



TBA/HBLB Elite NH Mares' Scheme 2026

Eligible Stallions must have qualified on the grounds of produce record (Flat middle-distances or NH) or racing ability (ditto), satisfying at least one of the measures below prior to 31st December 2025:

(1a) Have produced a NH runner rated 150+ (gelding) or 140+ (mare) or at least three NH runners rated 140+ (gelding) or 130+ (mare); or:

(1b) with oldest runners aged no more than nine years of age have produced a NH runner rated 145+ (gelding) or 135+ (mare) or at least three NH runners rated 135+ (gelding) or 125+ (mare); or:

(1c) with oldest runners aged no more than eight years of age have produced a NH runner rated 140+ (gelding) or 130+ (mare) or at least three NH runners rated 130+ (gelding) or 120+ (mare); or

(1d) with oldest runners aged no more than seven years of age have produced a NH runner rated 135+ (gelding) or 125+ (mare) or at least three NH runners rated 125+ (gelding) or 115+ (mare); or

(1e) with oldest runners aged no more than six years of age have produced a NH runner rated 130+ (gelding) or 120+ (mare) or at least three NH runners rated 120+ (gelding) or 110+ (mare).

(2) Produced an internationally recognised Group/Grade 1 WFA Flat winner over a distance of at least 10 furlongs or at least three such Group/Graded winners over distances of at least 10 furlongs.

(3) Won an internationally recognised Group/Graded WFA Flat race over a distance of at least 10 furlongs, or a Graded or Listed WFA race over Jumps in Great Britain, Ireland or France, or a Grade 1 WFA race over Jumps in such other countries as can be demonstrated to have such contests of appropriate quality.

(4) Placed in an internationally recognised Group/Grade 1 WFA Flat race or at least three such Group/Graded WFA races over a distance of at least 10 furlongs; or in a Grade 1 WFA race over Jumps in Great Britain, Ireland or France; or at least three such Graded or Listed WFA races over Jumps in Great Britain, Ireland or France; or received a highest Official Rating over Jumps of 150 in Great Britain or Ireland, or 75 in France.

After a stallion's oldest runners have reached the age of ten or more, stallions may only qualify on the grounds of their producing ability, as in (1a) or (2) above. *NB. This is to ensure that the scheme does not endorse stallions that have failed to produce horses of sufficient quality despite having had adequate opportunity to do so.*

No changes to the criteria for eligible stallions will be permitted after publication of the details of the scheme for a given year; any changes to criteria agreed after such publication can only apply to the scheme in future years. No stallion failing to meet the published criteria for a given year can be considered eligible for that year's scheme.

Stallion Stud Terms and Conditions

- In settlement of the grant, stallion studs will agree to accept 75% of the grant
- The grant applies to the 2026 breeding season only and cannot be carried forward to any future season. If the value of the grant is the same as, or greater than, the advertised fee for the stallion, no fee is payable, but the mare owner is responsible for paying the VAT on 75% of the grant (this being the payment made by the HBLB to the stallion owner on redemption of the grant). If the value of the grant exceeds the advertised fee, no refund of the excess is payable to the mare owner
- If the value of the grant is less than the advertised fee, then the grant may only be used if the advertised fee of the stallion is no greater than twice the grant value. In this case, any excess fee is payable by the mare owner, who is responsible for paying VAT on 75% of the grant value (this being the payment made by the HBLB to the stallion owner on redemption of the grant)
- The responsibility to identify any mares that qualify for the 2026 scheme lies strictly with the mare owner. However, the TBA promote the scheme to as wide an audience as possible to capture and inform as many Elite Mare owners as possible.
- All payments will be made directly by Weatherbys on behalf of the Horserace Betting Levy Board, to the vendor of the Nomination, under the standard terms of the Nomination purchased
- Under the terms of the scheme, mare owners must be fully paid-up members of the TBA at the time of acceptance
- Stallions in the scheme will be advertised as available to Elite NH Mares in the TBA National Hunt Yearbook and in all promotional material associated with the scheme
- The stallion owner must undertake to nominate the stallion to the EBF for the 2026 season and to pay all fees due in connection with this
- A copy of the signed nomination agreement is to be sent to the TBA office together with a copy of the invoice issued to owners of mares who are certified in foal as of 1st October 2026.
- The scheme shall be highlighted through the TBA's marketing platforms to include all eligible stallions
- **It is a condition of each stallion registration to the scheme that one 1st October terms nomination is given to the TBA for inclusion in a Silent Auction, the proceeds of which will support the costs of the TBA administration and promotion of the scheme. A minimum bid of 50% of the advertised fee will apply to this auction, unless otherwise agreed by the stallion owner**