

# **Australian Continental Equestrian Group Incorporated (ACE Group Inc.)**

## **Provision I - Warmblood Breeding Program**

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# **1 ACE Group Inc. Constitution**

This is a separate document.

## **2 Breeding Program – Australian Warmblood ACE**

### **2.1 Preamble (Australian Warmblood ACE)**

§19 The breeding program of ACE includes set measures for entry into ACE studbooks ensuring progress towards the breeding goal of a refined Australian Warmblood – ACE.

§20 ACE Studbooks – Australian Warmblood ACE include:

- Stallion Studbook 1
- Stallion Studbook 2
- Stallion Studbook 3
- *Stallion Register*
- Mare Studbook 1
- Mare Studbook 2
- Mare Studbook 3
- *Mare Register*

### **2.2 Breeding Goal – Australian Warmblood – ACE**

§21 The breeding goal is the Australian Warmblood – ACE (AWB).

ACE's goal is to breed a refined AWB that is physically and mentally able to excel in the Olympic equestrian disciplines; dressage, showjumping or eventing. The AWB horse needs to be in proportion, well-framed with elastic, cadenced and ground-covering movements.

The selection criteria are:

- Ancestors
- External appearance
- Sequence of movement which includes showjumping
- Internal characteristics such as trainability, the ability and willingness to perform, character, temperament and health, and
- Results of sport performances

#### **2.2.1 External appearance – AWB**

##### **Colour**

All colours accepted.

##### **Type**

Desired is an elegant, generously-lined and harmonious riding and performance horse with the ability to excel in all areas of equestrian sport, especially in the Olympic disciplines; dressage, showjumping and eventing. Among other characteristics, the horse should have an expressive face with large eyes, a well formed neck and saddle position, appropriately muscled and correct conformation.

##### **Height**

To produce a horse between 155 and 175 cm high measured with a measuring stick at the wither. Small variations undersize or oversize are tolerated.

## Conformation

An overall harmonious conformation that enables the horse to efficiently excel in all areas of the equestrian sport throughout the horse's lifetime, is desirable. A summary of desirable and undesirable traits is provided in Table 1.

**Table 1 Summary of desired and undesired traits of conformation of the Australian Warmblood – ACE (AWB)**

	<b>Desirable</b>	<b>Undesirable</b>
<b>Head / Face</b>	Noble, elegant, expressive, well-defined, fine	A coarse head / face with no expression and roman nose
<b>Eye</b>	Large, lively and friendly	Small, covered, dull
<b>Throat</b>	Wide and open	Thick and narrow
<b>Neck</b>	Fine, medium-long, well set and attached at the wither, tapered towards the head	Short, too long, ditch in the neck, straight / thin neck, heavy / bull neck, ewe neck, swan-neck
<b>Saddle position</b>	Long, well formed and pronounced wither with a large, sloping shoulder and long forearm	Short, flat wither, small and straight shoulder and a short forearm
<b>Frame (top line)</b>	Rectangular format, harmony between the forehand, middle hand and hindquarters. Long slightly sloping croup.	Square format, soft or stiff back, open and long flanks, short or horizontal croup
<b>Front legs</b>	Well-muscled, correctly positioned with large, well-defined joints and elastic medium long pasterns, well-formed hooves, correct in position and angle, joints and tendons should be clearly defined.	Poorly muscled, thin front legs with small flat joints buck-kneed, calf-kneed, tied in below the knee, flat heels or too narrow hooves, short, upright pasterns, pigeon-toed, splay footed.
<b>Hind legs</b>	Well-muscled and positioned with wide, well-defined, lean and correctly aligned hocks, elastic pastern and well-formed hooves, correct in position and angle, joints and tendons should be clearly defined.	Too angled or too straight hind legs, narrow or short hocks with incorrect alignments, short pasterns, cow-hocked, bow legged

### 2.2.2 Movements of the AWB, including jumping

#### Basic Gaits

All movements should be elastic, in rhythm and straight –forward; developed from an energetic hindquarter and transmitted through a supple, swinging back to the forehand which freely reaches forward from the shoulder. The phases of the walk should be ground covering, relaxed and regular with strides being even and foot falls correct in sequence (walk = 4 beat). The phases of the trot (trot = 2 beat) and canter (canter = 3 beat) should be elastic with a clearly visible movement of suspension (cadence), sustained impulsion, light-footed and load-bearing with natural elevation and balance.

#### Jumping

A skilled, talented and cautious jump that shows composure and intelligence is desirable. During the course of jumping (free jumping / under saddle), there should be clear collection, a fast push-off at take-off, pronounced, fast and equal tucking up of legs (forearms should be held as horizontal as possible), an arched

back with clearly protruding withers and a downward bending neck with open hindquarters (bascule). During all phases the flow of movement and the rhythm of the canter should be maintained.

### **2.2.3 Internal values of the AWB**

#### **Ability to perform, character, temperament and health**

A versatile, talented and rideable performance horse that is physically and mentally able to excel in the equestrian discipline, especially dressage, showjumping or eventing, is desirable. The horse should be highly trainable and easy to handle, yet eager to please and perform, have strong nerves, be reliable and have a good character as well as a calm and well-balanced temperament.

## **2.3 Breeding Policy of the AWB**

§22 The ACE Group Inc. maintains an open studbook policy allowing horses from other World Breeding Federation of Sport Horses (WBFSH) recognised populations, registered or recognised in the ACE Warmblood or ACE Performance Horse register, to enter the ACE Warmblood studbook after assessment of their eligibility and ability to maximise the breeding goal of the ACE Group Inc. as follows:

#### ***AWB Breeding Goal***

*To breed a refined and correct Australian Warmblood – ACE (AWB), that is physically and mentally able to excel in Olympic equestrian disciplines like dressage, showjumping and eventing. The horse needs to be in proportion, well-framed with elastic, cadenced and ground-covering movements.*

### **2.3.1 Breeds of other studbooks**

§23 All horses that are registered with a breed other than ACE and have been issued a passport from a WBFSH recognised breed association, will be entered as of their original breed in the applicable ACE Studbook or Register, after assessment, to be included in the ACE breeding program but remain the breed of the of the Studbook from which they derive.

### **2.3.2 Encouragement of pure breeding**

§24 The breeding goal is to be achieved by line breeding (pure breeding method). The integration of other horse populations (as defined in §26) will promote the ACE breeding goal.

### **2.3.3 Special circumstances**

§25 Exceptional horses of other breeds than those defined in §22 will be considered in the furtherance of the ACE Group Inc.'s goal to develop a superior horse. The ACE Group Inc. may, in exceptional circumstances, accept horses of other than the approved ACE Warmblood and ACE Performance Horse breeds if this inclusion on the Register or in the Studbook is deemed to contribute to the improvement of the AWB breed.

## 2.4 Selection criteria for entry into the AWB Studbooks

§26 The selection criteria are:

- Ancestors
- External appearance
- Sequence of movement which includes showjumping
- Internal characteristics such as ability and willingness to perform, character, temperament and health, and
- Results of sport performance.

### 2.4.1 Ancestors

Ancestry (in accordance with §40 (et seq.) entry of stallions and §50 (et seq.) entry of mares).

### 2.4.2 External appearance

The evaluation of mares and stallions take place prior to their entry into the appropriate Studbook. The evaluation is carried out during the yearly ACE Breeding Inspection and Assessment Tour to ensure the horses presented are assessed by an independent assessor, except where, in the opinion of the ACE Committee, this would cause undue hardship to the breeder or the owner.

The horses are assessed according to the scheme shown in Table 2 in the applicable sections:

**Table 2 ACE Evaluation Scheme for the AWB**

<b>A</b>	Breed and sex type
<b>B</b>	Quality and conformation
	1. Head
	2. Neck
	3. Shoulder, saddle position
	4. Frame
	5. Front legs
	6. Hind legs
<b>C</b>	Correctness of gaits
<b>D</b>	Walk
<b>E</b>	Trot
<b>F</b>	Canter
<b>G</b>	Overall impression and development
<b>H</b>	Overall evaluation

As to **B**, the score for the quality of conformation is a combined score of the characteristics B1 to B6. However, it is not necessarily the result of an arithmetic average of the scores.

The individual criteria are assessed using the scale of scores shown in Table 3.

**Table 3 Scale of scoring for ACE evaluations of AWB horses**

<b>SCORE</b>	<b>EVALUATION</b>
<b>10</b>	Excellent
<b>9</b>	Very good
<b>8</b>	Good
<b>7</b>	Fairly good
<b>6</b>	Satisfactory
<b>5</b>	Sufficient
<b>4</b>	Insufficient
<b>3</b>	Fairly poor
<b>2</b>	Poor
<b>1</b>	Very poor
<b>0</b>	Not evaluated

### **2.4.3 Health**

Horses used for breeding are expected to be healthy and fertile. General health as well as health of reproductive organs and hereditary health are to be taken into account.

### **2.4.4 Recognition of results of sports performance for entry into the Stallion Studbook**

The ACE Group Inc. recognises results from International and National competitive sport events / horse performance shows for approval to the ACE Studbooks if they correspond to the following placings:

**Dressage:** Receive scores of at least 68% five (5) times under various judges in tests at advanced level or higher at Equestrian Australia (EA) recognised events, or

**Showjumping:** Be placed in the top three (3) in at least 1.45m to 1.50m courses for a total of five (5) times at EA recognised events, or

**Eventing:** Be placed three (3) times in the top 50% of finishers at EA recognised events at a three star or higher level.

Horses that achieve these performance results may be accepted into the Studbooks, provided they have also passed an ACE approved inspection of movement, external appearance and internal characteristics.

### **2.4.5 Recognition of performance of progeny**

Evaluation of the performance of progeny will be recognised by the ACE Group Inc.

The following results are taken into account:

- Foal inspections
- Stallion licensing and progeny studbook entries, and
- Stallion and broodmare performance.

## **2.5 Awards for high scoring AWB registered and Studbook recognised horses**

### **2.5.1 Awards for foals**

§27 The inspection of foals is carried out during the yearly ACE Breeding Inspection and Assessment Tour. Foals scoring an overall percentage of 78% up to 80% are eligible for a Premium Award. Foals scoring a overall percentage of 80% or greater are eligible for an Elite Award.

### **2.5.2 Awards for mares**

§28 ACE Registered mares of especially high quality are awarded. The inspection of the mares is carried out during the yearly ACE Breeding Inspection and Assessment Tour. Mares scoring an overall percentage of 78% to 80% are eligible for a Premium Award, and mares scoring an overall percentage of 80% or higher are eligible for an Elite Award.

### **2.5.3 Awards for stallions**

§29 ACE Registered stallions of especially high quality are awarded. The inspection of the stallions is carried out during the yearly ACE Breeding Inspection and Assessment Tour. Stallions scoring an overall percentage of 78% to 80% are eligible for a Premium Award, and mares scoring an overall percentage of 80% or higher are eligible for an Elite Award.

## **2.6 Stallion Licensing (AWB)**

### **2.6.1 General provisions**

§30 Licensing is a decision made by the ACE Group Inc. on the use of a stallion within the framework of the breeding program. The decision is based particularly on the characteristics of external appearance as well as ability to perform as far as this can be derived from the available information.

#### **Licensing application**

An application for the licensing of a stallion during the ACE Breeding Inspection and Assessment Tour must be submitted to the main office of ACE within the time limit stated on the ACE website.

#### **Conditions for admittance to licensing**

The following conditions must be met for a stallion to be admitted by licensing to the Studbook:

- The stallion must be at least 30 months of age on the day of presentation for the Preliminary Licensing assessment and at least 36 months of age for the Full Licensing,
- His ancestry must correspond to the conditions for registration in the stallion studbooks and register, and
- The stallion's certificate of pedigree must be presented on the day of licensing.

#### **Verification of identity**

The identity of the stallion must be verified prior to licensing. Stallions without sufficient identification are not permitted entry to the licensing event. The documents specified in §76 (et seq.) to verify identification must be submitted at the latest on the day of licensing.

### **Ability to breed and genetic values**

If in doubt, the ACE Group Inc. may request proof that the stallion shows no deficiencies in health that could have a negative influence on his ability to breed and his genetic values. This means that the stallion must be free of:

- chronic obstructive pulmonary disease,
- roaring,
- recurrent uveitis,
- wind-sucking,
- abnormalities of dentition and testicles (must be of the same size),
- tails that are not carried straight,
- surgical procedures with the purpose of physical corrections
- as well as other illnesses.

If requested, the veterinary examination must be confirmed by a certificate to be presented after licensing but before registration to the ACE Studbook or Register. The ACE Group Inc. is entitled to order subsequent examinations at the cost of the owner.

### **2.6.2 Licensing decision**

§31 The licensing decision is:

- licensed,
- provisionally not licensed, or
- not licensed.

The licensing decision will be 'licensed' if the stallion meets the requirements stated in §40 (et seq.). The licensing decision will be 'provisionally not licensed' if there are remediable obstacles. 'Not licensed' stallions may be re-presented for licensing at a later time.

§32 The decision 'licensed' is to be entered in the registration papers (certificate of pedigree/horse passport).

§33 Stallions admitted to the ACE Stallion Studbook 1, 2 or 3 will be eligible to take advantage of extended promotions for the ACE Performance Horse aligned to the ACE breeding goal stated in §21.

### **2.6.3 Withdrawal or revocation of license**

§34 The ACE Group Inc. is authorised to withdraw or revoke stallion licensing if:

- a condition is discovered after licensing that would have made the stallion ineligible for licensing, or
- one of the conditions is subsequently no longer met, or
- if a condition which was attached to the licensing is not fulfilled by the owner or not fulfilled by the deadline.

### **2.6.4 Suitability of certain stallions**

§35 To evaluate the particular suitability of special stallions, the ACE Group Inc. may approve individual stallions from populations other than those defined in §27 upon written request for a certain period of time.

With such breeding experiments, the possible benefits of special crosses can be examined. The progeny of these stallions will be treated equally to the progeny of sires that are registered in the ACE Stallion Studbook.

#### **2.6.5 Review of the stallion's progeny**

§36 The assessment of the performance of progeny takes place according to the criteria listed under §26.

## **3 Australian Warmblood ACE Studbook Regulations**

### **3.1 AWB Divisions**

§37 The ACE Register for stallions is divided into the following sections:

- Stallion Studbook 1
- Stallion Studbook 2
- Stallion Studbook 3
- Stallion Register

The ACE Register for mares is divided into the following sections:

- Mare Studbook 1
- Mare Studbook 2
- Mare Studbook 3
- Mare Register

Horses are entered into the section of the Studbook that for which the respective requirements have been met. The section of the Studbook is also recorded on the breeding / identification certificate which is part of the horse passport. In exceptional cases (e.g. the death of a mare before entry) a mare may be entered into the appropriate studbook without an evaluation following verification of the mare's identity. Breeding horses from other populations or breeding societies may be entered if they meet the requirements for ancestry and performance (section 2.4 of this document).

### **3.2 Registration of stallions**

§38 Entry into the ACE Stallion Studbook and Register may be authorised by the ACE Group Inc. in consultation with, and following assessment by, the ACE Tour Delegate. To be eligible, all stallions must be ACE Registered or alternatively originate from an ACE Recognised Studbook. Entry may be provisional or final.

§39 Stallions may be entered into the ACE Warmblood Stallion Studbooks annually during the ACE Breeding Inspection and Assessment Tour.

§40 The entry of a stallion into the ACE Stallion Studbook takes place if the stallion has been assessed by ACE and if the following requirements regarding ancestry, the evaluation of the characteristics of external appearance and the result of the performance test have been met.

The selection criteria for stallions include:

#### **A. Ancestry**

The stallion must show a minimum of four (4) complete generations of performance oriented proven breeding in his pedigree to enter the ACE Studbook 1 or 2. Stallions need to hold proof of ancestry but not four (4) generations to be eligible to become ACE licensed and admitted to the ACE Stallion Studbook 3 or the Stallion Register.

#### **B. Height**

The stallion must be a minimum height of 163 cm measured with a stick on the highest point of the wither.

### **C. Conformation and movement**

Assessment of the stallion's conformation and movement is required for Preliminary Licensing and entry into Studbook 2. Assessment of the stallion for conformation, movement, flatwork under saddle and over jumps either free-jumping or under saddle, is required for Full Licensing and entry into the ACE Stallion Studbook 1. The stallion must be at least 30 months of age at the date of Preliminary Licensing and 36 months of age at the date of Full Licensing.

The stallion is assessed according to the following scheme:

- Overall breed and sex type
- Quality of conformation
  - Head
  - Neck
  - Saddle position and shoulder
  - Frame and top line
  - Forehand and fore leg
  - Hind quarter and hind leg
- Quality of movement (in hand and free moving)
  - Overall appearance
  - Walk
  - Trot
  - Canter
  - Correctness in gaits
  - Swing and elasticity
- Quality of showjumping – either free jumping or under saddle
  - Overall showjumping including an impression of the stallion's interior
  - Technique
  - Bascule
  - Scope
- Quality of the stallion under saddle
  - Overall appearance under saddle
  - Walk
  - Trot
  - Canter
  - Readability and temperament

The above criteria are assessed according to the scale of scores shown in §26, Table 3 Scale of scoring for ACE evaluations of AWB horses.

#### **3.2.1 Stallion Studbook 1**

§41 To be accepted into the Stallion Studbook as a Fully Licensed Stallion, the stallion must have been presented and achieved an overall assessment score of 7.0 or 70% in the conformation, movement, under saddle and showjumping assessment, and a score of at least 5.0 in each of the individual assessment criteria A-G according to §26, as well as for the canter and free jumping. The presented stallion must be ACE Registered for ACE Recognised with four (4) generations of documented performance oriented breeding (refer Table 4 Four generations of complete proven breeding).

**Table 4 Four generations of complete proven breeding**

1 <sup>st</sup> generation	2 <sup>nd</sup> generation	3 <sup>rd</sup> generation	4 <sup>th</sup> generation
SIRE	SIRE	SIRE	SIRE
			DAM
		DAM	SIRE
			DAM
	DAM	SIRE	SIRE
			DAM
		DAM	SIRE
			DAM
DAM	SIRE	SIRE	SIRE
			DAM
		DAM	SIRE
			DAM
	DAM	SIRE	SIRE
			DAM
		DAM	SIRE
			DAM

### 3.2.2 Stallion Studbook 2

§42 To be accepted into the Stallion Studbook 2, the stallion must have achieved an overall assessment score of 7.0 or 70% in conformation and movement, and a score of at least 5.0 in each of the individual assessment criteria A-G according to §26. The presented stallion must be ACE Registered or ACE Recognised with four (4) generations of documented performance oriented breeding (refer Table 4 Four generations of complete proven breeding).

### 3.2.3 Stallion Studbook 3

§43 To be accepted into the Stallion Studbook 3 the stallion must be Preliminary Licensed or Fully Licensed. To be Preliminary Licensed, the stallion must have achieved an overall assessment score of 7.0 or 70% in conformation and movement assessment and a score of at least 5.0 in each of the individual assessment criteria A-G according to §29 or to be fully licensed the stallion must have achieved an average overall assessment score of 7.0 or 70% in conformation, movement, under saddled and showjumping assessments, and a score of at least 5.0 in each of the individual assessment criteria A-G according to §26, as well as for the canter and free jumping. The presented stallion must be ACE Registered or ACE Recognised with a certificate of pedigree but needs not prove four (4) complete generations of performance oriented breeding.

§44 The minimum age for the Full Licensing is three years of age (36 months), and for Preliminary Licensing colts of 30 months of age will be registered into Studbook 2 until full licensing is received and requirements for Studbook 1 are fulfilled. Stallions that do not meet the requirements for Studbook 2 or 1 will remain in Studbook 3.

### **3.2.4 Stallion Register**

§45 Any ACE Registered or Recognised Stallion that does not fulfil one or more of the stallion studbook requirements will be listed in the Stallion Register. Stallions in the Register are eligible to receive a Service Certificate Book from ACE, to encourage efficient record keeping and registration of the progeny.

§46 To be registered in the Stallion Register the stallion must be ACE Registered with an official registration certificate or an ACE Horse Passport and have a DNA profile with ACE.

§47 As an alternative to the ridden and jumping assessment, to achieve the full licensing, performance in competitive sport may be recognised. The competitive tests may be taken in the disciplines of dressage, showjumping and eventing, but will only be recognised if the competitions have been executed to the specification of the official competition rules of EA (no unofficial competition or HC results are acceptable) as stated in §26, or equivalent international.

### **3.2.5 DNA testing**

§48 From 1 January 2013 all stallions entered into the ACE Stallion Studbooks and Stallion Register must be DNA tested.

### **3.2.6 Transfer of ownership of stallions**

§49 Following written notification by the new owner of a stallion, the transfer of ownership will be entered in the Studbook or Register. The requirements for this are:

- The new owner must be or must become a member of the ACE Group Inc. (as of 1 January 2015), and
- The registration paper must be submitted to the ACE Group Inc.

### 3.3 Registration of mares

#### 3.3.1 Entry into ACE Mare Studbooks

§50 The ACE Group Inc. is the authorised body in consultation with the ACE Breeding Inspector and Tour Assessor. To be eligible, all mares must be ACE Registered or alternatively originate from an ACE recognised studbook.

§51 Mares may enter the ACE Mare Studbooks annually during the ACE Breeding Inspection and Assessment Tour.

§52 From 1 January 2015 all mares entering the ACE Mare Studbooks must be DNA tested.

§52a Mares admitted to the ACE Mare Studbook 1, 2 or 3 will be eligible to take advantage of extended promotions for the Australian Warmblood ACE (AWB) aligned to the ACE breeding goal stated in §21.

§53 Mares are entered in the following four (4) sections of the Studbook if the respective requirements regarding ancestry and the evaluation of external appearance characteristics are met. Entry into the Mare Studbooks 1, 2 or 3 is only possible if valid registration papers or a certificate of identification is presented at the time of assessment.

The selection criteria for mares include:

#### A. Ancestry

Requirements for ancestry are described in the specifications below for each Studbook in §54 to §58.

#### B. Height

Requirements for ancestry are described in the specifications below for each Studbook in §54 to §57.

#### C. Conformation and movement

Mares are required to be assessed for conformation and movement to be entered into the Mare Studbooks. Mares may also be presented under saddle and over jumps by request of the owner. To be eligible for assessment for entry to the Studbooks, mares must be at least 30 months of age at the date of assessment.

The mare is assessed according to the following scheme:

- Overall breed and sex type
- Quality of conformation
  - Head
  - Neck
  - Saddle position and shoulder
  - Frame and top line
  - Forehand and fore leg
  - Hind quarter and hind leg
- Quality of movement (in hand and free moving)
  - Overall appearance
  - Walk

- Trot
- Canter
- Correctness in gaits
- Swing and elasticity
- Voluntary: quality of showjumping – either free jumping or under saddle
  - Overall showjumping including an impression of the mare’s interior
  - Technique
  - Bascule
  - Scope
- Voluntary: quality of the mare under saddle
  - Overall appearance under saddle
  - Walk
  - Trot
  - Canter
  - Readability and temperament

The above criteria are assessed according to the scale of scores shown in Table 3Scale of scoring for ACE evaluations of AWB horses.

### **3.3.2 Mare Studbook 1**

§54 To be accepted into the Mare Studbook 1, the mare must be presented during the ACE Breeding Inspection and Assessment Tour and achieve an overall score of 7.0 or 70% including the assessment of conformation and movement, and show a score of at least 5.0 in each assessment criteria A-G according to §26, as well as for the canter and free jumping, if applicable.

The presented mare must be ACE Registered or ACE Recognised with four (4) generations of documented breeding (refer Table 4) and have a minimum height of 160 cm at the day of assessment.

If the owner requests additional assessments, the scores will be included in the average.

### **3.3.3 Mare Studbook 2**

§55 To be accepted into the Mare Studbook 2, the mare must be presented during the ACE Breeding Inspection and Assessment Tour and achieve an overall score of 6.5 or 65% including the assessment of conformation and movement, with a score of at least 5.0 in each criteria A-G according to §26, as well as for the canter and free jumping, if applicable.

The presented mare must be ACE Registered or ACE Recognised with three (3) generations of documented breeding (refer Table 5) and have a minimum height of 160 cm at the day of assessment.

If the owner requests additional assessments, the scores will be included in the average.

**Table 5 Mare Studbook 2 entry requirement – three generations of complete proven breeding**

1 <sup>st</sup> generation	2 <sup>nd</sup> generation	3 <sup>rd</sup> generation	4 <sup>th</sup> generation	
SIRE	SIRE	SIRE	OPEN	
			OPEN	
	DAM	DAM	DAM	OPEN
				OPEN
		SIRE	SIRE	OPEN
				OPEN
DAM	SIRE	DAM	OPEN	
				OPEN
		SIRE	SIRE	OPEN
				OPEN
	DAM	SIRE	SIRE	OPEN
				OPEN
		DAM	DAM	OPEN
				OPEN

### 3.3.4 Mare Studbook 3

§56 To be accepted into the Mare Studbook32, the mare must be presented during the ACE Breeding Inspection and Assessment Tour and achieve an overall score of 6.0 or 60% including the assessment of conformation and movement.

The presented mare must be ACE Registered or ACE Recognised with two (2) or less generations of documented breeding and have a minimum height of 155 cm at the day of assessment.

If the owner requests additional assessments, the scores will be included in the average.

### 3.3.5 Mare Register

§57 To be entered into the Mare Register, the mare must be ACE Registered or Recognised, with an official registration certificate or an ACE Horse Passport but must not prove four (4) complete generations of performance oriented breeding.

### 3.3.6 DNA Testing

§58 From 1 January 2015 all mares entered into the ACE Mare Studbooks must be DNA tested.

## **3.4 Subsequent amendment of entry**

### **3.4.1 Incorrect ancestry prerequisites**

§59 If incorrect prerequisites regarding ancestry were assumed when a mare was entered into a Studbook, the entry can be amended. This is to be documented accordingly.

### **3.4.2 Upgrading of a mare**

§60 Mares that are entered in one section of the Studbook may be presented again for re-assessment with a time and place set deciding whether the mare is to be upgraded to the next higher Studbook. A respective upgrading is to be documented accordingly.

### **3.4.3 Transfer of ownership of mares**

§61 Following written notification by the new owner of a mare, the transfer of ownership will be entered into the Studbook. The requirements for this are:

- The new owner must be or must become a member of the ACE Group Inc. (as of 1 January 2015), and
- The registration papers must be submitted to the ACE Group Inc.

## **3.5 Amendment to Studbook Registrations**

§62 The ACE Group Inc. will transfer the horse to another section of the Studbook or delete the horse from the Studbook or register if it subsequently receives information that the requirements for entry were not fulfilled or were subsequently not met. Each amendment is to be clearly documented. Without exception, all the original registration papers are to be collected and cancelled. The breeder is also to be informed.

## **4 Australian Warmblood ACE Studbook Management**

The Australian Warmblood ACE Studbooks and Registers are to be kept and operated in accordance with the ACE Constitution.

§63 The ACE registration information regarding pedigree, breeder and owner may be made available to third parties by the ACE Group Inc. Additionally, photos of registered horses may be used for promotional purposes.

### **4.1 Duties of the breeder**

§64 The breeder is responsible for the accuracy of the information written on the stallion service certificate as well as any further certificates that the breeder must complete, submit or maintain. The breeder must check all studbook documents and forms, including registration papers for correctness of information. The ACE Group Inc. must be notified immediately, but at the latest within 30 days after receipt of incorrect information and will make all necessary corrections, noting the reason for the correction. Correction by the breeder is prohibited. The breeder is obliged to allow the results of parentage verification examinations (DNA typing serologic blood type determination) to be forwarded directly to the ACE Group Inc. by the examining institution and acknowledges that the ownership of the DNA hair sample after dispatch rests with the ACE Group Inc. and that the ACE Group Inc. may use these DNA samples and profiles for such purposes as it sees fit. The ACE Group Inc. is to be informed of all such examinations.

§65 From 1 January 2015 DNA testing is required for all registrations of foals or horses of artificial insemination using frozen semen.

§65a From 1 January 2016 DNA testing is required for all registrations of foals or horses of artificial insemination using all transported semen.

#### **4.1.1 Duties of the stallion / semen owner**

It is the responsibility of the stallion / semen owner to properly execute breeding / insemination and to register this correctly with the ACE Group Inc.

In particular, the following obligations must be fulfilled:

§66 The stallion / semen owner or his representative must fill out and sign the stallion service certificate form or maintain a corresponding file to confirm the correctness of the information.

§67 The stallion / semen owner must observe the valid requirements on collection, handling and use of semen, fertilised ovum and embryos.

§68 The stallion / semen owner must submit the original white page of each completed stallion service certificate via post or send it electronically as a file to the ACE Group Inc. head office after the birth of the foal in connection with forwarding the pink page to the mare owner, at the latest.

§69 Upon request, the stallion / semen owner must supply all information and provide access to breeding documents that the ACE Group Inc. requires to fulfil its obligations.

§70 It is the semen owner's responsibility to verify a stallion's status. The ACE Group Inc. head office should be contacted if there is any question regarding a stallion's status.

#### **4.1.2 Duties of the owner of transferred embryos**

§71 Foals produced by means of embryo transfer can only be registered if the donor animal is made known to the ACE Group Inc.

As of 1 January 2015, all foals born by means of embryo transfer must be subjected to parentage verification testing. Parentage verification is to be carried out by means of DNA testing.

### **4.2 Studbook**

§72 The Studbook is maintained and kept at the head office or a data processing facility. To meet the requirements of international standards, the Studbook must contain the following information as a minimum regarding each registered horse:

- Name and address of the breeder, keeper or owner of the horse
- Date of birth, sex, colour and markings
- Universal equine life (UEL) number
- Brands and/or other means of identification (microchip number)
- Parents and their identification and, for purebred breeding animals, also the grandparents
- Decisions on entries and amendments to the Studbook
- Date and, if known, the reason for withdrawal
- Issue of registration papers (if there are multiple copies the purpose and ordinal number) with respective issue date
- At least three generations of ancestors (if known)
- Evaluation of the horse, DNA results for all stallions registered after 1/1/2013 and all further tested breeding animals from 1/1/15 as well as DNA results for all foals or horses registered after 1/1/15 produced by artificial insemination using frozen or transported semen
- For breeding animals resulting from embryo transfer, the genetic parents and the embryo's DNA test result
- In addition, all decisions on licensing (with all relevant provisions) are to be noted
- All amendments to the Studbook in regard to date of birth, sex, identification of the horse and its (genetic) parents, date of withdrawal, cause of withdrawal and quality as an approved refinement stallion are to be documented with date.

### **4.3 Service books**

At the time of registration of a stallion with the ACE Group Inc., the stallion / semen owner can request an ACE service certificate book for a fee paid to the ACE Group Inc. The service certificate book can be used for multiple ACE registered / recognised stallions and contains all service certificates for the stallion owner (green copy), mare owner (pink copy) and ACE Group Inc. (white copy). ACE Service Certificate Books are only for use by stallion / semen owners of ACE Registered / Recognised stallions.

§73 Service Certificates are issued as three copies: the white copy is to be sent to the ACE Group Inc. head office on positive pregnancy test / confirmation or preferably after the mare has foaled down but with the

pink copy for the mare owner at the latest; the pink copy is to be given to the mare owner after the mare has foaled down; and the green copy is to be retained by the stallion owner/ agent/ stud within the service certificate book.

#### **4.4 Artificial insemination (AI) form**

§74 For any artificial insemination which is conducted by any other person than the semen owner, an AI Form must be sent with the semen to the person that will be conducting the insemination. After insemination, the original AI form must be returned to the stallion owner for the service certificate to be issued.

A copy of the AI form must be sent to the ACE Group Inc. head office.

§75 The responsibility to issue service certificates and register stallions with the ACE Group Inc. in compliance with §73 and §74 as well as to forward service certificates to the mare owner and the ACE Group Inc. head office falls solely on the stallion / semen owner.

#### **4.5 ACE Registration Papers**

##### **4.5.1 Registration papers (Certificate of Pedigree and Birth Certificate)**

§76 ACE issues registration papers (refer to §79 et seq.) when a horse is entered into the ACE Studbook or Register. ACE encourages the replacement of the birth certificate in favour of the ACE Horse Passport. The certificate of pedigree is issued as an integral part of the ACE Horse Passport for horses born after 2013.

##### **4.5.2 Foal / Horse registration application**

§77 Registration papers are documents on the ancestry of a horse. They belong to the horse and remain the property of the ACE Group Inc. If the horse changes owners, these documents must be given to the new owner and returned to the issuing body when the horse dies. A copy of the registration papers (birth certificate) as well as an ACE Horse Passport and a certificate of ownership may only be reissued following an application submitted by the person who lost the original document(s) upon presentation of a signed statutory declaration concerning the loss of the original document(s). The copy can only be issued by the body that issued the original document. The copy is to be clearly marked as a copy.

§78 To receive an ACE Registration and with it the ACE Horse Passport and the certificate of pedigree and ownership, the horse owner must submit (either electronically or physically) the registration application which may have to include a hair sample for the DNA analysis (refer to §48, §58, §65, §71 and §92).

- If dam or sire are not ACE Registered but ACE Recognised, a copy of the registration must be submitted (in case of the stallion the DNA profile must be made available for ACE). If the horse to be registered was produced through embryo transfer the donor mare's DNA and stallion's DNA must be made available to ACE.
- For (4) photographs of the horse to be registered must be submitted (the photographs must clearly show the horse from both sides with an open leg position as well as from the front and rear of the horse. All brands must be visible prior to registration). In case of a foal registration, additional

photos including the dam must be submitted or alternatively a signed and completed certificate from the vet confirming the foal's dam must be added to the registration application.

### **4.5.3 Certificate of pedigree**

§79 A certificate of pedigree contains the following information:

- Name of the breeding society
- Place and date of issue
- Universal equine life number (UELN)
- Name and address of the breeder
- Breed, date of birth, sex, colour and markings
- Identification
- Name, UELN, identification and breed of parents and for purebred breeding animals, also the grandparents. For foals produced by embryo transfer the DNA profile / blood types of the genetic parents
- The respective designation of the section of the Studbook in which the breeding animal and its ancestors are registered (if known)
- Notes on licensing
- Each new owner should be entered. The certificate of pedigree is an important document for the owner of a horse. It is an essential prerequisite for entry in the appropriate section of the Studbook.
- ACE horse passport / certificate of ownership
- Amendment of breeding information

### **4.5.4 Horse Passport**

§80 The ACE Horse Passport serves as a document to identify a horse and is to be issued to all registered horses. The ACE Horse Passport contains all the information required under international standard in accordance with the ACE regulations. The Studbook under which the Horse Passport is issued is clearly stated (Warmblood, Small Performance Horse, Performance Pony)

### **4.5.5 Certificate of Ownership**

§81 A certificate of ownership with an identical Universal Equine Life Number (UELN) is issued in addition to the Horse Passport. The issued certificate of ownership contains the following information about the horse:

- Life number / UELN
- Name of the horse
- Breed
- Sex
- Colour
- Date of birth
- Name and address of breeder
- Markings – brand of breed, brand number, microchip number
- Pedigree with 3 generations (if known)

§82 The certificate of ownership is given to the legal owner of the horse. When a horse is sold, it must therefore be given to the new owner along with the ACE Horse Passport which also belongs to the horse. Both documents should be returned to the ACE Group Inc. head office when the registered horse dies.

#### **4.5.6 Amendment of breeding data**

§83 Without being asked to do so, the owner of a horse must immediately inform the ACE head office concerning all changes e.g. breeding data, withdrawal resulting from death or sale, changes in colour and markings, results of performance tests, and send in the certificate of pedigree or birth certificate for alteration.

### **4.6 Identification and verification of identify (branding regulations)**

#### **4.6.1 Physical identification**

ACE uses a variety of physical identification methods to ensure the unique identification of the ACE registered horse.

Horse are identified by marking diagrams describing the colour and markings of the horse in as much detail as possible, by giving an UELN and by placing a microchip by a vet or a brand that is affixed as an active identification if this is permitted by law. The placing of microchips is strongly encouraged and the number of the microchip is noted on the registration papers.

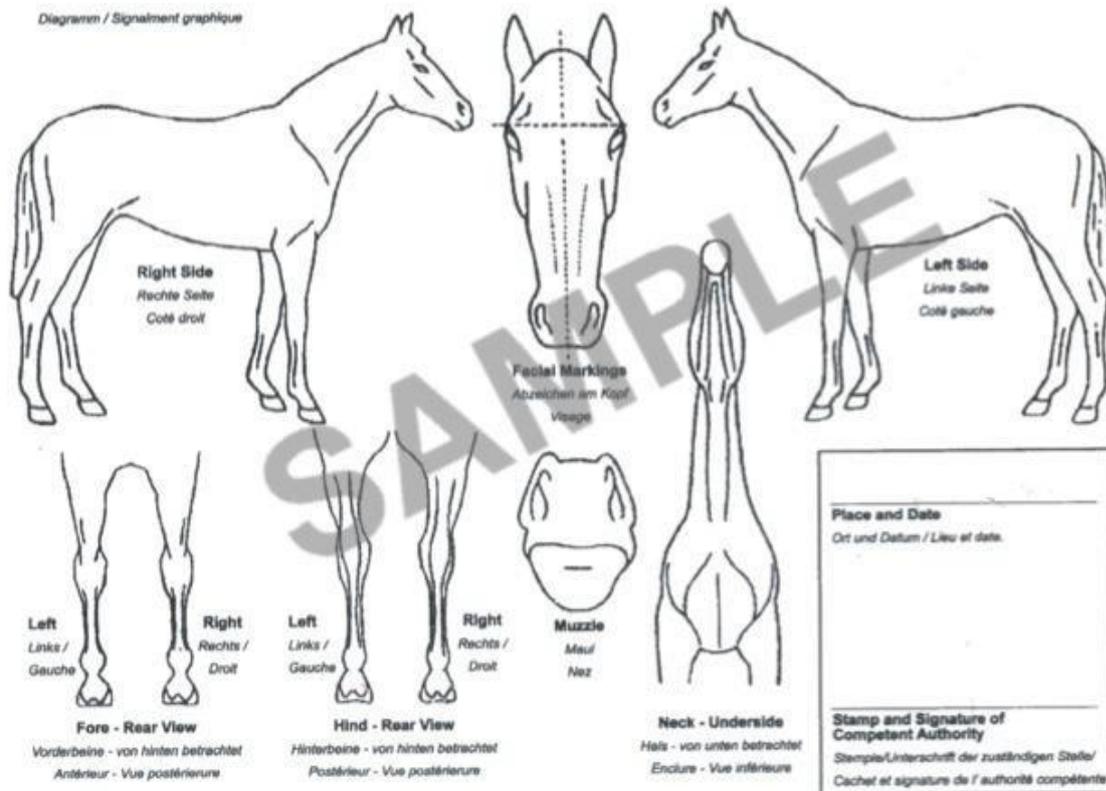
#### **4.6.2 Markings diagram**

§84 With each registration application, the owner must submit a completed marking diagram (refer

Figure 1) that includes all white markings of the horse. Additionally, the owner is encouraged to mark the location of each whorl or any other unique markings of the horse.

This diagram is then physically checked by an ACE representative or if this is impossible due to the geographic distance, the owner must submit four photographs of the horse to be registered (one from the front, back and both sides with four legs visible). These photographs must show the complete horse from the ear tips to the bottoms of the hooves.

**Figure 1 ACE Marking Sheet (Australian Warmblood)**



### 4.6.3 Unique Equine Life Number (UELN)

§85 Each horse receives a life number as a foal or at the latest when entered in the Studbook. The life number is never changed, even if the horse is transferred to a different section of the Studbook.

If the horse was already registered in another breeding society, the existing UELN will be used when entering in a section of the ACE Register or Studbook.

Horses registered prior to the implementation of the UELN will receive the unique equestrian life number with the issuing of the ACE Horse Passport (when / if replaced for the ACE birth certificate, see §80).

§86 The UELN ACE Life Number is composed of the code of 036013 which is placed in front of the unique ACE life number. The unique ACE life number consists of a running number created by the database followed by the state code (refer xxxx) and the last two digits of the birth year, e.g. 036013124920406 replacing old state codes. This horse has the unique ACE number 12492, has been bred in Qld and was *born in 2006*.

The UELN ACE Life Number will replace existing ACE life numbers when the ACE Horse Passport is issued. The unique identification of the horse will remain.

**Table 6 Coding of breeding area in the UELN ACE Life Number**

<b>State</b>	<b>Code</b>
New South Wales/ Australian Capital Territory	02
Victoria	03
Queensland	04
South Australia	05
Western Australia	06
Tasmania	07
Northern Territory	08

#### **4.6.4 Registration name**

§87 ACE encourages the ACE breeder to follow years of European Warmblood breeding tradition to enable easy recognition to a bloodline and the breeder by choosing a name starting with the first letter of the sire.

In case a breeder chooses a name which already exists in the database, the breeder will be contacted to either change the name or a number is added to ensure a unique identification of each horse.

The name given to a stallion is given only once and may not be used for any other stallion except the full brothers of this stallion (with the appropriate suffix II, etc.).

#### **4.6.5 Branding**

§88 ACE encourages the use of brands (freeze branding is preferred over the use of fire branding) as a method of identification.

#### **4.6.6 Use of microchips**

§89 ACE strongly encourages the use of microchips for unique identification of each registered horse.

§90 As of 1 January 2015 all horses or foals must either be identified by microchip or branded at the time of registration.

#### **4.6.7 Examination for verification of parentage**

§91 To be eligible to be registered, the breeder must provide a copy of the dam's registration papers (unless the mare is ACE registered) and a fully completed service certificate signed by the stallion owner.

If the stallion is not ACE registered, he must be registered with an ACE recognised association and ACE must have access to a copy of his registration and DNA profile.

If the mare is not ACE registered, she must be registered with an ACE recognised association and in the case of an embryo transfer ACE must have access to the DNA profile.

The foal must be sighted on the dam by an ACE representative or vet. If this is impossible due to geographic location, the breeder must submit adequate photographs of the foal and dam.

In the case of artificial insemination, the breeder must also submit a copy of the AI form, completed and signed by the person that has conducted the insemination, unless the person inseminating is also the stallion/ semen owner, when they may directly issue the service certificate.

In the case of embryo transfer, the breeder must additionally submit a completed ET form which must include DNA test results from the donor mare and the sire.

If there are reasons for doubts or inconsistencies in the paperwork, a DNA test must be provided on request and paid for by the breeder.

§92 Every breeder / stallion owner is obliged to actively cooperate in parentage verification testing.

Concluding provisions

§93 The present version of the Provision I was approved by the ACE Group Inc. on 11 July 2016.