



STATUTES

VERBAND DER ZÜCHTER DES OLDENBURGER PFERDES E.V.

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Statutes

of Verband der Züchter des Oldenburger Pferdes e.V.

A. Provisions pertaining to the association.....	3
A.1 Name and registered place of business.....	3
A.2. Purpose	3
A.3 Members and contractual partners.....	3
A.3.1 Forms of membership.....	3
A.3.2 Participation of contractual partners in the breeding programme	4
A.3.3 Animal Welfare Law Requirements for Membership or Contractual Partnership.....	4
A.4 Acquisition of membership and application for participation in the breeding programme	4
A.5 Termination of membership/contractual relationship.....	5
A.5.1 Termination of membership	5
A.5.2 Termination of the contractual relationship with non-members	5
A.6 Rights and Obligations.....	5
A.6.1 Rights of members and of contractual partners	5
A.6.2 Obligations of members and of contractual partners.....	6
A.6.3 Rights and Obligations of the Verband	7
A.7 Disputes and Objections.....	7
A.8 Data Processing, Data Disclosure and Compliance	8
A.8.1 Data Requests and Access	8
A.8.2 Purpose Limitation and Statutory Requirements	8
A.8.3 Information and Consent	8
A.8.4 Continuation of Authorisation.....	8
A.8.5 Obligation to Provide Evidence to Third Parties	8
A.8.6 Compliance Policy.....	8
A.9 Membership dues and fees	8
A.10 Organs of the Verband	9
A.10.1 District assemblies.....	9
A.10.2 Assembly of Delegates.....	10
A.10.3 Board	12
A.10.4 Special Representative pursuant to Section 30 of the German Civil Code (BGB)	14
A.11 Commissions of the Verband.....	14
A.12 Breeding Director	15
A.13 Verband rules.....	15
A.14 Dissolution of the Verband.....	15
B. Basic breeding provisions	16
B.1 Basic principles	16
B.2 Duties of the Verband	16

B.3 Subject of activity and geographical area of the Verband.....	16
B.4 Basic provisions of the breeding programme	16
B.5 Minimum information in the studbook.....	17
B.6 Basic provisions for subdivision of the studbook	17
B.7 Basic provisions on the maintenance of the studbook	17
B.8 Basic provisions on entry in the studbook	17
B.9 Basic provisions for the issue of a horse passport incl. zootechnical certificate/certificate of registration and certificate of ownership.....	18
B.10 Provisions for zootechnical certificates for breeding material.....	20
B.11 Identification.....	20
B.12 Assurance of identity/parentage	21
B.13 Breeding documentation.....	22
B.14 Fight against genetic defects	24
B.15 Basic provisions of the evaluation of breeding horses.....	24
B.16 Licensing	24
B.17 Basic provisions on performance test and breeding value estimation.....	26
B.17.1 Performance test	26
B.17.2 Breeding value estimation	27
B.18 Monitoring.....	27
B.19 Entry into force	27

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These Statutes regulate the association activities and, with regard to specific provisions in the breeding programme, the breeding activities of Verband der Züchter des Oldenburger Pferdes e.V.

They consist of basic provisions governing association and breeding matters. Further specific provisions are contained in the breeding programme, which is not part of the statutes.

A. Provisions pertaining to the association

A.1 Name and registered place of business

The association bears the name Verband der Züchter des Oldenburger Pferdes e.V., hereinafter “Verband”. It is entered into the register of associations of the local court of Oldenburg under the number 110580. The Verband’s registered place of business is Vechta. The Verband maintains the studbook on the origin of the “Oldenburg” breed.

The Verband der Züchter des Oldenburger Pferdes e.V. (OL) is an independent organisation and, together with the Springpferdezuchtverband Oldenburg-International e.V. (OS), likewise as independent organisation, is incorporated in the umbrella organisation “Oldenburg Horse Breeders Association e.V.”.

The Verband’s mark is the Oldenburg brand mark:



Its business year is the calendar year.

A.2. Purpose

The purpose of the Verband is to promote the breeding of horses according to the provisions of the Statutes and of the breeding programme.

The Verband is non-profit-making; it does not primarily pursue economic gain. Its bodies work on an honorary basis, its members receive no profits nor, in their capacity as members, other benefits from the Verband’s own funds. The Verband does not favour any person by incurring administrative expenses for purposes other than those for which they were intended or by paying disproportionately high remuneration. The Verband is financed largely through membership dues and fees.

A.3 Members and contractual partners

A.3.1 Forms of membership

In general, breeders may participate in the breeding programme both as full members and as contractual partners. The Verband has full and associate members and honorary members.

1. Full members (breeders):

These are natural persons, partnerships or legal entities under private and public law, or breeding co-operatives, in ownership of at least one breeding animal of the breed overseen by the Verband and entered into the studbook of the Verband, with operations (where the member’s horses are kept permanently) within the geographical area of the breeding programme and who participate in the breeding programme of the breed.

2. Associate members:

These are supporting members who are not breeders themselves of horse breeds overseen by the Verband, but support the aims of the Verband materially or immaterially.

3. Honorary members:

Honorary members are invited on the suggestion of the Board through the assembly of delegates on account of outstanding work in the service of breeding involving the breed overseen by the Verband.

A.3.2 Participation of contractual partners in the breeding programme

Participation of breeders in the breeding programme is also permitted on a contractual basis without membership: This relates to persons who are in ownership of at least one of the breeding animals entered in the studbook of the breed overseen by the Verband and their breeding animals are kept at stables located within the breeding programme's geographical area.

Non-member breeders who participate in the breeding programme are hereinafter referred to as "contractual partners".

(The contract is available for viewing on the Verband's website (www.oldenburger-pferde.com) or in its offices).

A.3.3 Animal Welfare Law Requirements for Membership or Contractual Partnership

3.3.1. Membership in or contractual partnership with the Association may only be granted to persons who comply with the provisions of the Animal Welfare Act (Tierschutzgesetz) as well as all other applicable animal welfare regulations. In the event of legally established violations of such provisions, membership or partnership shall only be possible if all obligations imposed by a court judgment or an administrative decision have been fully complied with or lifted.

3.3.2. Applicants for membership or partnership shall, upon submission of their application, proactively declare that no serious violations of animal welfare regulations exist against them and that any obligations arising from final and binding decisions have already been fulfilled or lifted.

3.3.3. If, after admission, it becomes apparent that a member or partner has provided incorrect information contrary to subsection 2, or if a serious violation of animal welfare regulations is subsequently established by a final and binding decision, the member or partner may be excluded from the Association. In the case of minor or insignificant violations, the Association shall decide on exclusion at its due discretion.

A.4 Acquisition of membership and application for participation in the breeding programme

Breeders with operations within the geographical area of the breeding programme that meet the requirements of sound breeding activity have a right to membership, providing that they recognise the Statutes and the breeding programme.

Contractual partners who meet the requirements for sound breeding activity may participate in the breeding programme, provided that they recognise the relevant provisions of the Statutes and the breeding programme. They may, at any time, with application for membership, become a full member of the Verband.

Applications for membership or applications for participation in the breeding programme must be submitted in writing to the Verband's place of business.

Legal persons must also submit their statutes with their application. For the membership of legal entities, partnerships, and breeding co-operatives, the name of a person with sole power of representation must be submitted to the Verband. The appointment shall be made by joint written declaration to the Verband by all members of the governing bodies or shareholders entitled to represent the Verband or by all members of the breeding co-operative.

When a breeding animal has multiple owners who have not formed a co-operative, only one of these owners can become a full member. The animal's other owners are free to become associate members. The co-owners shall decide who amongst them shall become a full member and submit this in writing to the Verband.

Every full member simultaneously holds membership in the Oldenburger Pferdezuchtverband e.V. (umbrella organisation).

The Verband's administration will notify the applicant in writing regarding their acceptance or rejection. Honorary members shall be appointed on suggestion of the board of the assembly of delegates.

A.5 Termination of membership/contractual relationship

A.5.1 Termination of membership

Membership is terminated if the following events or changes occur.

- For natural persons, through death; for legal entities, through their dissolution, or through termination with three months' notice at the end of the business year. Termination must be submitted to the Verband office in writing.
- by exclusion, which shall be permissible for good cause, in particular in the event of a breach of the membership obligations set out in these Statutes and of the obligations arising from the breeding programme, or if the prerequisites for proper breeding activities are no longer fulfilled. The decision on exclusion shall be taken by the Delegates' Assembly. The exclusion must be stated in writing, giving reasons, and shall be notified to the person concerned against formal acknowledgement of receipt. The person concerned shall have the right, within four weeks, to submit a written application to the Dispute Resolution Body (see A.7), which shall decide the matter with final effect.
- The membership ends when the board informs the member of their termination. Here the board is authorised to do so if a member does not pay their dues despite written reminder and/or a member in any other way violates their member obligations or the interests or the image of the Verband with gross negligence or intent, and/or no longer offers the guarantee of sound breeding activity. The termination enters into force with the written notice including a date.
- If, after obtaining full membership, a member does not meet the requirements as defined in A.3 (1) of the Statutes, this membership will be changed, at the end of the year in which the requirements are not met, into the membership of an associate member as defined in A.3 (2) of the Statutes. If an associate member subsequently meets the requirements for full membership as defined in A.3 (1) of the Statutes, this membership shall be changed into the membership of a full member as defined by A.3 (1) of the Statutes. At the same time, the proviso applies that full membership dues shall be paid for the entire calendar year.

Termination of full membership in the Verband also means termination of membership in the Oldenburg Horse Breeders Association e.V. (umbrella organisation).

A.5.2 Termination of the contractual relationship with non-members

Termination of the contractual relationship with non-members is regulated in the contract with the contractual partner.

A.6 Rights and Obligations

A.6.1 Rights of members and of contractual partners

Breeders may have the opportunity to:

- to be accepted into the Verband as a member,
- to participate in the breeding programme with their breeding horses,
- to the entry of their purebred breeding horses and those horses' purebred offspring in the main section of the breed's studbook, provided that the entry provisions are met and the breeder participates in the Oldenburg breeding programme,
- to the recording of their animals in a supplemental section of the studbook if they do not meet the conditions for entry in the main section but qualify for entry in the supplemental section according to the rules of the breeding programme,
- to the issue of zootechnical certificates for their purebred breeding animals participating in the Verband's breeding programme,
- to the issue of a confirmation receipt for the registration of their animals which are entered in a supplemental section of the studbook,
- to participation in performance tests and breeding value estimations as defined by the breeding programme and, depending on availability, to the provision of the latest results of their animals' performance tests and breeding value estimations on request,

- to decide freely with regard to the selection and pairing of their breeding animals,
- to exercise their rights as owners of their breeding animals,
- to the access to all services provided by the Verband to participating breeders as part of the breeding programme,
- to raise objections against Verband decisions in the execution of the Statutes and the breeding programme in accordance with A.7 – provided that the breeders' rights are affected and to this extent not otherwise stipulated in Part B (Basic breeding provisions), and
- to view the Verband's agreements with third parties at the business office in compliance with data protection requirements, insofar as these are relevant to their breeding concerns.

Furthermore, all full members have the following rights:

- to vote in the organs of the Verband,
- to participate in the establishment and further development of the breeding programme according to the provisions of the Statutes, provided they are full members,
- to raise objections against decisions of the Verband in enforcement of the Statutes in accordance with A.7 – insofar as the member's rights are affected.

All full members have equal rights and have the right to propose motions and vote in their relevant district meeting. A voting member may transfer their voting right to another voting member by written proxy. Only one proxy is permitted per voting member.

Associate members may participate in the district meetings and submit proposals; however, they may not vote on breeding concerns (no voting right for Part B of the Statutes and design of the breeding programme).

A.6.2 Obligations of members and of contractual partners

All members and contractual partners have the following obligations:

- to comply with the provisions of the Statutes and, in the case of full members and contractual partners, the breeding programme of the Verband, to uphold duty of loyalty to the Verband, and to refrain from anything that violates the purpose of the Statutes and damages the reputation of the Verband,
- to present the registered horses and their offspring to the organs of the Verband and their representatives, to provide information that is relevant to the promotion of breeding, and to grant access to their operation's breeding documentation,
- to have the conducting of evaluations that are necessary for the activities of the breeding programme carried out and to support their execution and, if applicable, to participate in the necessary performance tests with their animals and to participate in the measures agreed upon by the Verband as part of the breeding programme.
- to provide the Verband, accurately, in due form and within the period prescribed, all the information necessary for execution of the breeding programme in accordance with the Statutes. This member obligation includes in particular the complete and cost-free release and transfer of available performance and health information necessary for studbook maintenance and the breeding programme as well as information on cover, insemination and other biotechnological measures, genomic information, and breeding value estimations.
- to allow the transfer of parentage testing results (DNA profiling, blood typing through serological tests) from the testing institute directly to the Verband,
- to provide information, for example from veterinary examinations, for the creation of a database and genetic material of the mares, stallions, and foals to be able to cultivate health characteristics as well as all other characteristics meaningful for the breeding objective. Using recognised scientific methods, this information is provided for specific improvements to the criteria defined in the breeding objective,
- to ensure that the registration of foals is carried out in accordance with the statutory provisions and within the period prescribed,
- to agree to the publication of breeding-relevant information of all horses that were bred by them or are (or were) in their possession,
- to pay the dues, fees, and charges agreed upon by the Verband organs,
- to abide by the regulations on animal breeding and animal welfare,
- to remain informed about genetic defects that are detrimental to quality of life, and genetic features in the breed bred by them,
- to retain all documentation relevant to breeding for at least 5 years,
- The deregistration of mares must be carried out in writing by the owner or in the OL account no later than the 1st of December. Withdrawal due to death or euthanasia must be reported to the Verband without delay.

A.6.3 Rights and Obligations of the Verband

The Verband is:

- responsible for the proper carrying out of the breeding program in accordance with the Statutes, for the correct and complete recording of parentage and performance information, for properly maintaining the stud book, performance test and breeding value assessment as well as for the identification of the horses entered in its studbooks in accordance with the law,
- obligated to adhere to data privacy provisions and to pass on data only to third parties when this is necessary to carry out the breeding programme in accordance with the Statutes,
- entitled to expel from participation in the breeding programme breeders who do not adhere to the relevant rules of the Statutes and the breeding programme or do not fulfil their obligations according to the relevant Statutes,
- also entitled to expel from participation in the breeding programme full members who do not adhere to the relevant rules of the Statutes and the breeding programme or do not fulfil their obligations according to the Statutes,
- obligated to mediate disputes that arise during the carrying out of the approved breeding programme, between the breeders or between breeders and the Verband according to A.7 of the Statutes,
- obligated to work in a way that respects the rights of breeders while ensuring that all breeders are treated equally,
- obligated to retain all documents related to breeding for at least 10 years unless other legal requirements exist,
- obligated to grant all full members and contractual partners access to contractual regulations with third parties on request in the offices, insofar as it pertains to their breeding-related concerns and does not infringe on the data privacy concerns of third parties,
- obligated to grant services of the Oldenburg breeding programme to members and contractual partners only. The Verband is, however, entitled to be active with non-members, for example if there is a legitimate interest on the part of the non-member or a threat to the breeding activity is to be feared,
- entitled, in compliance with animal breeding regulations, to work together with other breeding associations in the area of breeding value assessment. It is also entitled to cooperate with other bodies or third-party service providers or involve them in the performance of its duties, insofar as it deems this as necessary for the performance of its statutory duties.
- obligated to publish on the Verband website the policies of the breeding programme for which it maintains the original studbook and, in case of changes, to promptly inform the affiliated breeders' organisations known to it
- obligated to inform the breeders participating in its breeding programme about approved changes to its breeding programme in a timely and transparent manner.

A.7 Disputes and Objections

The board shall establish a dispute resolution panel to be approved by the assembly of delegates. The members of this dispute resolution panel shall be the 1st chair of the Verband, a delegate, and another full member; the latter two shall be chosen by the Assembly of Delegates. The Board shall appoint the members of the dispute resolution panel for a duration of four years. A two-thirds majority is required for a decision.

The dispute resolution panel is responsible for regulating disputes

1. between breeders (members and/or contractual partners) of the Verband and
2. between the Verband and its breeders (members and contractual partners),

that have their basis in the execution of the breeding programme or, in the case of membership, in the activities and duties of the association in accordance with its statutes.

The dispute resolution panel may impose the following disciplinary measures: reprimand, fines, temporary ban from holding honorary positions in the Verband, suspension or expulsion from the Verband (in the case of members) and exclusion from participation in the breeding programme (in the case of contractual partners). It may impose procedural costs on the parties and make provisions for the publication of decisions and the reasons for those decisions. Furthermore, it may take appropriate measures to maintain order and conduct the proceedings.

Details on the type of violations, the regulatory measures and the procedure may be regulated in a dispute settlement regulation.

Appeals against decisions made by the dispute resolution panel may be made to the Assembly of Delegates.

Ordinary courts shall not be involved without the approval of the Verband as long as the jurisdiction of the dispute resolution panel is justified.

A.8 Data Processing, Data Disclosure and Compliance

A.8.1 Data Requests and Access

For the purpose of enabling the Association to perform its statutory duties, and in particular to implement the breeding programme, the ordinary member or contractual partner hereby authorises the Association to request, access, review and disclose all data relevant to the breeding programme, including data collected by third parties.

This authorisation shall in particular include the assertion of rights of access to and disclosure of such data vis-à-vis third parties.

A.8.2 Purpose Limitation and Statutory Requirements

The Association shall use the data collected, processed and disclosed exclusively for statutory purposes and undertakes to comply with all applicable legal provisions, in particular the requirements of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), the German Federal Data Protection Act (Bundesdatenschutzgesetz – BDSG) and other relevant regulations.

Data processing shall in particular include members' contact details and data relating to breeding animals, insofar as such data are required for the performance of the Association's statutory duties, for breeding-related cooperation with other breeding organisations, or for cooperation with affiliated organisations and institutions (e.g. VIT, FN).

A.8.3 Information and Consent

Members and contractual partners shall be expressly informed, in the application for membership or in the contract, of the nature, scope and purposes of data processing.

By signing the application for membership or the contract, they confirm that they have been fully informed about the processing and disclosure of their data.

This authorisation shall also apply retroactively to members already registered.

A.8.4 Continuation of Authorisation

The Association's rights to process and disclose data shall remain in effect beyond the termination of the membership or contractual relationship, insofar as this is necessary for the performance of its statutory duties.

A.8.5 Obligation to Provide Evidence to Third Parties

If third parties require additional proof of the authorisation, the member shall be obliged, upon notification of the specific statutory purpose, to provide such proof to the Association without undue delay, for example for the retrieval of HI-Tier data.

A.8.6 Compliance Policy

The Association undertakes to apply an internal compliance policy for the processing, disclosure and storage of data, ensuring that all procedures comply with legal requirements, statutory purposes and the principles of proper breeding practice.

In particular, the policy shall regulate responsibilities, retention and deletion periods, access restrictions, logging of data access, as well as measures to ensure data security and confidentiality.

A.9 Membership dues and fees

The membership dues and the fee scale are set by the Assembly of Delegates. These fees and dues are published on the Verband website (www.oldenburger-pferde.com) and can be viewed there or in the business office.

Members are required to pay dues and fees, contractual partners are required to pay fees.

A.10 Organs of the Verband

The organs of the Verband are

- the district assemblies
- the Assembly of Delegates
- the Board
- the special representative
- the evaluation committee and the selection committee

The members of the Verband organs (with the exception of the the special representative and breeding director as member of the selection committee) work on a volunteer basis.

A.10.1 District assemblies

10.1.1 The Verband's territory is divided into the following districts:

1. Ammerland
2. Cloppenburg
3. Friesland, including the independent city of Wilhelmshaven
4. Oldenburg, including the independent cities of Oldenburg and Delmenhorst
5. Vechta
6. Wesermarsch, including the state of Bremen
7. Ostfriesland
8. Schleswig-Holstein and Hamburg
9. Diepholz/Osnabrück
10. Grafschaft Bentheim/ Emsland
11. Stade and Lüneburg
12. Südhannover
13. Mecklenburg-Vorpommern
14. Berlin-Brandenburg and Sachsen-Anhalt with the exception of the counties listed under 15.
15. Thüringen/Sachsen and the following counties of the state of Brandenburg: Elbe-Elster, Senftenberg, Oberspreewald-Lausitz, and the following counties of the state of Sachsen-Anhalt: Sangershausen, Mansfelder Land, Merseburg/Querfurt, Burgenlandkreis, Weißenfels, Halle, Saalkreis, Bitterfeld, Köthen, Dessau, Wittenberg
16. Westfalen
17. Rheinland/state of Rheinland-Pfalz/Saarland
18. Hessen
19. Baden-Württemberg
20. Bayern

Natural persons and legal entities residing or headquartered abroad who have obtained membership in accordance with A.4 are free to choose affiliation with one of the districts named. They are then on a par with members residing in the chosen district. They may only vote in the district assemblies of the district they have chosen. Their choice shall be made known on their registration form upon admission to the Verband.

10.1.2 Additional districts may be established on request within the breeding area if no fewer than 100 full members have their place of business there and, of these, no fewer than 400 mares are kept. The request shall be decided by the assembly of delegates.

10.1.3 Members may decide to join a district in order to exercise their right to vote in accordance with 10.1.1 (9–20). This decision shall stand for no less than 4 years (= term of office) and must be declared in writing in the application for admission.

10.1.4 The district meetings have the following duties:

10.1.4.1 for each district to elect a district chairperson and two representatives for a four-year term of office, who can be delegated to the assembly of delegates

10.1.4.2 to elect the 32 members to be delegated to the assembly of delegates (see A 10.2) and their representatives for a four-year term of office (full members).

At least the district chair shall be a member of the Assembly of Delegates by virtue of their office (see A 10.2). If a delegate is elected to the board of the Verband, they shall resign from the Assembly of Delegates. Their representative shall take over for the remaining time of office; a substitute for this representative shall be elected at the next district meeting. If a board member is elected district chair, they cannot be member of the Assembly of Delegates at the same time.

10.1.4.3 to discuss and decide on applications to be made to the Verband with regard to Verband activities, particularly for the promotion of horse breeding.

10.1.5 The district meeting shall be convened and led by the district chair, or, in the case of their hindrance, by one of the representatives. The assembly leader shall ensure the keeping of the minutes. Each district must schedule at least one district meeting annually.

Minutes shall be taken of each meeting or assembly and signed by the chair of the meeting or assembly and the attending secretary.

10.1.6 The district chair shall undertake to convene an extraordinary district meeting if both representatives or 20% of full members of the district request a district meeting and give reasons.

10.1.7 The convening of the meetings pursuant to Sections 10.1.5 and 10.1.6 shall take place by stating the agenda in the Association's official bulletin or by written notification. In addition to postal delivery, the notice of convocation may also be sent electronically (e.g. by email), provided that the member has previously given written consent to electronic communication. Notice shall be deemed to have been received on the date of dispatch. The assembly can be held no earlier than two weeks after the announcement or issuing of invitations. Members' written motions shall be submitted to the chair of the assembly one week before the beginning of the assembly for discussion and decision.

10.1.8 The district meeting constitutes a quorum if 20% of all full members of the district are present. If a meeting falls short of a quorum, a second meeting shall be convened without delay. This meeting shall only deal with the items placed on the agenda of the first meeting. The deadline for the invitation shall be as set out in 10.1.7. The second meeting shall constitute a quorum in any case.

10.1.9 Decisions shall be made by a simple majority of the votes cast.

10.1.10 Voting shall be generally open. Requests for secret ballot shall be granted. If there are more than two candidates and none have received an absolute majority, the two persons with the most votes will participate in a runoff. In the case of a tie, another vote will be taken. Otherwise 10.1.8 applies accordingly.

A.10.2 Assembly of Delegates

10.2.1 The Assembly of Delegates and its duties:

The Assembly of Delegates consists of 32 full members of the Verband who were elected by the districts named in 10.1.1. The assemblies of the districts listed in (9–20) shall each provide one delegate, for a total of 12, irrespective of the number of mares registered.

A further 20 delegates shall be appointed from the districts listed in 10.1.1 (1–8).

Each of the 8 districts shall present at least one delegate. The remaining 12 delegate seats will be allocated amongst the districts according to the proportion of the number of mares registered with them on 1 January of the election

year. The Hare-Niemeyer method, based on 20 delegates with the one delegate provided by each district being counted, shall be used.

10.2.2 The Assembly of Delegates shall decide on all Verband matters, insofar as they do not fall under the responsibilities of the Board or the district assemblies.

10.2.3 The Assembly of Delegates is authorised to request information about all Verband matters from the Board.

10.2.4 In particular, the Assembly of Delegates is responsible for the following:

10.2.4.1 Election of the Board for a term of office of five years (see A.10.3).

10.2.4.2 Election of honorary members to the licensing commission for stallions for a term of office of four years (see A.11).

The election of the licensing commissioner, proposed by the Board, shall be through absolute majority. If no proposed candidate is agreed upon through absolute majority, there shall be a runoff between the two candidates with the most votes. In the case of short-term hindrance of a member of the licensing commission, the Breeding Director may call for short-term representation from the members of the evaluation commission. If a member cannot be present permanently, a new member must be elected immediately

10.2.4.3 Election of the members of the evaluation commission (see A.11)

Candidates for the evaluation commission, which assesses foals and mares, will be proposed by the Board. Evaluation commission elections shall take place every three years. At least 15 persons must be selected.

10.2.4.4 Election of the auditor and their alternates(s),

10.2.4.5 Establishment of the budget proposal,

The budget proposal on the revenues and expenses of the Verband shall be prepared by 31 December. The proposed budget must be balanced. The Assembly of Delegates shall pass the budget proposal.

The budget proposal must be observed.

10.2.4.6 Establishment of the annual financial statement

The financial audit of the annual accounts shall be carried out by 30/04 of the following year by a publicly appointed auditor, whose report shall be submitted to the elected auditors and the Assembly of Delegates. The examination of the Verband's annual accounts shall be carried out by the elected auditors, whose report shall be submitted to the Assembly of Delegates.

The Verband assets shall be recorded in a register by the Board. The changes shall be brought to the attention of the Assembly of Delegates when the annual accounts are adopted.

10.2.4.7 Passing of resolutions on the discharge of the Board,

10.2.4.8 Establishment of member dues, charges and fees,

10.2.4.9 Establishment of expense allowances for the organs of the Verband,

10.2.4.10 Passing of resolutions on acquisition and sale of lands,

10.2.4.11 Passing of resolutions on the taking out and granting of loans of 50,000 euros or more,

10.2.4.12 Establishment of principles or guidelines on the awarding of premiums and the conditions and obligations that come with the awarding of premiums,

10.2.4.13 Passing of resolutions on the use and composition of working groups for special tasks,

10.2.4.14 Passing of resolutions on the appointment of honorary members and honorary president,

10.2.4.15 Passing of resolutions on the Statutes and changes thereto,

10.2.4.16 Passing of resolutions on the expulsion of members,

10.2.4.17 Confirmation of the Breeding Director.

10.2.5 Changes to the Statutes require a 2/3 majority of participating voting delegates.

10.2.6 Resolutions on the general inclusion of animals from outside populations into the breeding programme shall require a 2/3 majority of the participating voting delegates.

The Assembly of Delegates confirms the entry of stallions in the Stallion Book I that have not completed a performance test but meet the breeding programme conditions (11.3.1.5).

10.2.7 The Assembly of Delegates is chaired by the President of the Verband. The President shall undertake to ensure the keeping of the minutes and for the order of the meeting. The President calls a meeting of the Assembly of Delegates at least once a year in agreement with the Board with notification of the agenda.

10.2.8 Extraordinary meetings shall be called as needed. A meeting must be called if at least two districts request it with inclusion of the items to be discussed.

10.2.9 The Assembly of Delegates shall be summoned in writing at least two weeks before the assembly date. The invitation shall include the items to be discussed. Motions shall be considered for the agenda if they are received by the President at least one week before the meeting. Motions for additions to the agenda to be made at the Assembly of Delegates shall be decided by the Assembly.

10.2.10 Delegate who are unable to appear shall send their representative and notify the President of their inability to attend. The representative has voting rights. Participation in the meeting is also possible online if there are no elections.

10.2.11 The Assembly of Delegates constitutes a quorum if 5/8 of the delegates participate, which shall be verified by the assembly chair. Otherwise 10.1.8 applies accordingly.

10.2.12 Board members have advisory votes. They can request to be heard at any time.

10.2.13 Resolutions shall be passed by a simple majority of the delegates present, unless the Statutes require a qualified majority. Voting shall be generally open. Requests for secret ballot shall be granted. In exceptional cases, urgent matters may also be resolved by decision of the Board by written ballot, provided that no delegate objects.

10.2.14 Change of the seat of the Statutes and the seat of the Verband's head office in Vechta as well as the composition of the Board (see A.10.3) shall require a resolution of 7/8 of the delegates.

10.2.15 Minutes shall be kept of each meeting of the Assembly of Delegates. The minutes shall be signed by the assembly chair and the minute taker.

A copy of the minutes shall be sent immediately to the delegates and to the Board.

A.10.3 Board

a) The Board shall consist of

- the Chair (= President)
- the Deputy Chair
- three additional board members

At least three members of the Board must live in the counties/districts/states listed in 10.1 (1) (1–8).

The members of the Executive Board shall be elected by the Delegates' Assembly by a simple majority of the votes cast for a term of office of five years. In the interest of continuity of the Board's activity, the election of its members is not carried out simultaneously, but in the following steps:

After the President alone has been elected in the first year, his deputy shall be elected in the second year, the 3rd Board member the next year, the 4th Board member the year after that, and the 5th Board member the year after that.

The Board members shall remain in office until a new Board is elected. If a member resigns during the term of office, the Assembly of Delegates must elect a new Board member without delay. Membership of the Executive Board shall end at the end of the month in which the respective Board member reaches the age of 75. Re-election or extension of the term of office beyond this point in time shall be impermissible.

Applications for election to the Executive Board must be submitted in writing to the administrative office at least 18 calendar days prior to the election date.

This deadline shall also apply to renewed applications by incumbent members of the Executive Board.

The Association shall be represented by the President jointly with one further member of the Executive Board, or by the Deputy President jointly with one further member of the Executive Board. In addition, the Executive Board may, by resolution, grant individual members of the Executive Board sole power of representation for specific ongoing matters or urgent cases. Such resolution shall be adopted by a simple majority and shall be documented in the minutes of the resolution.

The chair, or in case of hindrance, the deputy chair calls a meeting of the board and assembly of delegates. The chair leads these meetings.

b) Duties and functions of the board

The Executive Board shall manage the affairs of the Association and promote the fulfilment of the tasks assigned to the Association. For the performance of these tasks, it shall make use of the Breeding Director and the Special Representative.

The Board is responsible for

- the hiring of the Managing Director, the Breeding Director and the other Verband employees,
- determining the salary regulations for Verband employees,
- the judicial and extrajudicial representation of the Verband. Representation shall in each case be by two members of the Board jointly, including the President or their deputy
- the passing of resolutions on a breeding programme binding for all members and contractual partners, and any amendments thereto.

The Board shall decide on the commissioning of third parties for technical assignments (for example maintaining the studbook) or performance test or breeding value estimation.

The validity of a resolution requires the presence of at least three Board members. The resolutions shall pass with a majority of votes. If votes are equally divided, the President shall cast the tie-breaking vote.

The Board shall meet as required. The President shall invite the members no later than three days prior with notification of the agenda. Minutes shall be kept of the Board's resolutions.

Reimbursement of Board expenses:

In addition to their cash expenses, Board members receive an appropriate compensation. The compensation shall be determined by the Assembly of Delegates.

A.10.4 Special Representative pursuant to Section 30 of the German Civil Code (BGB)

10.4.1 In addition to the Executive Board, a Special Representative may be appointed pursuant to Section 30 of the German Civil Code (BGB). The Special Representative shall not be a member of the Executive Board but shall act as an independent organ of the Association.

10.4.2 The Executive Board shall decide on the appointment and removal of the Special Representative by a simple majority. The appointment as well as the scope of the Special Representative's authority to represent the Association shall be entered in the register of associations.

10.4.3 The Special Representative shall represent the Association in all matters within the scope of his or her responsibilities. The scope of responsibilities shall include the conduct of day-to-day business, in particular the handling of economic, administrative and personnel matters. The Special Representative shall participate in meetings of the Association's bodies without voting rights.

10.4.4 Within the framework of these Statutes, the Executive Board may issue instructions to the Special Representative. The authority of the Special Representative to represent the Association vis-à-vis third parties shall remain unaffected thereby.

10.4.5 The appointment shall be for a fixed term. The duration shall be specified in the resolution of appointment and shall not exceed five years in each case. Repeated appointment of the same office holder shall be permissible. However, appointment shall only be possible until the completion of the 70th year of age.

10.4.6 The position of the Special Representative shall terminate upon expiry of the fixed-term appointment, by written resignation, or by revocation by the Executive Board. The resolution on revocation shall require a simple majority of the members of the Executive Board and shall be recorded in the minutes. Revocation shall require good cause and shall take effect upon receipt of the written notice. There shall be no entitlement to continuation of the appointment.

10.4.7 The appointment and the revocation of a Special Representative shall be notified to the Delegates' Assembly for information.

A.11 Commissions of the Verband

Responsibility for the evaluation of horses shall be held by Verband-appointed commissions whose decisions shall be characterised by expertise, independence and neutrality. The committee must include expert breeders' representatives and the Breeding Director or the Breeding Director's appointed representative. Breeders' representatives may also be non-members of the Verband. Persons with a conflict of interest may not participate in the decision-making process.

A.11.1 Commissions for the conformation assessment of breeding horses

11.1.1 Licensing commission

The licensing commission consists of the Breeding Director by virtue of their office, or their representative, and four additional members of the evaluation committee.

11.1.1.1 At least two of the members must be full members (breeders) of the Verband. They shall work on a volunteer basis.

11.1.1.2 The election of members is carried out every four years in accordance with 10.2.4.2

11.1.1.3 The duties of the licensing commission are the evaluation and licensing of stallions.

11.1.2 Evaluation commission

The evaluation commission shall consist of the Breeding Director by virtue of their office or their representative as well as additional members; in individual cases the Breeding Director may entrust competent Verband employees with evaluation commission duties.

11.1.2.1 The duties of the evaluation commission are the evaluation of mares and foals in accordance with studbook regulations, decisions on inclusion in the studbook, and the selection of horses for interregional shows and championships

11.1.3 Commission resolutions shall be passed by a simple majority. If votes are equally divided, the Breeding Director shall cast the tie-breaking vote.

11.1.4 Decisions regarding the entry of brood mares in the studbook can in special cases be made by the Breeding Director alone or by a competent Verband employee commissioned by the Breeding Director. For the licensing of stallions, the presence of at least three members of the licensing commission is required.

A.12 Breeding Director

Following the corresponding approval by the competent recognition authority, the Executive Board of the Association shall nominate a Breeding Director who is responsible for breeding activities and for the supervision of the maintenance of the studbook and who, by virtue of his or her person, provides assurance of proper breeding work in accordance with the provisions of animal breeding law. The Breeding Director shall be appointed by the Delegates' Assembly. The Breeding Director shall be responsible for breeding activities. For this purpose, he or she shall make use of the Association's administrative office.

A.13 Verband rules

The Verband may adopt rules to regulate the internal procedures of the Verband in detail. Like the fee schedule, breeding programme, etc., the Verband rules are not a part of the Statutes.

a) Breeding programme

The Oldenburg breeding programme has the rank of association regulations. The Board is responsible for the adoption, amendment and termination of the Breeding Programme (A. 10.3) with the exception of decisions on A.10.2.4.12 and 10.2.6.

Substantial amendments to the breeding programme require approval from the competent authorities. The Verband shall notify the breeders of approved amendments to the breeding programme in a transparent and timely manner through publication on the Verband website (www.oldenburger-pferde.com).

b) Fee schedule

The fee schedule is not a part of the Statutes and is decided by the Assembly of Delegates. It is published on the website of the Verband der Züchter des Oldenburger Pferdes e.V. (www.oldenburger-pferde.com).

A.14 Dissolution of the Verband

14.1 The Verband may be dissolved only by an extraordinary meeting of voting members. In this meeting, to which every member and honorary member must be invited at least eight weeks before the date, every member has a vote. Votes may only be given in person.

14.2 Dissolution requires a 3/4 majority of all voting members. This shall be calculated on the basis of the number of members as at 31 December of the previous year. If a majority of all voting members is not present in the meeting, a 3/4 majority of present voting members of a later extraordinary meeting of members called for the same purpose on the same day shall suffice. Following the dissolution, the existing assets should be used for the promotion of the breeding of Oldenburg warmbloods. The dissolving meeting decides to whom the assets shall be given for this purpose.

B. Basic breeding provisions

B.1 Basic principles

The Verband der Züchter des Oldenburger Pferdes e.V., hereinafter Verband, works according to the provisions of Regulation (EU) 2016/1012 and the relevant provisions of European law, the laws concerning animal breeding, animal protection and veterinary matters at the federal and state level.

Moreover, the work is founded on the guidelines and recommendations of the German Equestrian Federation (FN) and the federal and state government. The Verband thus stipulates in binding that, in the handling and training of horses, it follows the “Animal Welfare Guidelines in Equestrian Sport” of the Federal Ministry for Consumer Protection, Food, and Agriculture, the FN’s “Ethical Equestrian Principles” and the “Resolution on Rider Conduct towards Horses and Ponies”, as well as takes orientation from the FN’s “Guidelines for Horse Riding and Driving”. Insofar as this organisation stipulates changes in the guidelines and resolutions which are relevant to the breeding programme, these are to be made known to the members, the contractual partners, and the competent authorities by the Verband without delay and, if applicable, must be approved by the competent authority.

Further principles are the Verband’s contractual regulations with commissioned third parties named in the breeding programme.

B.2 Duties of the Verband

Fulfilment of the Verband’s duties shall be carried out in accordance with the provisions of these Statutes and of the breeding programme.

The Verband’s duties include in particular:

- Establishment and execution of the breeding programme for the breed of the subject of activity (Oldenburg as studbook of origin)
- Communication with the breeding associations or organisations that maintain a filial studbook; these duties may be transferred to third parties.
- Maintenance of the studbook for the breed of the subject of activity,
- Verification of the identity of all horses entered in the studbook,
- Issue of horse passports incl. zootechnical certificates and the associated certificates of ownership,
- Issue of certificates of registration,
- Issue of zootechnical certificates for breeding material (semen, eggs, embryos), and
- Consultation for full members and contractual partners,
- Identification and marking of foals to be registered.

B.3 Subject of activity and geographical area of the Verband

B.3.1 Subject of activity

The Verband’s subject of activity concerns the Oldenburg horse breeding programme. The Verband der Züchter des Oldenburger Pferdes e.V. maintains the studbook of origin.

B.3.2 Geographical area

The geographical area is represented in the Oldenburg horse breeding programme.

B.4 Basic provisions of the breeding programme

The Verband manages the breeding programme under its own responsibility and competence after approval from the competent recognising authorities. The breeding programme includes all measures suitable to achieve breeding progress with regard to the breeding goal. This includes in particular the assessment of selection characteristics, (assessment of exterior, performance, fertility, and health), the ascertainment of breeding values and the entry in the various sections and classes of the studbook due to the assessed characteristics, age, and/or gender. The assessment of breeding value may take into account the results of the Verband’s own population as well as those of other breeding associations or bodies.

B.5 Minimum information in the studbook

The Oldenburg breeding programme keeps its own studbook; this studbook must contain for each horse all information relevant to breeding and required by animal breeding law. All amendments to information relevant to lineage and performance shall be documented therein.

1. Name and address and – if available – email address of the full member/contractual partner as well as of the owner and keeper (if applicable)
2. Last cover date of the dam
3. Date of birth (if known), breed, sex, colour, markings, and other characteristics (if applicable)
4. Life Number (15-digit UELN), birth country code
5. Active identification (transponder and, if applicable, breeding and brand number)
6. Category (section, class), in which the horse is entered in the studbook
7. Parents incl. colour, Life Number (15-digit UELN if known or a 15-digit FN registration number) and studbook category (section, class)
8. All known previous generations with Life Number (15-digit UELN if known or a 15-digit FN registration number)
9. Date of issue of horse passport incl. zootechnical certificate
10. Assessment of exterior with date and all results of performance tests known to the Verband and the most recent breeding value estimation with date, if available
11. Successes in shows and awards
12. Date and cause (if known) of withdrawal
13. Results of parentage verification (DNA test number or blood type with date)
14. Information on twin birth
15. For horses resulting from embryo transfer: the genetic parents and their blood group or DNA profile according to ISAG standards, necessary for verification of identity and pedigree of their progeny, and the recipient mare
16. For horses whose semen is intended for artificial insemination use: the identification of their blood group or DNA profile according to ISAG standards, necessary for verification of identity and pedigree of their progeny.
17. Results of genetic tests pursuant to the breeding programme
18. Decisions on entries and amendments to the studbook with date
19. For breeding horses that are clones: the genetic and natural parents as well as the test results necessary for verification of their identity and pedigree of their progeny.

Equids of other approved breeds entered in the main section shall be identified as such in the studbook.

In addition, all amendments to information shall be documented in accordance with the legal requirements.

B.6 Basic provisions for subdivision of the studbook

The studbook's stallions and mares are assigned to different sections and classes. The subdivision into sections is done on the basis of information with regard to parentage; the subdivision into classes is done pertaining to characteristics.

B.7 Basic provisions on the maintenance of the studbook

The Verband maintains the studbook. For this purpose, the Verband uses the services of vit (Vereinigte Informationssysteme Tierhaltung w.V.), Verden, in accordance with the contractual regulations.

The studbook shall be maintained by the Verband in accordance with animal breeding laws on the basis of breeder-provided data and information determined from the performance tests and breeding value estimation. vit Verden shall work on behalf of and in fulfilment of the instructions of the Verband.

B.8 Basic provisions on entry in the studbook

A breeding horse's entry in the corresponding section and class of the studbook shall be done according to the specifications of VO (EU) 2016/1012, Section 1 and if the horse was identified without doubt by the Verband according to the provisions laid down in these Statutes. Upon entry, the requirements for parentage and selection characteristics of the relevant class must be met.

In exceptional cases, entry may be carried out without evaluation after the horse's identity has been verified. Exceptions can include illness or severe injury to the horse which would not allow for an objective evaluation.

Deceased mares may also be registered, i.e. after their death. This posthumous entry serves exclusively for the issue of a zootechnical certificate for the last-born foal.

Horses from other populations or breeding associations shall be admitted on application with their previously registered parentage information, and, taking into account the performance information, entered in the relevant class of the studbook.

The Verband shall withdraw the entry in the studbook if any of the requirements for entry has not been met. The Verband shall revoke entry in the studbook if at least one of the requirements for entry has subsequently ceased to apply or if a condition was attached to the entry and the applicant has not met this condition, or has not met it within the period prescribed.

The owner of the horse in question may submit an objection to the decision in writing to the Verband office within 4 weeks. The objection must be justified in writing. Acceptance of the objection shall be decided by the Verband Chair, their Deputy Chair, and the Breeding Director.

If the objection is accepted, the same organ shall decide on the composition of a new evaluation commission, whereby all members will be newly appointed with the exception of the Breeding Director. Likewise the place and date of readmission shall be decided in the case of stallions and mares.

Studbook entries will be suspended for expelled or withdrawn breeders (full members or contractual partners).

B.9 Basic provisions for the issue of a horse passport incl. zootechnical certificate/certificate of registration and certificate of ownership

B.9.1 Horse passport incl. zootechnical certificate/certificate of registration

Application for the issue of a horse passport incl. zootechnical certificate/certificate of registration

With a foal registration (also online) the breeder applies for the issue of the horse passport incl. zootechnical certificate for the foal including its identification and mark.

The horse passport incl. zootechnical certificate serves as documentation to identify horses in accordance with the Cattle Transport Regulation and must be issued to all registered foals.

The Verband that carries out the approved breeding programme and in whose studbook the animal is registered shall issue, on application of the horse owner or based on the foal's registration by the breeder, the horse passport incl. zootechnical certificate in accordance with Articles 30 and 32 of Regulation (EU) 2016/1012 in conjunction with the Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2015/262.

If the horse is not identified within the period prescribed (the identification of the foal at the foot of the mother shall be carried out within 12 months after the date of birth or before it leaves the farm of its birth), it shall be noted in principle in the horse passport that the horse is excluded from slaughter for human consumption, and the breeder shall pay a fine corresponding to the Verband's fee schedule. A duplicate in place of the horse passport incl. zootechnical certificate shall be issued, containing identical information.

Because the breeding programme stipulates performance tests and/or breeding value estimations, the following information shall be included in the horse passport incl. zootechnical certificate for breeding horses:

- all performance test results and/or
- current breeding value estimation results

Alternatively, reference can be made to a website on which the results are published if the website is included on the zootechnical certificate.

Genetic defects and special characteristics are to be stated in the horse passport in accordance with the breeding programme and with the statutory provisions.

In addition, the horse's slaughter status shall be entered in the horse passport and in the studbook.

A zootechnical certificate for a breeding horse may be issued as parentage verification or birth certificate, corresponding to the provisions of the breeding programme. The basis is the entry of the parents in the studbook of the breed. In the case of mares and stallions, registration of the mare and of the stallion is valid no later than one year after the birth of the foal (up to and including 31 December of the year).

Certificate of registration for an animal registered in a supplemental section:

If the horse is registered in the supplemental section of the Oldenburg Studbook, a certificate of registration can be included in the corresponding section of the horse passport in accordance with the statutory requirements.

The certificate of registration for animals in the supplemental section must be clearly and unmistakably marked with the heading provided for by animal breeding law, be distinguishable from the zootechnical certificates, and contain the information described in Annex V of the Regulation (EU) 2016/2012, if available.

B.9.2 Certificate of ownership

The certificate of ownership is issued with identical Life Number (UELN) in addition to the horse passport incl. zootechnical certificate with the following minimum information provided.

- The horse's Life Number (15-digit UELN)
- Name of the horse – if known
- Breed
- Sex
- Colour
- Date of birth
- Name and address of breeder
- Active identification (transponder number and, if applicable, breed and brand number)
- Pedigree with three generations (if available)
- Name, address and stamp of issuing association
- Date of issue and signatory's signature

B.9.3 Instructions on using a horse passport incl. zootechnical certificate, certificate of registration, and certificate of ownership

Only the keeper/owner registered as such in the Verband studbook is entitled to the issue of a horse passport incl. zootechnical certificate, certificate of registration and/or certificate of ownership.

The horse passport and the certificate of ownership are directly associated with the horse and remain property of the issuing association/body. They may be revoked for good cause, for example if they contain incorrect or incomplete information. The certificate of ownership is vested in the owner of the horse within the meaning of the German Civil Code (BGB).

The horse owner shall disclose the horse passport incl. zootechnical certificates, certificate of registration and/or certificate of ownership on request.

In the case of transfer of possession, the horse passport shall be transferred to the new possessor. Transfer of possession must be reported to the Verband.

In the case of transfer of ownership, both the horse passport and the certificate of ownership shall be transferred to the new owner. Transfer of ownership must be reported to the Verband.

In the case of death, killing, theft, loss, or slaughter of the horse for purposes of disease control, both the horse passport and the certificate of ownership shall be returned to the issuing association/body, unless the horse passport is destroyed at the slaughterhouse under official supervision. The death of the horse must be reported to the Verband.

If a horse is presented for registration in the studbook of the Verband and the horse passport contains no zootechnical certificate and meets the requirements for registration, the corresponding section of the horse passport shall be completed in the course of a studbook registration.

B.9.4 Duplicates

The issue of duplicate copies of horse passports incl. zootechnical certificates is done according to the specifications of the Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2015/262.

Duplicates of parentage verifications, birth certificates, horse passports (incl. zootechnical certificates) and certificates of ownership can only be issued on application of the person who lost the original document(s), in principle only upon presentation of an affidavit on the loss of the original document(s) with notarised signature. This may only be carried out by the association that issued the original documents. Duplicates must be clearly marked as such and numbered.

B.9.5 Issue of identification documents for equids imported to the European Union

The registration of existing identification documents for equids imported in the European Union or the issue of horse passports incl. zootechnical certificates shall be carried out according to Article 15 of the Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2016/262.

B.10 Provisions for zootechnical certificates for breeding material

Zootechnical certificates according to Regulation (EU) 2016/1012 are also issued for the delivery of breeding material if the donor animal is registered in the Verband's studbook. The template from Regulation (EU) 2017/717 is used for this.

B.11 Identification

The identification of horses by the Verband is done in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2015/262 with the help of the following methods:

B.11.1 Data collection

For each horse, the following minimum data is collected as part of identification:

- Gender
- Date of birth
- Genetic parents with Life Number (UELN)
- Description of colour and markings
- Completion of marking diagram

B.11.2 Active identification

In accordance with the Cattle Transport Regulation in conjunction with the Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2015/262, all foals must be actively marked in connection with identification. A transponder is required as active identification in accordance with the Cattle Transport Regulation (18 (EU) 2015/262). As an additional, optional active marking, foals were marked with a brand until 2020.

B.11.2.1 Transponder

The transponder required for identification shall be issued by the Verband and must be coded within the meaning of Regulation (EU) 2015/262 in conjunction with Section 44 of the Cattle Transport Regulation.

B.11.2.2 Foal registration

The foal brand was marked until 2020 and was then replaced by active identification using a transponder in 2021. The foals are branded with the breed brand. Along with the breed brand, they receive a number brand derived from the Life Number (B.10.3). Brands are applied exclusively to the left hindquarters. The breed brand is illustrated in the breeding programme.

Foal branding is carried out on the day of the foal inspection. The Verband shall schedule and announce dates for foal inspections. The aim is to evaluate as many horses as possible at the individual appointments so that their comparison provides sound information and advice for the breeders.

Consultations and foal inspections can also be carried out at yards or through individual appointments if such is necessary for valid reasons. The relevant breeder shall pay for any costs arising therefrom.

B.11.3 UELN (Universal Equine Life Number) allocation

Every breeding horse born in a member state shall be allocated a UELN at registration. Horses without UELNs must be allocated one no later than at entry in the studbook. The UELN involves an international and EU-wide uniform Life Number.

The UELN consists of 15 digits composed alphanumerically and in the following manner:

The first 3 digits (alphanumeric) refer to the country of origin, where the UELN was first issued to the horse. The next 3 digits (alphanumeric) refer to the first association that registered and actively identified the horse; the next 9 digits (alphanumeric) refer to a registration number within that association and except for the last two digits can be freely assigned by the association. The 12th and 13th digit refer to the brand number as active identification; the 14th and 15th digits represent the birth year.

A horse's UELN is for life and remains unchanged even if the horse is transferred to another studbook. The UELNs of horses born abroad are to be carried over into the studbook.

If a horse born abroad and accepted into the studbook of the Verband has no UELN, the Verband shall issue a UELN regardless of the horse's background.

For horses and ponies born abroad without a Life Number, their UELN shall be issued as follows:

	Position 1 to 3	Position 4 to 6 Horses / Ponies	Position 7 and 8	Position 9 to 13	Position 14 and 15
Born before 2000	276 or DE + space	304 / 302	2-digit code of issuing body	Serial registration number	Birth year of horse (if known) – otherwise "00"
Born after 2000	276 or DE + space	404 / 402	2-digit code of issuing body	Serial registration number	Birth year of horse (if known) – otherwise "00"

B.12 Assurance of identity/parentage

B.12.1 Parentage assurance methods

The Verband uses and accepts the following methods of parentage verification:

- a) DNA typing according to ISAG standards
- b) Genetic parentage assessment by a DIN EN ISO/IEC 17025:2005 accredited laboratory
- c) DNA profile matching

The Verband regularly carries out risk-orientated and event-driven parentage verification testing (see breeding programme).

For every registered foal that receives a zootechnical certificate from the Verband, the Verband shall carry out parentage verification testing based on the above methods to verify the horse's identity. The parentage verification test must be submitted before a zootechnical certificate can be issued.

The Verband or its appointed Breeding Director is entitled at any time to take further parentage verification measures using the above methods, in particular if the parentage information at hand has not been confirmed.

B.12.2 Measures in the case of detected parentage discrepancies

In the case of detected discrepancies in the submitted parentage, an attempt will be made to determine the actual lineage of the parents in question. Upon clarification, the parentage information shall be rectified in the studbook and in the horse passport incl. zootechnical certificate, and the studbook entry shall be adjusted to reflect the new parentage information.

If clarification is not possible, the parentage shall be disqualified. Breeding horses that are entered in the main section of their breed's studbook shall be transferred to the studbook's supplemental section. The information in the studbook as well as in the horse passport incl. zootechnical certificate shall be corrected accordingly.

The breeder shall bear the costs for the parentage verification testing.

B. 12.3 Measures for non-compliance in parentage verification

If a breeder does not comply with his obligation to verify the parentage within a time limit set by the Verband or if that parentage information proves to be incorrect, that parentage information shall be disqualified immediately. The horse shall not receive a zootechnical certificate and may be entered in the supplemental section. In the event of intentional or gross negligent violations of duty of care in the context of parentage assurance, the member/contractual partner may be expelled from the Verband/participation in the breeding programme.

Incorrect information on parentage in the stud book shall be rectified. This applies independent of time or scope of the detected error and includes the parentage information itself as well as the resulting changes in the studbook.

B.12.4 Documentation

A DNA card or the verification results of other characteristics on identity assurance shall be submitted to the Verband.

Discrepancies determined during parentage testing shall be recorded and, like all other records pertaining to parentage testing, shall likewise be retained by the Verband for at least 10 years.

B.13 Breeding documentation

To ensure proper breeding activity by the Verband, every breeder (every full member and every contractual partner) is obligated to work in accordance with these Statutes, the legal regulations, and the breeding programme of the breed of horses which they breed. The breeders' obligations include in particular:

B.13.1 Stud farm records (breeding documentation)

Each breeder shall maintain a log (in written or electronic form) for the breeding horses they keep; in accordance with the legal regulations and the breeding programme, all essential details of the relevant horse, including its parentage and current information shall be entered therein. Each breeder is obligated to present the logs to the Breeding Director or their representative on demand for inspection. To ensure proper studbook keeping, it is necessary to share information with the representatives of the Verband and allow access to the breeding records, including the stable logs.

Breeding information shall be kept in a timely and proper manner. The commissioning of third parties with the keeping of breeding records does not exempt the breeder from responsibility for the accuracy of the entries. Rectifications shall be made by striking out and shall be countersigned with date and signature.

Breeding records are to be kept for at least 5 years from the time of the last entry.

Measures in the case of incorrect breeding documentation:

- The breeder shall receive a reminder and a request to correct or complete the records.
- If discrepancies are found with regard to parentage information, a review shall be ordered in accordance with the provisions of B.12 of these Statutes.
- Violations shall be recorded and the documents shall be kept in the administration office for 10 years.

B.13.2 Responsibility of the stallion owner

The stallion owners of the Verband are obligated to keep their stallions in such a way that precludes violations against these Statutes and the breeding programme. In the case of violations, the Breeding Director must promptly inform the Board, which shall decide on measures in accordance with these Statutes. This also applies if the stallion owner misinforms the mare owner, disregards hygiene regulations, or in any other way disregards the principles of proper stallion keeping. The stallion owner is obligated to share with the mare owner information on their stallion's known genetic status with regard to serious genetic defects and genetic peculiarities in accordance with the breeding programme.

Publication of registered stallions

All stallions registered in the Verband's Stallion Book I and licensed or recognized stallions in Stallion Book II are published annually in the stallion directory plan for which an annual fee is charged.

Entry in the stallion directory is carried out on written application of the stallion owner after fulfilment of breeding programme requirements.

Entry of each horse is limited to one year. Continued entry thereafter is carried out upon application.

B.13.3 Registration of insemination/covering

After the fee has been invoiced, the association's office will send a breeding certificate to the owner of each registered mare, in which the owner's name and address and the mare's basic data are entered. The owner of the mare can receive the breeding certificate electronically via the OL account. The covering certificate shall be presented to the stallion owner before covering. In exceptional cases, the presentation of the zootechnical certificate (photocopy) may also suffice for the identification of the mare. The covering certificate shall be completed by the

stallion owner after a successful covering act/insemination and provided with the signature of the stallion owner or their representative (not applicable for information transmitted online or by means of other electronic data carriers). The covering certificate must include the following information at a minimum:

- Mare's name and Life Number
- Stallion's name and Life Number
- All covering/insemination dates
- Name and address (e-mail contact) of mare's owner
- Signature of the stallion's owner or their representative (not applicable for electronic transmission)
- Signature of the inseminating veterinarian (for insemination with frozen semen)

In special cases, it is the responsibility of the breeding directory to approve the equine passport.

In the case of ICSI/ET, this applies if documents are available from which the fertilization date (ICSI) or flushing date (embryo) and the identification of the parent animals are possible. In these cases, a document is required (written confirmation, mare owner's contract, purchase contract/invoice) which enables the breeder to be identified. In any case, it must be possible to trace when the embryo was implanted in the carrier mare (identification chip/UELN).

If the breeder cannot be clearly identified, then the person who presents the foal for registration is the breeder of the foal.

The owner of the covered mare receives a copy or printout of the covering certificate or, if the data is transmitted electronically, a receipt of cover from the stallion's owner. They must keep this form as proof of covering until the mare has foaled. If the mare is sold, this obligation is passed on to the buyer.

If a mare is not yet registered in the studbook at the time of covering/insemination, the stallion owner shall issue a blank covering certificate form with the information listed above.

Covering certificate forms of other breeding associations are recognised if they contain the information listed above.

Reports of covering/insemination or online registrations must be received by the business office by 30/09 of that year. The mare's owner (foal's breeder) is responsible for reporting covering/insemination and adherence to the deadlines.

Late received covering certificates or electronic covering registrations shall be documented, in this case, the breeder is responsible for paying a penalty fee in accordance with the association's scale of fees.

B.13.4 Foal registration (birth registration)

The birth of a foal must be reported to the business office of the Verband within three months. This must be done in writing (in the OL account, by e-mail or post).

Late registrations will be subject to a fine by the Verband in accordance with the fee schedule.

Online foal registration can also be done at the Verband website (www.oldenburger-pferde.com) under the above-mentioned conditions.

The foal report must be clear and should contain:

- Dam's name and Life Number
- Sire's name and Life Number
- Mare's and foal's owner's name and address
- Birth date and birth place of foal
- Owner's registration number
- Signature of mare's owner (not applicable for electronic transmission)

If a mare aborts or the foal dies shortly after birth, the foal registration must be filled out regardless, stating the reason, and sent to the business office of the Verband. This also applies to still births.

B.13.5 Amendments to breeding information and studbook entries

All amendments and additions with regard to breeding information, colour and markings, transfer of possession, performance test results, and other information relevant to breeding, as well as the loss of a transponder, shall be reported to the Verband business office by the horse's owner, without solicitation and without delay,

in writing or electronically. Every amendment shall be documented in the studbook by the Verband. Insofar as legally required, the amendments are to be entered in the horse passport incl. the zootechnical certificate and in Hi-Tier.

B.14 Fight against genetic defects

The Verband breeding programme takes serious genetic defects and/or genetic peculiarities into consideration. Moreover, before the mating of two parent animals, the stallion owner shall inform the breeder on the genetic status of the selected stallion with regard to known and relevant genetic defects or peculiarities. The stallion owner is obligated to provide such information.

The genetic defects and genetic peculiarities shall be entered into the horse passport in accordance with the breeding programme and published by the Verband or a commissioned third party in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2016/1012.

B.15 Basic provisions of the evaluation of breeding horses

The evaluation of the animals shall be done by means of linear scoring. This involves the description of the horse through the use of a list of characteristics in seven categories. Only those characteristics that are typical for that horse are recorded.

Conformation is evaluated as follows

- a) Frame and front
- b) Top line
- c) Foundation
- d) Correctness of gait/other conspicuities

as well as movement depending on type of presentation

- e) Moving in hand
- f) Liberty and free jumping if applicable (pre-selection, SLP)
- g) Movement under saddle/on a lunge line

In the studbook entry of mares and stallions, an overall summary score will be issued based on the evaluated characteristics (see above). Whole and half marks are permitted. The horse owner receives a chart showing the results of the studbook entry and foal evaluation, if these were undertaken at public events.

The overall mark is given according to the following scheme: (Half notes are permitted)

- 10 = excellent
- 9 = very good
- 8 = good
- 7 = fairly good
- 6 = satisfactory
- 5 = sufficient
- 4 = insufficient
- 3 = fairly bad
- 2 = bad
- 1 = very bad

In principle, evaluation is carried out at group events (licensing, mare shows, performance tests, etc.) to enable the comparison of a sufficiently large number of horses. In justified exceptional cases (sickness, age) especially with the registration of mares, evaluation can also be done outside of group events. The minimum age for evaluation is set down in the breeding programme.

B.16 Licensing

Licensing is an association's first selection decision for stallions, depending on the breeding programme.

B.16.1 Admission

Registration shall be in writing to the business office. To ensure a proper licensing event, a pre-selection of horses registered for licensing may be carried out; this is then obligatory for the stallions. The minimum age and the further requirements for stallions for licensing is set down in the breeding programme.

B.16.2 Breeding soundness assessment

Determining a horse's fitness for breeding involves a breeding soundness examination by a veterinary surgeon. The testicles are examined for anomalies with regard to breeding soundness; the horse's mouth is also examined for anomalies.

Further characteristics are listed in the breeding programme.

B.16.3 Assessment and determination of result

The evaluation of stallions for the purposes of licensing is carried out by the licensing commission according to the basic provisions of B.15.

Determination of result:

The horse receives a linear score and an overall mark.

B. 16.4 Licensing decision

The decisions on licensing are:

- Licensed
- Not licensed
- Tentatively not licensed

In order to receive the selection decision "licensed", the minimum criteria according to the breeding programme must be met. The licensing decision will be publicly announced at the licensing event. The decision "licensed" is entered on the equine passport, including zootechnical certificate, and documented in the stud book.

The decision "tentatively not licensed", is given if the stallion does not meet the requirements with regard to the overall score, one of the characteristics, and/or breeding soundness, but is expected to meet all requirements in the future. A deadline may be placed on the licensing decision, by the end of which the stallion may be presented for licensing again.

The decision "not licensed" is given if the stallion does not meet the requirements with regard to the overall score or to one or more partial aspects, and/or does not meet the requirements for breeding soundness.

B.16.5 Medication controls

Stallions which were administered banned substances pursuant to the lists and implementing rules of the respective valid Performance Test Regulation (LPO) (Part C: Rules – German Equestrian Federation Anti-Doping and Medication Regulations (ADMR)) or on which a banned method was applied or some manner of intervention or manipulation was applied to enhance performance, ability to perform, or willingness to perform, shall not pass licensing/pre-selection and may be subsequently excluded. The licensing commission/pre-selection commission is authorised to carry out random drug testing at any time. Drug testing shall be carried out according to the implementing rules of the respective valid LPO (Part C: Rules – German Equestrian Federation Anti-Doping and Medication Regulations (ADMR)).

Stallions will not pass licensing/pre-selection and may be subsequently excluded if a positive result of a prohibited medication, a banned method or a prohibited intervention to enhance performance pursuant to Section 1 in the same or in another association, or an equestrian association, is determined within 3 months (12 months for anabolic steroids) before presentation for licensing/pre-selection.

B.16.5.1 Disciplinary Procedure

1. If, after conducting a medication control in accordance with B.16.5, the Federation comes to the conclusion that a violation of the prohibition against the administration of doping substances or prohibited substances in the sense of the ADMR cannot be ruled out, it shall initiate disciplinary proceedings against the responsible persons.

The competent body for the conduct of the proceedings shall be the Arbitration Tribunal (cf. A 7).

Statutes of the Verband der Züchter des Oldenburger Pferdes e.V. in accordance with the EU Animal Breeding Regulation (EU) 2016/1012

2. "Responsible persons" in the sense of paragraph 1 are

- the stallion owner
- the trainer.

Stallion owners are natural or legal persons who are

- are the owner or co-owner of the stallion
- have the right to use the stallion for breeding purposes and who, on the basis of their are listed as exhibitors of the stallion in the stallion catalogue as well as
- without being the owner/co-owner or otherwise authorised user of this stallion have registered or have had themselves registered as exhibitors and are listed in the stallion catalogue as exhibitors. Trainers are natural or legal persons who are responsible for the preparation / training and / or presentation of the stallion or have been involved in such preparation / training and have carried out the corresponding preparation / training and / or presentation of the stallion.

3. in case of proven presence of prohibited doping substances or prohibited substances, a fine shall be imposed on the stallion owner as well as on the trainer, unless the responsible persons prove in the individual case that they are not at fault. The extent and scope of the burden of explanation and proof, as well as the extent to which the of a fine shall be determined in accordance with the provisions of the ADMR and the of the ADMR and the commentaries issued thereon, all of which are contained in the LPO (Performance Test Regulations of the German Equestrian Federation), to which reference is made.

4. the amount of the fine shall be up to 50.000,00 €.

B.16.6 Withdrawal, revocation, objection

The license shall be withdrawn if a condition for its issue has not been met. If an accusation of fraudulent misrepresentation, the provision of incorrect or incomplete information, or gross negligence can be made against the affected parties, the license will be withdrawn; i.e., the stallion's status is of having never been given a positive licensing decision.

The license shall be revoked if one of the conditions is subsequently no longer met. It may be revoked if a condition is attached to it and the beneficiary has not fulfilled this condition or has not fulfilled it within the period prescribed. A revocation is irreversible.

In accordance with B.8, the owner of a stallion may submit an objection against the licensing decision to the business office of the Verband. The objection must be justified in writing. The objection must be submitted within two weeks of the announcement of the licensing result. The competent organ of the Verband (B.8) decides on the acceptance of the objection. If the objection is accepted, the competent organ (B.8) will decide on the composition of a new evaluation commission. A decision will also be made on the place and time for re-presentation of the stallion.

A positive result indicating doping or manipulation will result in the revocation of the licensing decision and withdrawal of the associated studbook registration. The owner of the stallion may submit an appeal in writing against this revocation of the licensing decision to the competent organ of the Verband (B. 8) at the address of the business office of the Verband. The appeal must be submitted within two weeks of the announcement of the decision. The appeal must be substantiated within a further week. The relevant association shall determine an amount as an advance payment which shall be attached or secured at the latest by the expiry of the justification period.

B.16.7 Home licensing

Home licensing may be carried out upon application of the stallion owner. The provisions of these Statutes apply. The stallion owner shall bear the costs arising therefrom.

B.17 Basic provisions on performance test and breeding value estimation

B.17.1 Performance test

B.17.1.1 Recognition of test results

Results of performance tests shall be recognised if the tests are carried out in accordance with animal breeding regulations, the current valid Performance Test Regulation (LPO) of the German Equestrian Federation (FN) and/or the regulations of the Federation Equestre Internationale (FEI). In addition, performance test results shall be taken into account if these are recognised as equivalent by the Verband der Züchter des Oldenburger Pferdes e.V.

The results of foreign national competitions/horse shows are recognised insofar as they can be viewed as equivalent tests. The conditions for performance tests are laid down in the breeding programme.

B.17.1.2 Competences for the forms of tests

In the Verband, stallions and mares can complete performance tests offered either by the Verband or by other organisations or testing bodies. The Verband concludes contracts with the testing bodies or organisations with which the execution of the tests is commissioned; these contracts form the basis for the organisation and execution of the commissioned tests. The Verband verifies compliance with the contractual agreements as well as the correctness of the performance tests by means of auditing.

B.17.2 Breeding value estimation

Verband members or contractual partners and authorised third parties shall make available to the Verband, without delay and free of charge, all information recorded as part of the execution of the breeding programme via performance tests. The data transfer may also be carried out through vit in Verden.

After a plausibility test of the registered data, vit in Verden carries out breeding value estimations on the basis of the recorded characteristics and according to a procedure approved by the competent bodies or according to a procedure corresponding to the specifications of the Verband in coordination with the resolutions of the respective umbrella organisation (FN).

B.18 Monitoring

The organisation commissioned by the Verband with the execution of performance tests and breeding value estimations shall be regularly monitored to ensure the soundness of the performance tests and breeding value estimation. The monitoring procedures to be used here are stipulated in the corresponding agreements with the organisations.

B.19 Entry into force

The Statutes with the provisions of association law and the basic provisions on animal breeding were adopted at the Assembly of Delegates on 25/08/2018 and enter into force after approval by the recognising body and after registration with the commercial register court.

Status: 23.09.2025

