 x 20 metre enclosed arena – 2 people with a lunge whip can stand on centreline in the middle of each 20 metre circle point.

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Example: round yard – the mare is turned free and 1 person should be enough to keep her moving if she has been trained to move freely in a round yard. Please note that a horse being lunged is not ideal as it can restrict her movement somewhat, but with the agreement of the AWA Ltd Mare Classifiers this would not be ruled out due to circumstances, such as lacking an arena.

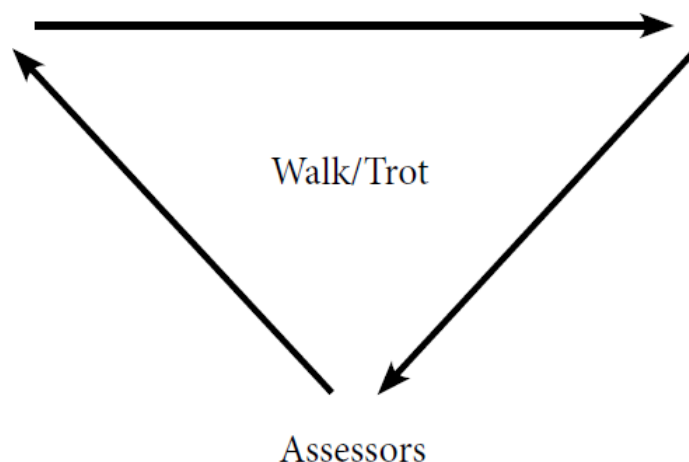
## Classification Day

Your mare will need to be presented before two official AWA Ltd Classifiers for inspection. The mare does not need to be plaited for classification; however, it is in your best interest to present her in a manner that will give the Classifiers the best opportunity to assess her favourably. She should be well groomed and in good condition. It is not recommended to plait the tail for classification, as it can affect the nerves going from the tail over the back if plaited too tight which may restrict her movement through her back.

The Classifiers will be inspecting your mare's type, conformation and movement. The movement element of the classification is weighted, so this is an important phase of the classification process. Therefore it is in your best interest to teach your mare to stand up well to show the best frame and to ensure that she is able to walk and trot out in hand very well (to best show her paces) and optionally, show off all 3 movements, inclusive of the canter at the free run without the restriction of a handler.

At the classifiers' direction, each mare will be individually presented to the classifiers. Firstly, your mare will be measured and have her identity checked against her application for registration or registration paper. You will then be asked to stand her up for static inspection of her conformation. Place the mare so that the Classifiers can see all four legs at once from the near side (i.e. the "Open Position").

When asked to move off, commence one circuit of the exhibition triangle in hand (see diagram below) in walk, followed by a second circuit in trot. You will be positioned on the left hand side of your mare and travel in a clockwise direction, to enable the Classifiers to evaluate her movement from behind, from the side and front on. If the Classifiers wish to see more walk or trot in hand, they will advise you of this.



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If you have chosen to have your mare's free movement inspected and the Classifiers have determined that it is safe to do so, at this point you will be requested by the Classifiers to unclip the lead from your mare and allow her to free run to show off all 3 paces (walk, trot and canter). Excessive stimulation of any mare will not be tolerated. Please note: it is not recommended to chase a heavily pregnant mare. The welfare of the mare (and foal at foot if applicable), handlers and Classifiers is paramount.

The Classifiers will each complete their Mare Summary Classification Score Sheet. At the conclusion of the Mare Classification Day these sheets will be forward to the AWA Ltd Registrations Administrator for processing. Once processed, the AWA Ltd Registrations Administrator will forward you your mare's Mare Summary Classification Score Sheet and registration paper with updated Status. Mares passing classification on the day will be presented with an AWA Ltd green and gold bi-coloured sash reading "AWA Classified Mare".

Learning your mare's strengths and weaknesses in this way can assist you in selecting a suitable stallion candidate or assist with your training program for physical improvements.

If your mare passes classification, and is bred to a stallion with an AWA Ltd active breeding permit, her progeny will be eligible for registration into the AWA Ltd Stud Book, provided all foal registration requirements have been met and the relevant documentation and payment has been forward to the AWA Ltd Registrations Administrator.

## Classification Scores

A Classification scale of 1 to 10 is used. The weighting of each mark is the same as that used for Dressage: 1 = very bad, 2 = bad, 3 = fairly bad, 4 = insufficient, 5 = sufficient, 6 = satisfactory, 7 = fairly good, 8 = good, 9 = very good and 10 = excellent.

Horses are scored out of a possible 100 points, with the total marks reflected as percentages. The standards are high and because of the Association's aim of improving the breed, it is recommended that horses with inferior conformation and/or movement should not reproduce. Thus a score of 4 ("insufficient") or less, for any one area of assessment disqualifies a horse from gaining AWA approval for breeding.

In order to be promoted to the Studbook or the Foundation (Warmblood or Non-Warmblood) Mare Register, a mare must score 60% or better on the averaged marks of a minimum of two Classifiers, with no mark less than 5. A score of 70% is required for entry to the Head Studbook with Head Studbook Mares being eligible for the Elite Studbook upon attaining certain standards in open competition.

*Listed below are the Studbook categories your mare may enter into - dependent upon her Registration category, Classification score and height.*

**Height for Normal Studbook = minimum height 158cm or over**

**Height for Small Warmblood Studbook = height greater than 148cm but less than 158cm.**

Studbook appendix registered horses - the % score of the classification and **the height** will decide which category the mare will be entered into ie;

- Main Studbook = a Classification score of 60% and under 70%.

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- Head Studbook = a Classification score of 70% or over.
- Elite Studbook = both Head Studbook and Main Studbook Mares are eligible to obtain Elite Studbook status, upon attaining certain standards in open competition.

**Warmblood Foundation Mare (WFM)** Warmblood mares that are registered in the WPRB and who are stamped eligible, the % score of the classification **and height** will decide if they are classed as A or B (**height minimum 158cm or over**) or **Small Warmblood Studbook height greater than 148cm but less than 158cm and this section is not divided into A or B by the % of the horse as long as the required pass mark of current 60% or over has been reached.**

- 60% and under 70% = B
- 70% and over = A.
- Or 60% and over - Small Warmblood Foundation studbook

**Foundation Mare (FM) = TB or Anglo-Arabian mares- height minimum 153cm or over**

- 60% and under 70% = B
- 70% and over = A.

After classification and once the Federal Registrar has processed your mare's scores, your mare will receive updated AWhA Registration papers. The mare's registration number will be updated to include the initials – **SB (Main Studbook), HSB (Head Studbook), FM (Foundation Mare), and WFM (Warmblood Foundation Mare), after her Registration number. However if your mare is registered as an AWhA Small Warmblood – the initials SWB-SB (Small Warmblood Main Studbook), or SWB-HSB (Small Warmblood Head Studbook), or SWB-WFM (Small Warmblood Foundation Mare), will be entered behind your Mare's Registration number.**

If you have any queries regarding the eligibility of your mare, please contact the AWhA Ltd Administration Registrar:

Silvia Ahamer

P.O. Box 2425

Bowral NSW 2576

Phone: (02) 4884 4143 or email: [registrar@awha.com.au](mailto:registrar@awha.com.au)

## Conditions of entry and eligibility for Mare Classification

You need to be a current Member of the AWhA Ltd.

1. The Application for Classification needs to have been processed and accepted by the AWhA Ltd Administration Registrar prior to the Classification Day, unless an exemption has been granted by the Registrar.
2. Original registration papers must be available for viewing by the classifiers, when the mare is presented, unless the mare's registration papers have been submitted to the Registrar with the Classification application.
3. Thoroughbred mares must have studbook registration with the ASB and Anglo-Arabian mares must have Arabian Society papers.

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4. If your mare's registration is pending with the Registrar, the Branch will be notified with all the details, therefore no paperwork is required to be presented to the Classifiers from the mare owner, on the day.
5. Mares must measure 158cm and above for Main, Head or WFM Studbook or greater than 148cm for the Small Warmblood Studbook to be eligible for classification. Thoroughbred or Anglo- Arabian mares must measure a minimum of 153cm to be eligible.
6. Mares must be branded **or** micro-chipped when presented for classification.
7. Original registration papers must be available for viewing by the classifiers, when the mare is presented. Thoroughbred mares must have studbook registration with the ASB and Anglo-Arabian mares must have Arabian Society papers.