

# TGCA Ltd Evaluation, Grading Rules & Guidelines

## 1) TGCA BREED MOTHER STUDBOOK IN BRIEF

(Please refer to ' Studbook Structure ' for further information)

The Mother Studbook is divided into three categories:

- BREED IDENTITY (BIR)
- SUPPLEMENTARY 1(SSB1) & 2(SSB2)
- MAIN (MSB)

Breed Identity is the entry level, moving up through Supplementary 2 to Supplementary 1 and then finally the top level MAIN Stud Book.

Horses registered at any level are entitled to enter TGCA classes and competitions

(note, All stallions must have passed their grading in addition.)

TGCs may initially apply for registration directly onto entry levels BIR, SSB2 or SSB1.

They may, at a later time, upgrade between these levels should additional records become available. Choice of initial registration level is reflective of the owners breeding intentions and/or any available pedigree (refer to ' Studbook Structure ' Registration Criteria). Registration is not a TGCA endorsement of the quality of the animal, other than it meeting the Breed Standard.

From August 2015 the criteria for the Main Stud Book has been refined to include only Mares, Stallions and Geldings endorsed for breeding or for performance through the TGCA Evaluation scheme. TGCs registered at SSB2 or SSB1 may apply for the elite MAIN Studbook once they reach the age of 4, subject to meeting the criteria and passing the Grading and Selection Evaluation Scheme.

This Evaluation scheme replaces Stallion Breed Licenses

## **2) MAIN STUD BOOK**

The MAIN Studbook is our kite mark of quality of a TGC, which may only be obtained after passing the full evaluation, focusing on a myriad of health and quality factors.

There are 'Two Books' within the Main studbook:

'BEST OF BREED' – For Breeding Mares and Stallions

'TOP PERFORMERS' - For Performance Mares, Stallions and Geldings

TGCs granted Elite MAIN Studbook status, are those the TGCA is endorsing as true quality breeding TGCs (or lines in the case of Top Performers) for the ongoing betterment of the breed.

Main Studbook TGCs and their offspring (i.e offspring with both Sire and Dam on the Main Studbook that have passed their Evaluation) will have access to elite TGCA Breed Association advertising on the TGCA Website, and Official Facebook Page. Only Main Studbook Horses will be publicised by the TGCA.

### **2.1) ELIGIBILITY FOR MAIN STUD BOOK EVALUATION**

Applications for Main Studbook Evaluation are invited from any TGC that meets the below criteria.

(Note: Applications are equally open to TGCs with unknown or unproven parentage/pedigree.)

- Aged 4 or over.
- Currently registered at SSB2 or SSB1. NB If any TGC registered at the BIR level wishes to apply for the MAIN Studbook, it will first have to upgrade to either SSB2 or SSB1 including filing DNA.
- The owner must be a current member of the TGCA.
- No more than two applications per horse for the Best of Breed book.

### **3) ABOUT THE GRADING**

The Grading is intended to be thorough and only those assessed as true quality TGCs suitable for taking the breed forward will be endorsed and passed onto the MAIN Studbook Scheme, (subject to meeting the criteria and passing the evaluation).

Each TGC will be 'Graded', on its own merit and balanced consideration will be given across all aspects such as type, quality, conformation, movement, health, including any DNA checks as deemed relevant, temperament, performance, bloodlines and existing offspring (where applicable).

The TGC will be required to attend a grading where a physical inspection will be made by a select panel of TGCA judges. The TGCA will advertise upcoming grading days.

#### **3.1) APPLYING FOR GRADING**

Applicants must complete and submit application paperwork a minimum of 15 days prior to a published Grading day:

- The Evaluation Application Form
- Payment in full
- A Portfolio of all relevant supporting information, including show wins, images of parents/ any offspring, etc.

The TGCA will review the application and will inform the applicant if any DNA checks are required at this stage, for example to check for any flagged health concerns in a breeding line.

#### **3.2) DNA CHECKS**

As part of the grading the TGCA may require a DNA test/s in order to ascertain potential for passing on certain deemed high risk genetic disorders, which may include any associated with colour. Should this be the case, the results, which will be kept confidential, but will form part of the balanced evaluation. The TGCA does not advocate excluding animals from the gene pool based solely on the presence of certain genetic markers especially if said animal/progeny shows no signs of any indicated disorder.

The policy on what, if any, tests are required will be subject to change as DNA testing continues to evolve.

### 3.2) ON THE GRADING DAY

A panel of TGCA judges will independently inspect each TGC (both In Hand and Free) for breed type, conformation and movement. Candidates for the ‘ **Top Performers** ’ Book will be required to give a ridden presentation. Candidates for the ‘ **Best of Breed** ’ Book will be required to provide a vetting (see below).

Applicants must bring horse passports along to the grading Day.

MAIN STUD BOOK ASSESSMENT	GRADING LICENSE
‘ BEST OF BREED ’	‘ TOP PERFORMERS ’
INSPECTION (IN HAND)	INSPECTION (IN HAND)
FREE MOVEMENT	FREE MOVEMENT WITH OPTIONAL FREE JUMPS
SUPPLEMENTARY VETTING (To be performed prior and brought to the day)	RIDDEN PRESENTATION

### 3.3) SUPPLEMENTARY VETTING

Applicants for the BEST of BREED Book must arrange for their vet to perform a Stage 2 and TGCA pro forma vetting and must bring this with them to the Assessment Day. Please refer to TGCA Head Office for more information.

### 3.4) GRADING RESULTS

Results will be notified by letter approximately one week after the assessment has taken place. TGCs approved for entry into the Main Studbook Selection Evaluations, will receive bridle discs featuring the number of stars awarded (see 4 below). In addition the TGCA will make a public announcement of new entries to the Main Stud Book Evaluations approximately 30 days after the grading day.

Should the results be subject to any genetic testing deemed required then this would be noted on the letter. Exceptionally, should any subsequent major concerns such as hereditary conditions come to light, the TGCA reserve the right to re-evaluate. This could result in the withdrawal of the Main studbook selection status

#### **4) MAIN STUDBOOK STAR RANKINGS**

MAIN Studbook TGCs will receive a disc to display on their bridle that identifies them as being on the Main Stud Book Evaluations Scheme and shows the stars awarded them.

##### **BEST OF BREED BOOK**

ATTAINED ASSESSMENT (grading)

BLOODLINES AND PARENTAGE

BREED SHOW PERFORMANCE

QUALITY AND SHOW PERFORMANCE OF OFFSPRING

CONSISTENCY OF QUALITY OFFSPRING

##### **TOP PERFORMERS BOOK**

ATTAINED ASSESSMENT (grading)

BLOODLINES AND PARENTAGE

PERFORMANCE AT DISCIPLINE 1

PERFORMANCE AT DISCIPLINE 2

PERFORMANCE AT DISCIPLINE 3

Stars will initially be awarded on passing the Grading after which supplementary stars may be applied for from TGCA Head Office at the prevailing rate.

A TGC holding 5 stars may apply for **SUPREME** status and the ultimate **BLACK BOOK**. NB Some horses may apply with only 4 stars at the discretion of the TGCA elite committee who will take show records into account.

## **5) YOUNGSTOCK TALENT POOL ON ASSESSMENT DAYS**

TGCs aged 1 to 3 may apply for grading in either of the below categories at the owners discretion.

‘ BREEDING SCHOLAR’ – For Colts & Fillies

‘ PERFORMANCE SCHOLAR ’ - For Colts, Fillies & Geldings

Applicants will be assessed in hand and judged/scored in a competitive environment within a championship class. Points awarded will count in relation to any future Main Stud

Book Application, including, that of the sire/dam. Levels attained will be classed Gold, Silver, and Bronze.

Applications should be made in the same way as for Main Stud Book Evaluations (refer 3.1).

There is no limit on the number of times young stock may be put forward for evaluation.