



WBFSH
WORLD BREEDING FEDERATION
FOR SPORT HORSES

WBFSH General Assembly 2024

Monday, 14th October 2024

At the Hotel Cascais Miragem (POR)

Time: 13h00 (WEST)

AGENDA

1. Opening and welcome
2. Adoption of the Minutes of the General Assembly 2023 ^(#GA2)
3. Presentation of activity reports by Jan Pedersen and discussion of the written reports of the departments ^{(#GA3.1) (#GA3.2) (#GA3.3) (#GA3.4) (#GA3.5)}
4. Financial report ^(#GA4 & 5)
5. Approval of the budget for the coming financial year ^(#GA4 & 5)
6. Approval of the annual plan for the coming year ^(#GA6)
7. Election of Board members ^(#GA 7&8)
Retiring and eligible for re-election for a 3-year period: Vice President Norbert Camp (GER), Vice President Renai Hart (NZL). New nomination for Gustaf Johansson (SWE)
8. Election of members for the Audit committee ^(#GA 7&8)
Referring to the statutes, 3 members and two substitutes must be elected annually. In 2023, Alf Kjetil Andresen (NOR), Wilken Treu (GER), Paul Hubert (FRA) were elected, with Meghan de Garay (USA) and Sonja Egan (IRE) elected as substitutes. In 2024, Paul Hubert (FRA) will retire. New nomination for Guillaume Blanc (FRA).
9. Election of the Disciplinary Committee ^(#GA 8)
Referring to the statutes, 4 members must be elected every two years. In 2022, Constanze Winter (GER), Olivier Couvé (FRA), Arancha Rodriguez (Spain) and Edward Kendall (CAN) were elected.
10. Election of the Board of Appeal ^(#GA 8)
Referring to the statutes, 5 members must be elected every two years. In 2022, Theodor Leuchten (GER), Hanfried Haring (GER), Leopold Erasmus (AUT), Xavier Libbrecht (FRA) and Olle Kindberg (SWE) were elected.

11. New Members/Associates ^(#GA 11)
12. Motion from the Board ^(#GA 12)
13. Motion from members/associates ^(#GA 13)
14. Mandatory Update to the WBFSH Statutes ^(#GA 14)
15. General Assembly 2025
16. Miscellaneous
 - a. Update from EAAP Horse Commission representative ^(#GA 16.a)
 - b. Update from IYB President ^(#GA 16.b)
 - c. Presentation Equine Register
 - d. WBFSH Rankings – Studbooks of the Year 2024, Breeders of the Year 2024

MINUTES

1. Opening and welcome

President Jan Pedersen welcomed the attendants to the 2024 WBFSH General Assembly in Cascais.

2. Adoption of the Minutes of the General Assembly 2023 ^(#GA2)

The minutes of the 2023 General Assembly held in Orlando, USA were approved without comment.

3. Presentation of activity reports by Jan Pedersen and discussion of the written reports of the departments ^{(#GA3.1) (#GA3.2) (#GA3.3) (#GA3.4) (#GA3.5)}

Jan Pedersen expressed regret that the opening statement for the 2024 annual report could not be more optimistic, as the past year has been marked by economic recession and troubling issues surrounding horse welfare. He noted that many breeders and studbooks are under significant financial strain due to falling prices. In response, breeders have sharply reduced the number of coverings, with some studbooks seeing a drop of over 20%.

The primary cause of these issues has been the rising costs associated with maintaining horses. Jan Pedersen expressed some apprehension about current trends but remained cautiously hopeful, suggesting that reduced supply may eventually lead to higher prices, signalling a potential recovery.

Additionally, public scrutiny of horse welfare has intensified this year, following some widely publicized incidents. He emphasized that avoiding negative press requires the prevention of incidents that harm horse welfare, and affirmed the importance of a new report, “Evidence-based Recommendations for the Enhancement of Sports Horse Welfare in Breeding,” which underscores a commitment to ensuring a high quality of life for horses.

Longines-WBFSH Breeder Awards

Since 2019 Longines has been the official partner of the “Longines WBFSH Breeder Awards”, which are awarded every year to honour the world’s best breeders in the disciplines of Jumping, Dressage and Eventing. In their collaboration with the WBFSH, Longines emphasizes the importance of breeding and breeders, and their roles in the development of equestrian sports. The 2023 winners were celebrated in Amsterdam in January 2024.

Dressage Breeder 2024, Silke Druckenmüller received the prize posthumous for having bred the Trakehner TSF Dalera for the third consecutive year – a fantastic and unusual achievement. The prize was received by Silke Druckenmüller’s husband, Thorsten Druckenmüller.

Jumping Breeder 2024, Susana Épaillard Garcia Cereceda for having bred the SF gelding Donatello d’Auge.

Eventing Breeder 2024, André Jurrius received the prize for the KWPN gelding Galileo Nieuwmoed.

Department of Breeding

The Department of Breeding focuses on promoting "Good Breeding Practice" by sharing knowledge with WBFSH member studbooks. Recently, the department conducted a survey on OPU-ICSI, gathering responses from 47.5% of WBFSH members, which led to several important conclusions.

The survey revealed that 79% of respondents expressed concerns about OPU-ICSI’s impact on genetics, ethics, and the economy in breeding, while only 2% believe it has no impact. Additionally, 69% of respondents either currently record or plan to record data on foals produced via OPU-ICSI, highlighting a growing awareness of the importance of tracking reproductive origins.

Half of the surveyed studbooks believe that OPU-ICSI usage should be limited, although 32% are uncertain, showing a division on regulating the technique. Overall, OPU-ICSI is acknowledged as a method with considerable implications for the genetics, ethics, and economy in breeding., and while its usage may increase, many studbooks recommend restrictions due to prevailing concerns.

Department of Development

The Department of Development has begun collecting data for the third edition of the "State of the Industry" report, with an updated questionnaire designed to improve data clarity and comparability. This year, the department has also gathered global foal auction results to analyse trends in warmblood breeding sales. Additionally, it is investigating health issues relevant to breeders, with Renai Hart consulting veterinarians about foal heart issues and recent surgical developments in Kentucky.

Looking ahead, a 2025 project will compare health data from human IVF studies with emerging data from foals born via advanced breeding techniques. In pursuit of a "Social License to Operate," the department is also working to foster ethical horse treatment, breed conservation, and sustainable practices. A related collaboration with Hartpury University aims to develop “Best Breeding Practices”, which was presented and discussed previously.

Department of External Cooperation

The Department of External Cooperation maintains an ongoing dialogue with the FEI, meeting at least annually to address shared interests. In their latest meeting, they discussed the possibility of requiring breeder names on starting lists. While the FEI noted that it cannot mandate National Federations (NFs) to include breeder names in the FEI Database, it agreed to encourage NFs to do so voluntarily.

During a council meeting, the FEI also shared a letter from Scandinavian National Federations expressing concerns over the commercial aspects of the Young Horse Championships. In response, both organizations agreed to analyse the career trajectories of finalists from the FEI/WBFSH World

Breeding Championships for Young Horses. A previous study in Dressage showed that many of these horses went on to succeed in top-level international competitions. Klaus Miesner's report on the topic, presented during the Annual Meetings, provided further insights.

FEI-WBFSH World Breeding Championships for Young Horses – Dressage

The 2024 edition of the FEI/WBFSH World Breeding Championships for Young Dressage Horses took place in September in Ermelo, NED.

<u>Medal distribution:</u>	DWB	1 gold, 1 silver
	HANN	1 gold, 1 silver
	KWPN	1 gold, 1 bronze
	SWB	1 bronze
	WESTF	1 silver

Gold medal winners:

<u>Five-year Olds</u>	Horse:	Red Viper KWPN (Romanov x Sir Sinclair)
	Rider:	Bart Veeze
	Breeder:	C. Kerbert
<u>Six-year Olds</u>	Horse:	Quinn DWB (Quaterhit x Fassbinder)
	Rider:	Fiona Bigwood
	Breeder:	Stutteri G – Helene Geervliet
<u>Seven-year Olds</u>	Horse:	Life Time FRH HANN (Livaldon x Fürstenball)
	Rider:	Charlott-Maria Schürmann
	Breeder:	Johannes Hesselink

FEI-WBFSH World Breeding Championships for Young Horses – Jumping

The FEI/WBFSH World Breeding Championships for Young Jumping Horses took place from the 19th – 22nd September in Lanaken, BEL.

<u>Medal distribution:</u>	ISH	1 gold, 1 bronze
	KWPN	1 gold, 1 bronze
	WESTF	1 gold
	BWP	2 silver
	MASAF	1 silver
	SF	1 bronze
	DSP-BRAND	1 bronze

Gold medal winners:

<u>Five-year Olds</u>	Horse:	Orange de Baugy KWPN (Dominator Z x Barbarian)
	Rider:	Niamh McEvoy
	Breeder:	L.A. Geertzema
<u>Six-year Olds</u>	Horse:	Sascinora NRW WEST (Stakkato-Boy RM x Firth Of Lorne)
	Rider:	Katrin Eckermann
	Breeder:	Otmar Eckermann

Seven-year Olds Horse: HHS Mercedes ISH (Can Ya Makan x Couletto)
Rider: Michael Pender
Breeder: Bravo Hughes Ltd

FEI/WBFSH World Breeding Championships for Young Horses – Eventing

The 25th edition of the FEI-WBFSH World Breeding Championships for Young Eventing Horses will take place from 17th – 20th of October at the wonderful showgrounds of Le Lion d'Angers.

WBFSH Studbooks Jumping Global Champions Trophy

President Jan Pedersen highlighted that the second WBFSH Studbooks Jumping Global Champions Trophy proved to be a resounding success, showcasing the world's top future talents and excellence in breeding. This edition saw increased participation, with more studbooks represented and over 250 horses competing. The event emphasized breeders and breeding, with prominent displays on the stadium's large screen and scoreboard, underscoring their central role in the competition.

Winning Studbooks:

Five-year olds – DWB

Unik V (Syvhoejegaards Unforgettable S x Cavall ASK) & Daniel Hald Cassoe
Harmilly D (Harley x Diamant de Semilly) & Maria Hjorth Frederiksen
Clarima DWB (Clarimo x Camargue) Christian Jansen

Six-year olds – SF

Isis de B'Neville (By Ceira d'Ick x Idem de B'Neville) & Arthur Le Vot
Irreelle de Talma (By Ceira d'Ick x Quaprice Bois Margot) & Valentin Pacaud
Iliade de Beaufour (Untouchable x Cassini I) & Reynald Angot

Seven-year olds – OS

Charleston H (Comme il Faut x Zandor) & Roy van Beek
Diarona PS (Diaron x Charity) & Ruben Arroyave
Flying Kiss (Kannan x Cassini II) & Naomi Himmerreich

Eight-year olds – SF

Grand Duc du Paradiso (Vagabond de la Pomme x Toulon) & Sara Brionne
Gwenndu de Kergane (Capoutchi de Kergane x Grand Chef Bleus) & Corentin Derouet
Giulio du ter (Windows vh Costersveld x Rosire) & Arthur Le Vot

Sires – SF

Funky Music Semilly (Diamant de Semilly x Apache d'Ardiers) & Dylan Levallois
Diego de Blondel (Vigo Cece x Dollar Dela Pierre) & Stéphane Dufour
GFE Falko de Hus (Baloubet du Rouet x Vivaldi du Seigneur) & Francois Xavier Boudant

Cooperation with EEF – Working Group on EU-legislation

Earlier this year, the EEF-EU Committee intensively discussed the EU proposal on the regulation of transport of animals and drew up a position paper. The paper addresses several issues that are of particular concern to the equine sector and it was submitted to the EU Commission at the beginning of April.

Cooperation with European Horse Network (EHN)

In parallel, the European Horse Network (EHN) also developed a statement on the same EU proposal. With WBFSH General Manager Nadine Brandtner serving on the EHN board, there is strong alignment between the two organizations' efforts.

International Young Breeders Association

the WBFSH World Championships for Young Breeders took place this summer at Stutteri Ask in Denmark, featuring 20 teams from various studbooks in what was a highly successful event. Further details will be provided in the miscellaneous section.

Department of Marketing and Communications

The Department of Marketing, Promotion, and Communications has focused heavily on advancing the WBFSH's digital presence, most notably through the continuation of a major overhaul of the WBFSH website.

Additionally, work has begun on a studbooks database, following strong membership support. This project, developed with digital partner Equine Register, aims to provide an inclusive, digital solution for member organizations.

Over the past years, the WBFSH has proudly organized a series of insightful webinars. One webinar that merits special attention was held on breeding values. The webinars' successes are underscored by substantial number of registrations, and active participation and engagement both during and after the webinars. It demonstrates that topics of this nature resonate deeply with our members.

In celebration of the WBFSH's 30th anniversary, the department, with strong contributions from the Office and General Manager, has organized a range of successful activities.

The President closed the presentation of the Activity Report stating that the WBFSH general situation was pleasing and its development promising with a sound financial situation. However, challenges remain, such as securing a "Social License to Operate," which demands concrete actions in areas like animal welfare, and addressing the economic difficulties in the market, where only top-quality horses remain profitable. He acknowledged that a few challenges were ahead, such as new technologies and techniques that will change the breeding landscape. "The easy exchange of data, communication amongst breeders and between studbooks is the key to our future success on the world stage", he concluded.

Looking to the future, the WBFSH is also prioritizing streamlined data exchange to enhance communication among breeders and studbooks, which is seen as essential for the federation's global success.

Conclusion of the President

In concluding his presentation, Jan Pedersen extended his gratitude to key partners, including Longines, the FEI, Equine Register, Breeding News magazine, championship organizers in Ermelo, Lanaken, and Lion d'Angers, sponsoring consultant Xavier Libbrecht, and the International Young Breeders Organization, recognizing their valuable cooperation throughout the year.

He also thanked his colleagues on the Board and Executive Committee for their productive collaboration, and gave special acknowledgment to General Manager, Nadine Brandtner, praising her dedication and sense of responsibility toward the federation, emphasizing how fortunate they are to have her on the team.

The activity report was approved by the General Assembly.

4. Financial Report (#GA4 & 5)

The financial report 2023/2024 was presented by Stephan Kelchtermans (Vice President, Department of Finance). The financial year runs from the 1st of September to the 31st of August. A few new expenses have been added compared to the previous year, with the enrolment of a student to work on the External Cooperation Project “Are the FEI-WBFSH World Breeding Championships for Young Horses a predictor in the sport?”. The financial report was approved by the general assembly.

	2023	2024
FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS		
Company account	254,977.98	408,762.57
Savings account	120,542.89	121,193.26
Account young breeders	7,075.23	10,511.62
Interim account		
Cash		
FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS TOTAL	382,596.10	540,467.45
OUTSTANDING RECEIVABLES	28,494.00	8382
OUTSTANDING DEBTS	-4,625.00	0
BALANCE	406,465.10	548,849.45

5. Approval of the budget for the coming financial year (#GA4 & 5)

Stephan Kelchtermans presented the budget for 2025. Changes to take into account for the coming year will be the raise of Morgane’s remuneration, an increased budget for the departments and the President. A 10.000€ budget will be allocated for WBCYH trophies.

The WBFSH is a healthy organization, and the budget was approved by the General Assembly without comments.

6. Approval of the annual plan for the coming year (#GA6)

The annual plan was presented by Nadine Brandtner and approved by the General Assembly.

1. Develop a Strategy for Animal Welfare and Good Breeding Practice
2. Promoting traceability of genetic material, including recording of breeding techniques in passports and working with legislative bodies.
3. Develop a forum to inform and evaluate how biotechnologies such as ICSI and potential future technologies will impact breeding
4. Create a WBFSH Central Database
5. To finalise implementation of suitable platforms that will provide clean, verified pedigree data, to enable data exchange with the FEI.
6. Make progress with the establishment of WBFSH International Breeding Values (IBVs)
7. Planning of the championships together with FEI
8. Planning of the studbook team competition in jumping in cooperation with Tops Equestrian Events.
9. Working on EU legislation in cooperation with European Horse Network and other organisations
10. Improve overall communication between the WBFSH and its studbooks and their breeders through implementation of the marketing and communications plan.
11. Continue to improve overall collaboration between the WBFSH and FEI, for example through the WBFSH FEI Council, for example on issues such as welfare and young horse competitions.
12. Verified breeding information on starting lists and other media
13. Sponsorships – work on attracting additional sponsors
14. Contact to international federations (COPA, EAAP etc)
15. Continued support of international organisation of young breeders’ competition
16. Promote and maintain the WBFSH rankings of horse breeders, studbooks and the stallions
17. Raising the profile & gaining greater recognition of the WBFSH through new initiatives e.g. develop our presence on social media, and continue to develop the WBFSH website.
18. Continue the work of the WBFSH SAC committee
19. Consult with the non-EU studbooks to address issues specific to them and increase their engagement in the federation

7. Election of Board members (#GA 7&8)

Retiring and eligible for re-election for a 3-year period: Vice President Norbert Camp (GER), Vice President Renai Hart (NZL). Gustaf Johansson (SWE) had been nominated by SWB. The candidates introduced themselves, showing a strong commitment to the organisation and to supporting all members and breeders across the world. Voting was carried out by paper ballot. According to the statutes, the WBFSH must appoint a polling committee. The Board proposed Nadine Brandtner, Sonja Egan, Xavier Libbrecht and Morgane Libotte. This was unanimously approved by the members. Following an anonymous vote, Norbert and Renai were re-elected.

8. Election of members for the Audit committee (#GA 7&8)

Referring to the statutes, 3 members and two substitutes must be elected annually. In 2023, Alf Kjetil Andresen (NOR), Wilken Treu (GER), Paul Hubert (FRA) were elected, with Meghan de Garay (USA) and Sonja Egan (IRE) elected as substitutes. In 2024, Paul Hubert (FRA) will retire and will be replaced by Guillaume Blanc (FRA). All other candidates were unanimously re-elected.

9. Election of the Disciplinary Committee (#GA 8)

Referring to the statutes, 4 members must be elected every two years. In 2022, Constanze Winter (GER), Olivier Couvé (FRA), Arancha Rodriguez (Spain) and Edward Kendall (CAN) were elected. They were unanimously re-elected for another two-year period.

10. Election of the Board of Appeal (#GA 8)

Referring to the statutes, 5 members must be elected every two years. In 2022, Theodor Leuchten (GER), Hanfried Haring (GER), Leopold Erasmus (AUT), Xavier Libbrecht (FRA) and Olle Kindberg (SWE) were. They were unanimously re-elected for another two-year period.

11. New Members/Associates (#GA 11)

The General Assembly ratified the membership of Baltic Horse Breeders Association (BHBA), which was granted by the board at the general assembly in 2023.

Three applications for full membership were received in 2024.

AES Netherlands, as well as two studbooks that were already associate members, the Luso-Warmblood (LW) and Cheval de Dressage Français (CDF).

All three applications for Full Membership were presented by the Office and fulfilled the membership criteria, therefore the Board approved their application. Their memberships will be up for ratification as the next General Assembly, in 2025.

12. Motion from the Board (#GA 12)

During the Covid pandemic many live events and meetings had to be cancelled, and moved to an online format. The exception law in the Netherlands (Temporary Covid-19 Justice and Security Act) no longer applies. Therefore going forward, hybrid meetings are only possible if there is a provision in the Statutes. Updates to articles 18 and 25 have been drafted and checked by the lawyer and notary to ensure they are legally valid. These updates were presented to the members in a motion of the board. The general assembly accepted the motion.

13. Motions from members/associates

The British Hanoverian Horse Society (BHHS) proposed a motion “Proposal for Adoption of DNA Screening of All Foals in World Breeding Federation for Sports Horses (WBFSH) affiliated studbooks”. The motion outlines the importance that all WBFSH studbooks should commit to full DNA testing for main studbook pedigree verification, as it is a crucial step in ensuring the security, integrity and credibility of bloodlines within the equine community.

The adoption of mandatory DNA screening for all foals is a proactive measure that aligns with the long-term goals of WBFSH to uphold the highest standards in horse breeding. The principle of the motion was accepted by all members. However, questions were raised with respect to the practical implementation and additional costs to studbooks and their breeders. It was agreed that more information is needed to propose a practical implementation and guidance to studbooks needing assistance for the implementation.

14. Mandatory Update to the WBFSH Statutes ^(#GA 14)

The WBFSH board has been advised of necessary updates to the Statutes, for them to be in line with current legislation. Amongst these is the obligation to appoint a continuity committee. This is aimed at preventing an association from becoming 'ungovernable', in the unlikely event of all board members being absent or unable to act. Updates to Articles 11 and 16 have been drafted and approved by the lawyer and the notary. A new article 18 has also been created for the Continuity Committee.

The continuity committee shall consist of at least one member and no more than three members, which shall be determined by the general meeting and elected annually by the General Assembly. Membership of the continuity committee is incompatible with membership of the general board, the executive board and the audit committee. These updates will be implemented at the same time as the updates to the statutes on voting at a hybrid GA meeting.

15. General assembly 2024

The next General Assembly of the WBFSH will be held in South Africa, from 10th – 14th of October 2025, hosted by the South African Warmblood Horse Society (SAWHS).

16. Miscellaneous

a. *Update from EAAP Horse Commission representative*

Dr Kathrin Stock presented the summary for the 2024 report of the EAAP Horse Commission. The presentation will be available on the WBFSH website.

b. *Update from IYB President*

Inge Madsen, president of the IYB, presented the 2024 report of the organisation, as well as a video of the World Championships that took place in Denmark in July. The presentation will be available on the WBFSH website.

c. *Presentation Equine Register*

Eva-Maria Livesey and Stewart Everett presented an update of the WBFSH data project, explaining the progress of its developing since its first announcement at last year's General Assembly. A lot of work behind the scenes was made over the past months: test data has been submitted by a number of members, deliberately focusing on providing a broad mix, from larger established studbooks such as the Oldenburg Society, KWPN and Danish Warmblood, to smaller breed societies such as the South African Warmblood, and the New Zealand and British Hanoverians. This work is ongoing, and members are encouraged to come forward in providing their input in the development, to help shape a project suiting the needs and preferences of all studbooks, while maintaining an ongoing dialogue with the stakeholders, in particular the FEI, and working on tailored solutions for all participants and user groups.

d. *WBFSH Rankings – Studbooks of the year 2024 & Breeders of the Year 2024*

Dressage Studbook Winner – KWPN with 14 222 points

- Imhotep (Everdale) – 2470 points
- Everdale (Lord Leatherdale) – 2469 points
- Fame (Bordeaux 28) – 2373
- Indian Rock (Apache) – 2342 points
- Jagerbomb (Dante Weltino OLD) – 2293
- Glamour dale (Lord Leatherdale) – 2275

Jumping Studbook Winner – Selle Français with 7 884 points

- Dubai du Cedre (Baloubet du Rouet) – 1584 points
- Caracole de la Roque (Zandor) – 1384 points
- Dynamix de Belheme (Snaike de Blondel) – 1283 points
- Dallas Vegas Batilly (Cap Kennedy) – 1246 points
- Blood Diamond du Pont (Diamant de Semilly) – 1202

Eventing Studbook Winner – Holsteiner Verband with 1 527 points

- JL Dublin (Diarado) – 432 points
- Nickel 21 (Numero Uno) – 299 points
- London 52 (Landes) – 264 points
- Diabolo (Diarado) – 189 points
- Catania (Cartani 4) – 172 points
- Denim (Dinken) – 171 points

The ceremony of the Longines-WBFSH Breeder Awards 2024 will be held in Bordeaux from 6th – 9th February 2025.

The Dressage Breeder Award 2024 goes to late Silke Druckenmüller, for the 4th time, and the Trakehner mare TSF Dalera (Easy Game x Handryk) with 2 887 points.

The Jumping Breeder Award 2024 goes to Romain Rotty and the Zangersheide mare Legacy (Chippendale Z x Bon Ami) with 1 611 points.

The Eventing Breeder Award 2024 goes to Götttsche-Götze Volker for the Holsteiner gelding JL Dublin (Diarado x Canto 16) with 432 points.

Vilhelmsborg, 5th November 2024