

TECHNICAL NORMS OF THE BREEDING PROGRAMME OF HAFLINGER BREED HORSES

The purpose of the genetic improvement of the Haflinger breed is to enhance the horse's positive features of a good temperament, resistance, liveliness, aptitude to horse racing and equestrian activities, agricultural tourism in the countryside as well as sports riding in general through the selection of **stallions and mares that will genetically pass on these features to their offspring.**

The Central Technical Commission establishes the necessary methods and instruments to collect data used for a genetic assessment of horses and decides about the parameters for inclusion in the **merit classes into which the registers of the main section of the Studbook are divided.**

ORIGIN

The sorrel stallion Folie 249, born in 1874 in Sluderno/Schluderns, Val Venosta/Vinschgau, is considered the progenitor of the "Haflinger" breed that was officially recognised under this name on 2 May 1898 by decree of the Ministry of Agriculture of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. The traditional bloodlines can be traced back to the male offspring of the progenitor: *Anselmo (A), 1926, Bolzano (B), 1915, Massimo (M), 1927, Nibbio (N), 1920, Stelvio (S), 1923, Student (St), 1927, and Willi (W), 1921.*

AREA OF ORIGIN

The historical area of origin of the Haflinger breed horse is Alto Adige/Südtirol, which corresponds to the territory of today's Province of Bolzano/Bozen.

TYPICAL FEATURES

CONFORMATION

The Haflinger horse is a mesomorphic horse, expressive and of distinct appearance, sorrel with fair hair. Robust and correct conformation, with good harmony, features of the saddle horse. Good temperament, versatile, with good propensity to work and performing well in equestrian disciplines.

Forms are harmonious, strong, correct, with a correct balance of all organic apparatuses. Good temperament and yet sufficiently energetic with a good aptitude to movement and good stride speed/energy use ratio.

BODY COLOUR

Sorrel in its various nuances, preferably golden sorrel; forelock, mane and tail with full, thin, smooth and preferably fair hair. Legs preferably without white markings.

HEAD

Rather light, lean, well set, very expressive; slight depression in the aboral limit of the nasal region; large and mobile nostrils; well open, dry inframaxillary canal; not long, mobile, well set ears; lively, expressive eyes with well traced orbital arches.

NECK

Pyramidal, not excessively large, sufficiently long neck, of intermediate direction, lightly attached to the head and harmoniously attached to the trunk.

WITHERS

Well pronounced and lean, prolonged towards the back.

BACK

Sufficiently long, well sustained, muscled, well directed.

LOINS

Powerful, short, muscled, well attached to the croup.

CROUP

Long, broad, muscled, medium sloped.

TAIL

Well attached and with full hair.

BREAST

Broad with evident muscles, sternum well set down between the elbows; seen from the profile convex and well carinated.

SHOULDER

Long, well sloped, muscled and adherent to the trunk.

CHEST

Broad, high, deep, with curved long and oblique ribs.

ABDOMEN

Well conformed and sustained.

THIGH AND BUTTOCK

Muscled, also towards the region of the leg.

FOOT

Well-shaped foot, with healthy, resistant, preferably pigmented hoof.

LEGS

The free part of the legs is relatively short, with excellent muscle masses, wide and clear joints, strong and muscled forearm prevailing over the cannon; very muscled hindleg with robust, dry, clear and well directed hock; short and dry cannons with well detached tendons; solid and well directed pasterns; regular natural stances.

GAITS

Regular, energetic, elastic, with long and medium raised stride; the legs move with regular oscillations and a strong impulsion of the hindquarters.

CHARACTER AND TEMPERAMENT

Good tempered, attentive, willing, with attachment to humans.

BIOMETRIC MEASURES

Biometric measures are taken when the horse is evaluated for inclusion in the Registers of breeding mares and stallions. Specimens are over 30 months old.

BIOMETRIC DATA		
SIZE-STALLIONS:		
	Min	Max
Withers height	137	=
Chest girth	165	=
Cannon	18	22
SIZE-MARES:		
Withers height	137	=
Chest girth	155	=
Cannon	17	21

UNDESIRABLE FEATURES

The following features are considered undesirable: Excessively lymphatic constitution; disharmonic trunk; coarse and heavy head with hanging ears; small eyes with heavy orbital arches; insufficient transverse diameters, flat-sided ribs; excessively wrong natural stances; excessively large leg markings (one stocking, two socks, three pasterns, four white markings) and excessively large head markings; eye with visible sclera and bluish iris; white dappling and excessive roan markings; clear presence of black hair in mane and tail.

MORPHOLOGICAL AND GENETIC DEFECTS WHICH PREVENT INCLUSION IN THE REGISTERS OF BREEDING MARES AND STALLIONS

All recognized hereditary defects lead to exclusion from entry into the registers of breeding females and males, in particular:

- umbilical hernia
- teeth abnormalities: prognathism and brachygnathia
- hereditary kneecap luxation (patellar cramp)
- inborn cryptorchidism
- hoof abnormalities; uneven hooves, flat or grappled feet and other recognized malformations.

These hereditary defects must be diagnosed by a veterinarian, whose report will be attached to the horse's lineage paper and description paper.

APPEALS

The judgment given by the national Breed expert appointed by ANACRHAI is final.

Appeals can be presented against the exclusion from entry into the registers of breeding females and males only and exclusively due to hereditary defects.

In this case the Central Technical Commission will appoint a Commission that will give a final judgment.

EVALUATION METHOD

When the horse is entered in the Register of breeding stallions or in the Register of breeding mares, the Breed expert, after having described the morphological appearance of the Haflinger horses by means of the Linear Evaluation Method, indicates in the dedicated space on the form the evaluation for the following elements: -) Typical features, distinction, -) General harmony, -) Legs and natural stances, -) Walk gait, -) Trot gait; -) Final evaluation of the horse.

The following qualifications can be assigned to the five partial evaluation items indicated above:

- Excellent
- Very good
- Good
- Fair
- Sufficient
- Not sufficient

In order to obtain the "Very good" and "Excellent" qualifications in the first item, "Typical features", the withers height must be between 144 cm (included) and 152 cm (included) at the time of evaluation for entry in the Register of mares or stallions or at the time of re-evaluation.

The final evaluation shall be calculated by adding up the score given to the partial items based on the criterion described above, as shown in the table below:

EVALUATION SCORES ON FINAL ITEMS: TYPICAL FEATURES, HARMONY, LEGS AND NATURAL STANCES, WALK GAIT – TROT GAIT.	
EXCELLENT	5
VERY GOOD	4
GOOD	3
FAIR	2
SUFFICIENT	1
NOT SUFFICIENT	NOT SUFFICIENT

After calculating the sum of the 5 partial items, the “FINAL EVALUATION” score is assigned according to the table below:

CRITERION FOR THE ASSIGNMENT OF THE FINAL MORPHOLOGICAL QUALIFICATION SUM OF THE 5 PARTIAL QUALIFICATIONS	
WITH ONE NOT SUFFICIENT ITEM	INS. (NOT SUFFICIENT)
FROM 5 TO 7 POINTS	III -S (SUFFICIENT)
FROM 8 TO 12 POINTS	I l b - D (FAIR)
FROM 13 TO 15 POINTS	I a - B (GOOD)
15 POINTS WITH ONLY ONE FAIR	I a +B+ (GOOD +)
FROM 16 TO 20 POINTS	I b - MB (VERY GOOD)
FROM 21 TO 25 POINTS	I a - O (EXCELLENT)

Additional parameters in assigning the final morphological qualification:

- In order to obtain the "Very good" and "Excellent" final qualifications, the horse shall not obtain in the individual items more than one partial qualification lower than Good.
- The I**a**+ Good+ class is attributed to those horses that have obtained 5 times “Good” as qualification or horses that have obtained one “Fair” in one of the two “gait” items, as long as no other value of the other partial items is less than “Good” and if there is at least one “Very good” in the first three items (typical features, harmony, legs and natural stances).

Horses which do not obtain a **SUFFICIENT** qualification in even just one evaluation criterion will be excluded from the Register of breeding mares and stallions.

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE GRANTING OF SPECIAL MERIT AWARDS UNDER THE BREEDING PROGRAMME

On request of the breeder/owner, the horses entered in the Register of breeding mares and stallions may be granted special merit awards if they meet the following requirements:

ÉLITE BREEDING AWARD: breeding horses registered in the Italian Studbook are eligible. The following minimum eligibility requirements shall be met:

Mares: at least 3 sons or daughters entered into the Italian Studbook or which have obtained sports results suitable for entry in the Élite Sport class.

Stallions: at least 10 male or female offspring (stallions, mares or geldings) entered into the Italian Studbook, of which at least 30% belong to the class I or IIA or which have obtained sports results suitable for entry in the Élite Sport class.

ÉLITE SPORT AWARD: stallions, mares or geldings that finished in the first three places in at least four official sporting events and that have also qualified above the minimum threshold set by the Central Technical Commission, are eligible. Official sporting events are those recognised, depending on the discipline, by the Federazione Italiana Sport Equestri (FISE), by FITETREC or by the Italian Ministry of Agricultural, Food and Forestry Policies at national level, by the FEI at international level and the European Haflinger Championship.

The award is given following the application of the owner; official documentation that proves that requirements are met shall be attached to the application.

ÉLITE GOLD AWARD: horses that meet the requirements for both the “Élite Breeding” and the “Élite Sport” awards are eligible.

Horses which, following a request by the breeder, meet the requirements to be eligible for the special merit awards, will be included in special lists published annually by the Central Office.

The Central Technical Commission may identify groups of breeding animals of special interest to increase genetic variability and spread the bloodlines and may evaluate possible incentive proposals within the framework of the Breeding programme for Haflinger horses.