



# WBFSH

WORLD BREEDING FEDERATION  
FOR SPORT HORSES

## 2024 ANNUAL REPORT to the General Assembly Cascais (POR)

WBFSH Department of Development

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This report consists of:

1. Introduction
  2. Activities
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### 1) Introduction

The primary objective for the third edition of the "State of the Industry" report is to foster constructive and productive engagement among the World Breeding Federation for Sport Horses (WBFSH), its member studbooks, breeders, the Fédération Équestre Internationale (FEI), National Federations, and riders. This initiative begins with the accurate collection and recording of current data, enabling more meaningful and beneficial analysis. Our goal is for this report, and future ones, to contribute to the success of everyone who shares a passion for horses. Comprehensive details of the reports are available on our website.

### 2) Activities

#### Statistics

We are currently in the process of gathering statistics from the studbooks. Our questions have been refined to ensure clarity, facilitating the collation of data for meaningful comparisons. Some studbooks have reported difficulties in counting mares due to varied classification criteria and incomplete submission of cover certificates. For example, "active breeding mares" might mean a mare that had a foal in the last season for some studbooks, while others include all mares in their database.

Kaa-Sandra Chee is leading a significant project to analyse data from the FEI database, encompassing events, horses, disciplines, and athletes.

Additionally, this year, we have collected foal auction results globally to study sales trends related to warmblood breeding.

We are also investigating several horse health issues pertinent to our breeders. Renai Hart is engaging with veterinarians regarding foal heart issues and surgical developments in Kentucky.

Furthermore, a project for 2025 will involve comparing data from human studies on health factors in babies produced via IVF with emerging data from foals produced through advanced breeding techniques.



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### **Social Licence to Operate**

Achieving a social license to operate can be realized through various means, such as demonstrating ethical and humane treatment of horses, promoting the conservation and preservation of equine breeds, and implementing sustainable business practices. Obtaining social licensing can help enhance the reputation of the horse industry and increase consumer trust in the products and services offered by industry professionals.

In line with this goal, the Development Department has initiated a project in collaboration with Hartpury University to focus on Best Breeding Practices. This project is being led by Professor Jane Williams, with the assistance of a master's student, and the findings are scheduled to be presented in December 2024.