



AWHA Mare Classification Information

Why is Classification important?

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

So their progeny by an AWA Licensed, AWA Approved, or IFS listed stallions can be registered into the studbook appendix.

The Classification of a Mare consists of an evaluation of her exterior (i.e.; type and conformation) **and movement** (i.e.; correctness, impulsion, swing and rhythm) when led at the walk and trot. As at March 2014, the AWA has also incorporated the optional choice of having your mare assessed at free movement (walk, trot and canter). This allows the canter to be included in the assessment. 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 assessed at free movement. The AWA Mare Classifiers will determine on the day if conditions are safe enough to have the mare free run.

Mares must be branded **or** micro-chipped when presented for classification and her **original registration papers must be handed into the AWA classifiers when the mare is presented, unless you have already forwarded them with your Mare Classification Application to the AWA Registrations Administrator.**

You must also be a current Member of the AWA in order to be eligible to have your Mare classified.

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 and pick up her feet, so she should be comfortable with being handled in this way. If you wish to have your mare assessed at the 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 Assessment has been completed. Assistance can be used to ensure your mare moves in both directions freely, without stressing her.

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

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



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Example: Round yard: Mare is let free and 1 person should be enough to keep the mare moving if the mare has been trained to move freely in a round yard.

A horse on a lunge is not ideal as it can restrict her movement somewhat, but with the agreement of the AWHA Assessors we would not rule this out due to circumstances (e.g.; lack of an arena).

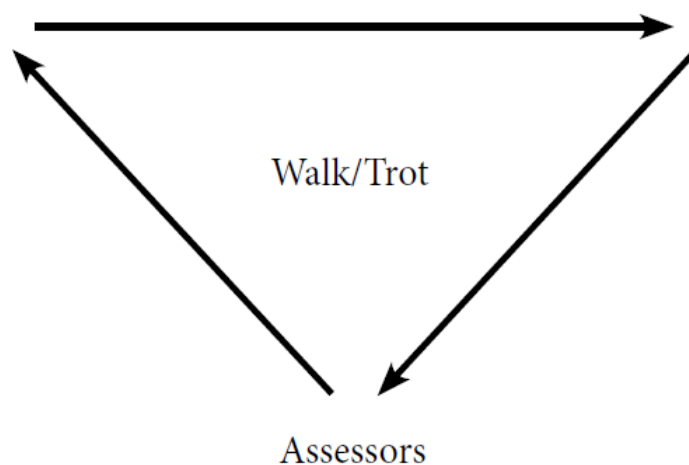
Classification Day -

Your Mare will need to be presented before two official AWHA Classifiers for assessment. She does not need to be plaited etc, for this. 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 and the mare will not use her back as well, if it pinches.

The Classifiers will be assessing type, conformation and movement. The movement element of the assessment is weighted, so this is an important phase. 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 on the lead 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 judge's indication, each Mare will be individually presented to the judges. First of all, your Mare will be measured and have her identity checked against her papers. You will then be asked to stand her up for assessment 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 (see diagram below) in walk, followed by a second circuit in trot on the Left Rein, to enable the Classifiers to evaluate her movement from behind, from the side and head on – see Diagram below.





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If you have chosen to have your Mare's canter movement assessed and the Judges have determined that it is safe to let her free run, then at this point you will unclip the lead from your mare and allow her to free run in the arena to show off all 3 paces (walk, trot and canter). Note: it is not recommended to chase a heavily pregnant mare around and consideration of the safety of people and horses on the day will prevail.

The Classifiers will each complete Assessment sheets and then hand the results over to the Federal Registrar. You will be advised of the formal result once the scores have been calculated by the Federal Registrar. Learning your Mare's strengths and weaknesses in this way can be of assistance in helping you to select a suitable stallion or, even assist with your training program for your mare.

If your Mare passes, it means that her progeny by AWHA Approved or Licensed Stallions will be eligible for registration in the AWHA Studbook, provided all current foal requirements have been met and the required foal registration paperwork has been received by the Federal Registrar.

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 AWHA 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%.
- Head Studbook = a Classification score of 70% or over.

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- 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 Studbook (=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 studbook (=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 AWA 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 AWA 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 Admin Registrar

Silvia Ahamer

PO Box 2425

BOWRAL NSW 2576

Phone: 02 4884 4143 or e-mail: awhansw@acenet.com.au

Conditions of entry and eligibility for Mare Classifications

You need to be a current Member of the AWA.

1. The Application for Classification needs to have been processed and accepted by the AWA Admin Registrar prior to the Classification Day, unless an exemption has been granted by the Federal 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 Federal Registrar with the Classification application.

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3. TB mares must have studbook registration with the ASB and Anglo/Arabian mares must have Arabian Society papers.
4. If your Mare's registration is pending with the Federal 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- Arab 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. TB mares must have studbook registration with the ASB and Anglo/Arabian mares must have Arabian Society papers.