

WBFSH International Young Breeders' Championships 2024

BY INGE MADSEN & WENDY CONLON

PHOTOGRAPHY: COURTESY IYB

The Danish Warmblood Young Breeders are delighted and proud to invite all World Breeding Federation for Sport Horses (WBFSH) member studbooks to enter teams or individuals to participate in the WBFSH International Young Breeders World Championships 2024.

This is scheduled to take place in Denmark from July 4-6, 2024 and, per previous editions, there will be four main elements to the competition phases of the Championships.

These include multiple choice theory exam (topics include reproduction, health and welfare, nutrition, stable management, and sport), assessment of conformation, assessment of athleticism (loose movement and loose jumping), and the presentation of a horse in hand.

Additional Championship elements include turnout (grooming, plaiting, etc.) of a horse, which is completed as a team, and various fun activities hosted in tandem with the serious business of the Championships. The opportunity for

competitors to network and socialise is considered a very important aspect of the event with teams historically competing from Europe, Canada, and North America. Coming together from widespread geographical areas, combined with horse interests, means there is always something to talk about and the potential to create new friendships, and unique networking with other young people.

The 2024 World Championships venue?

The 2024 Championships are to be hosted by Stutteri Ask, on the island of Fyn, located centrally in Denmark. The



DWB World IYB Championships planning meeting attended by (back row l-r) Jakob, Henriette, Betina, Anna, Anne, Vibeke, Gry, Annette, Christina and Lasse; (front row l-r) Inge, Nicoline, and Sophie

stud provides high-class indoor and outdoor facilities, and all competitors will be hosted on-site for the duration of the competition in 'mobile home' accommodation. Catering will be provided by 'Aulbjerghus-Det Fynske Madhus' providing meals and snacks for all dietary preferences/requirements. A great atmosphere is virtually guaranteed with everyone gathered on-site together.

Stutteri Ask is the largest stallion station for Danish Warmblood jumping horses, and accommodates showjumpers across all age groups, breeding mares, foals, and many young horses.

Who can compete?

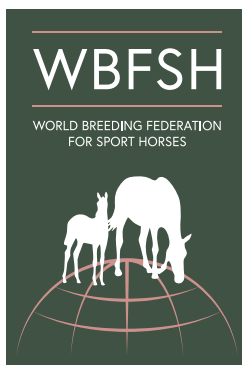
Any studbook that is a member of the WBFSh and completes membership of the International Young Breeders, can enter either individuals or teams in the Championships.

Those aged 16 to 20 years (born 2004-2008 inclusive) are eligible to compete as 'juniors', while those aged 21 to 26 (born 1998-2003 inclusive) are eligible to compete as 'seniors'.

A studbook may enter a maximum of one junior team and one senior team. A junior team or a senior team can comprise a maximum four individuals within the relevant age group. A team score will count the best three performing individuals, with the lowest score being dropped. The addition of both the junior and senior team scores provides the overall studbook result. However, a team of only three individuals may enter if a fourth member is not available, although in this case there is no drop-score option.

Alternatively a studbook may enter one or two individuals within either age group if they are not able to make up a full team of three. It's also possible to enter individuals exclusively in one age group, or in both, or to enter a team in one age group and individuals in the other.

Another exception is provided for studbooks who find it difficult to fill a senior team, whereby a single junior competitor may complete a team of three where there are only two seniors. In this situation no reserve (fourth) team member



is allowable. The junior competing as a senior in this case will also be ranked as an individual within the seniors i.e. ranked against other seniors individually rather than other juniors.

Eligible prize categories?

The coveted prize is that of overall studbook champion. The studbook podium is reserved for the highest accumulation of both junior and senior team scores.

Within both the junior and senior age-groups prizes are awarded for the best-performing teams. Additionally prizes are provided to individuals within both age groups for their combined overall scores including the championship disciplines of in hand, assessment of conformation, and athleticism, and theory.

Within the individual disciplines in both age groups prizes presented for the best performing individuals in each discipline.

Further information:

To learn more about these Championships, check out the young breeder section of the WBFSh website (URL at the end of this article) where the rules and regulations page provides not only an extensive manual explaining the Championships, but also supportive materials

including theory bank, and score sheets.

For any other questions contact International Young Breeders iyb@wbfs.com, or Danish Warmblood WC organisers young24@varmblood.dk, or secretary of IYB Wendy Conlon iyb-wendy.conlon@wbfs.com, particularly if your studbook is not currently a member of IYB but you are considering entering individuals or teams in the Championships.

The next virtual meeting of International Young Breeder Members is mid-March which would be a very good opportunity to get involved and learn more. Do not hesitate to prepare to participate in the WBFSh IYB World Championships 2024, where all involved will receive a great welcome from the Danish Warmblood Young Breeders and Stutteri Ask. ■

SCHEDULE FOR THE 2024 CHAMPIONSHIPS

Thursday July 4
 Registration of teams
 Theory examination
 Opening/welcome ceremony and parade of studbooks

Friday July 5
 Turnout of horses, team effort
 Assessment of athleticism
 Assessment of conformation
 Fun competitions and social events

Saturday July 6
 In-hand presentation
 Final results and prize giving
 Dinner and post-event party

Sunday July 7 (optional)
 Excursion to local equine and cultural locations

