



TBA/HBLB Elite NH Mares' Scheme 2026

Mares can qualify by their highest Official Rating or progeny produced, with the ability to enhance their category by satisfying multiple criteria. There are two categories:

Category 1 - £5,000 grant

1a – Mares that achieved a peak Official Rating of 150 or more

or 1b – Mares who have produced a NH horse rated 150 (mare) or 160 (gelding) or more in Great Britain, Ireland or France

Category 2 - £4,000 grant

2a – Mares that achieved a peak Official Rating of between 130 and 149

or 2b – Mares who have produced a NH horse rated 130-149 (mare) or 140 – 159 (gelding) in Great Britain, Ireland or France

Winners of black-type races over obstacles in Great Britain, Ireland and France will be treated as having the following minimum ratings, if these are above those awarded:

	Mares	Geldings
Grade 1 winners or winners of three Grade 2 WFA races	150	160
Winners of Grade 2 WFA races	140	150
Grade 3 or Listed WFA winners	135	145
Winner of Graded/Premier Handicap	130	140

A winner of an additional race as specified above will be treated as having achieved a rating 5lb above that defined by the single win, e.g. 2 x Listed / Grade 3 WFA wins = OR 140 = Grade 2 WFA win.

When these measures are applied, a horse relying on winning a race that is confined to three-year-olds or four-year-olds only will be treated as having achieved a rating 5lbs below that derived as above.

*A mare that qualifies for the Scheme by satisfying multiple criteria (either as a race mare and producer, or as producer of more than one qualifying horse) will be regarded as having achieved an Official Rating **increased by 10lb for every additional qualification.***

*Any mares aged over 20 (born in or before 2005), must have produced a runner with an Official Rating of 130+ (mare) or 140+ (gelding) to be considered for the scheme. **No mare aged over 22 (born in or before 2003) is eligible for the scheme.***

The peak Official Ratings used are identifiable from the BHA and HRI websites or recorded on the Racing Post database.

Mares who have run in France, other than those who qualify through winning black-type races, shall be assessed for the scheme based on their French rating doubled, as is the way the BHA handicapper assesses.

N.B. Should demand exceed the funds allocated for the scheme, or funds be reduced to the extent that the scheme becomes untenable, the TBA reserve the right to withdraw or amend the scheme at any time. Any excess of demand over available funds may be dealt with by reducing the value of grants awarded for Category 2 mares down to reflect the funds that are available. If this step becomes necessary, every effort will be made to notify those affected as soon as possible.

Elite NH Mares Incentive Scheme 2025

Terms and Conditions

1. Mares must be resident in England, Scotland or Wales and owned by fully paid members of the TBA at the time of acceptance of the nomination.
2. All requests for nominations under the scheme must be made on the application form provided, to be returned to the TBA office at Stanstead House as soon as possible, and in any event no later than 31st January 2026. The TBA must be informed of stallion choice within the week following 31st January 2026.
3. The obligation remains with the mare owner to submit an application form to the TBA and ensure their application meets the required criteria for the scheme. Incomplete application forms that do not support the request for a grant will not be processed.
4. Mares aged over 20 (born in 2005 or before) will only be accepted on the scheme if they have produced a runner who has received a peak official rating of 130+ (mare) or 140+ (gelding).
5. **No mare aged over 22 (born in or before 2003) is eligible for the scheme.**
6. In all cases the VAT applicable to the nomination is payable by the mare owner. VAT is due as the HBLB is making a payment to the stallion owner to achieve the discounted nomination; VAT is therefore payable on this amount plus any residual fee.

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 thrice the grant value (up to £12,000). 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).

If the value of the grant is the same or greater than the advertised fee, no fee is payable, but the mare owner is responsible for paying the VAT on 75% of the fee. If the value of the grant exceeds the advertised fee, no refund of the excess is payable to the mare owner.

7. All mare owners are required to have their mares examined by a vet to confirm pregnancy status in September 2026; a copy of this certificate must be sent to Stanstead House by 1st October 2026. If a veterinary certificate is not forthcoming, the mare owner will remain liable for the whole cost of the nomination fee.
8. A copy of the signed nomination agreement is to be sent to Stanstead House by the stallion stud, together with a copy of the invoice issued to owners of mares who are certified in foal as of 1st October 2026.
9. Where fees are subsidised by the HBLB, mare owners are required to pay any remaining fee to the stallion stud according to the terms of the nomination agreement; failure to do so may result in the mare owner being liable for the whole cost of the nomination fee.
10. Should demand exceed the funds allocated for the scheme, or funds be reduced to the extent that the scheme becomes untenable, the TBA reserve the right to withdraw or amend the Scheme at any time. Any excess of demand over available funds may be dealt with by reducing the value of grants awarded for Category 2 mares to reflect the funds that are available. If this step becomes necessary, every effort will be made to notify those affected as soon as possible.
11. The TBA NH Committee's decision on any matter regarding the 2026 Elite NH Mares' Scheme must be regarded as final.