



INTERNAL ASSESSMENT

For the Warlander & Warlander Sport Horse



IMAGE:
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and Anubis von
Greenhorn -
Warlander
Franken
Photo: Ursula
Heinelt

Setting the Standards – Cementing the future

In 2022, WSS introduced an internal Assessment mechanism in order to qualify and award those horses meeting the breed standards of the Warlander and Warlander Sport Horse Studbooks - regardless of where you live in the world.

Assessment is an important tool for the Warlander as breeding them is not a simple matter of meeting the ratios - when over 85% of the Assessment score is based on conformation and type. The remaining percentage covers movement, pedigree and for stallions – their relationship to the herd in any specific country. Assessment is an invaluable tool for breeders and provides a quality control for your breeding goals as well as establishing a benchmark within a national and international market.

Assessment is a valuable tool for sellers and purchasers – removing the guesswork and sales pitch.

The Assessment is carried out by a panel of 'three' independent qualified equine judges who rate the horse from videos and photographs against the letter of the Breed Standards.

The system is fair and transparent. All of the expert judges have no financial or otherwise interest in the Warlander horse. They only know the sex and age of the horse they are evaluating so there can be no favoritism.

As of 2024, all Warlander horses must pass Assessment in order to move from the foal book to the adult book where they can also receive premiums (bronze, silver and gold) and breeding approval.

The Assessment results of their progeny can also culminate in them reaching the pinnacle of breeding - Approved Breeding Status.

Assessment is an important mechanism of all credible studbooks. In most cases however, it means the travel expenses of hauling your horses to an outside venue, paying for overnight stalls, lodging for yourself and all the time worrying about the safety of your horses or hosting a judge which has its own expenses as you are responsible for looking after them with lodging and travel.

Since the pandemic, WSS has carefully watched many equine organisations world-wide try and implement internal assessing. We have talked to those who failed (which is majority) and worked out some key factors to success. One you must pay your Assessors well. You get what you pay for and two you must have an exemplary administration system in place ensuring the Assessors receive manageable digital files that 'allow' them to make a thorough Assessment.

WSS sincerely thanks our members who have already had their horses Assessed and worked with us to fine tune a fail-safe system that is simple to understand... and importantly it works.

WSS Internal Assessment can take place when a horse is three years of age (36 months) and is open to all WSS registered horses and Members with a horse registered in your name.

In order to qualify for Assessment

You must be a current member of the Warlander Studbook Society and the horse to be assessed must be registered in your name within the Warlander or Warlander Sport Horse Studbook Appendixes. The Assessment is open to Main Studbook and Auxiliary Studbook horses and the horse must be a minimum age of 36 months (three years).

WSS will not accept horses for judging if they are in poor condition, have obvious health issues, are unsound or are presented in a way that is unsuitable to judge (both presentation and supply of material).



Image Credit: Barbora O'Grady – Onyx Park Stables

1. Four high quality images of the horse

Format required: JPG no more than 3MB and no less than 1 MB in file size for each image. Send raw unedited images.

REQUIREMENTS: The four images need to show both sides and the front and back end of the horse. The horse needs to be standing square and balanced with the neck straight. For the side views, all four legs need to be visible. The images need to be taken in good light (no shadows) on a firm surface with no parts at all of the horse being obscured or cut off. The handler should not be visible.

2. The In Hand workout on triangle

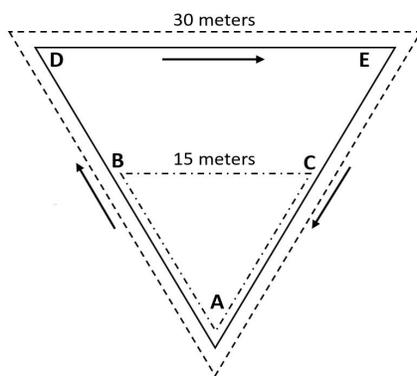
Format required: MP4 or MOV file. Edit the video to only include the horse in profile and workout and ensure video is no longer than two minutes - or you can submit smaller videos showing walk and trot separately.

THE HORSE IN PROFILE: Film the horse standing straight (neck straight) side on so the Assessors can view the profile. This only needs about 10 seconds.

THE WORKOUT REQUIREMENTS: The triangle measures approx 30 metres on each side. Walk the small triangle ABCA and trot the large triangle - ADEA. The filmer stands at A.

The handler travels on the 'outside' of the horse to ensure the assessors can view the horse.

*Note you can use poles in the corners to assist straight travel.



Person filming stands at A

THE PERSON FILMING THE WORKOUT: The person filming stands at A. The Assessors must be able to view a straight horse, traveling on a straight line moving directly away from, side on and coming directly towards them.

The judges are looking for the purity of the two gaits.

THE WALK: As the horse walks away on the triangle from the person filming, the Assessors will see the view from behind and will be looking for correct travel, hind leg straightness, alignment of steps, articulation of the joints and the swing of the tail.

The middle line of the triangle is where the Assessors see the profile and are looking for a clear four-beat walk rhythm, freedom of the shoulders and haunches and ground covering regularity with the hind legs reaching well forward under the body. Positive aspects are horses that move through a supple back with a swinging tail.

As the horse moves on to the third line of the triangle it will be coming directly towards the Assessors view and they are looking for correct travel.

THE TROT: The purity of the two-beat rhythm is the foremost importance. A horse that displays natural impulsion, an elastic swinging back and thrusting hindquarter that results in suspension will be favored especially if there is some upward thrust.

When trotting away from the Assessors (at the start of trot) a horse that engages well with an active depart is looked for.

The middle line of the triangle is again where they see the horse in profile and will be looking for a correct two-beat rhythm, regularity, articulation of all joints, freedom of the shoulder and haunches and an elastic swinging back.

When the horse is traveling directly towards the Assessors they are looking for correctness of the front legs in their traveling mode.

Factors that will lower the score are: trailing haunches, a flat trot lacking suspension and paddling.

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THE HANDLER: The horse travels to the outside of the large circle (trot) and inside of the small triangle (walk). The handler **must** be placed to the outside of the horse. The handler carries the rein(s) in the right hand and the whip in the left hand if required. The handler should not be too close to the horses shoulder as to impede its movement and the contact must be light and the horse energetic.

3. The Free Workout

Format required: MP4 or MOV file no longer than one minute.

REQUIREMENTS: Within a flat and firm enclosed space such as 20 x 40 to 60 metre arena or enclosed square or rectangular paddock that is free of obstacles and has short grass (so as not to obscure hooves) let the horse work freely in walk, trot, canter and perhaps gallop. You can encourage the movement gently but the Assessors are looking for a calm horse that is using its back correctly and showing natural suspension and lift. They are not looking for a snorting, tail in the air, hollow backed horse.

5. Sending all the files to the Studbook

Send files together via platform such as <https://wetransfer.com/> and addressed to: registrar@warlanderstudbooksociety.com.au Under NO circumstances are the files to be directly emailed to the Studbook. They must go through wetransfer which will compress them into one zip file. The total file size of the entire Assessment (Four images and and videos) must not exceed 3 GB

How the Score System works

The combined scores of the three Assessors are added together to reach one total score. 80% of the score covers all the aspects of the conformation and breed type (to the Breed Standards), overall impression including masculinity and femininity and height. 20% of the total score covers correctness and quality of the gaits, pedigree, presentation and for stallions – their relationship to the countries breeding herd.

Studbook elevation, breeding approval & premiums are received at following score

Foal to Adult book	6.3 points
Breeding Approval	6.5 points
Bronze Premium	6.9 Points
Silver Premium	7.5 Points
Gold Premium	8.1 Points

For horses registered prior to 2022

In 2022, WSS revised the Appendixes to bring in a Foal Book. If you have a horse with Main Studbook papers who has not been revised, they will remain in that Appendix however, they will require Assessment in order to receive Breeding Approval privileges

Qualified Breeding Status

Warlander and Warlander Sport Horse stallions and mares who have three of their progeny pass Assessment with each receiving a Silver Premium will receive Qualified Breeding Status.

4. A Correct Measurement of the horse is required

The height of the horse is measured as pictured below. Note: WSS reserves the right to request for a veterinarian or qualified measurer to take the measurement.





WARLANDER
Studbook Society



WARLANDER
SPORT HORSE

Assessment Score Form

Sex: _____ DOB: _____

CHECK APPROPRIATE BOX WITH AN X AND PUT SCORE IN GAIT BOXES – DECIMALS CAN BE USED

CATEGORIES	EXCELLENT	GOOD	AVERAGE	FAIR	POOR
Head & Head Neck Connection					
Neck/Gullet Neck/Shoulder connection					
Withers, Shoulder & Point of Shoulder					
Chest, Thorax & Abdomen					
Back & Loin					
Croup & Tail					
Front Legs & Hooves					
Hind Legs & Hooves					
Type and Overall Impression					
Movement all gaits					

Accumulated score from three Judges

COMMENTS:

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Office Use: Pedigree:

Height:

Free movement

Relationship to country herd (stallions)

TOTAL SCORE:

THE SCALE OF MARKS IS AS FOLLOWS:

*DECIMALS CAN BE USED

10	EXCELLENT
9	VERY GOOD
8	GOOD
7	FAIRLY GOOD
6	SATISFACTORY
5	MARGINAL
4	INSUFFICIENT
3	FAIRLY BAD
2	BAD
1	VERY BAD
0	NOT EXECUTED

How long does the process take?

Please allow for a minimum of six weeks for all three Assessors to complete each horse.

Once completed, the Warlander Studbook Society will work out the accumulated scores then look at the horse's pedigree and for stallions their relationship to the countries breeding herd. You will be notified by email on your progress.

What will I receive if my horses passes Assessment?

When all aspects of the final score have been calculated you will be notified by email from the Studbook to give you your result.

If your horse has passed, you will receive new Warlander documentation (Registration papers different to what you have, that clearly identify that your horse has been assessed). On these it will show your Assessment results including studbook elevation (foal book to adult book), Breeding Approval and any Premiums received. The new papers will also have the images supplied for the Assessment.

Along with your new papers you will also receive a report giving you the accumulated feedback from the three Assessors on conformation, type and movement and the Studbook in relation to pedigree and herd relationship. All of this information will be able to assist breeders in making informed decisions for future breeding's and you can use this in your promotions. For non-breeding horses this information will increase the value of your horse and can be used for advertising for sale or otherwise.

Please note, there is only one registrar issuing paperwork for the Studbook and you will be placed in our queue to receive documentation. We can't say how big the queue will be at any given time but we will keep you notified.

When the new papers are finished, this information will then be sent to our online genealogy and your horse's page will be updated with new images and Assessment results.

What happens if my horse does not pass Assessment?

All horses that do not pass the Assessment will remain in their current appendix and the result will be noted on the online genealogy. You will receive a report on your horses Assessment and if the Assessors believe there is an opportunity that the horse could pass at a later date we will tell you.

The Studbook wants the breeders and owners of these horses to know that our Assessors would much rather give high scores than low ones. The Assessors try to be kind and will always try and mention the strong points of each horse however; they also have to be able to justify their scores, so there will be times where owners are disappointed.

Internal Assessment Fee:

AUSTRALIA - PAYMENT BY BANK DEPOSIT ONLY - For Bank details e: registrar@warlanderstudbooksociety.com.au

FEES: \$450 AUD Lifetime Members \$400 AUD

NORTH & SOUTH AMERICA

FEES: \$350 USD Lifetime Members \$300 USD

PayPal link at:

<http://warlanderstudbooksociety.com.au/forms-payment/>

Tips for video's and photographs

For both video's and photographs, ensure you have a flat hard surface. Do not use paddocks with long grass which obscures hooves and legs or heavy sand where they sink into it. Try and stay away from distracting backgrounds if possible.

Lighting needs to be taken into account. Always film or photograph with the sun behind you if outside (to limit shadows) For photographs you can utilize the sides of buildings and fence lines to help square your horse.

For side on photographs aim to have the legs closest to the photographer perpendicular to the ground. You can then place the other front leg slightly back and the other hind leg slightly forward. It is often easier to walk the horse forward onto the 'mark' where you want to take the picture than backing them on to it.

Always ensure the neck is straight and ideally you want the neck carriage to be relaxed – not high nor low.

If your horse is tense and hurried in the video, you are advised to stand quietly and calm them until he/she settles before the loose assessment or the triangle work out. We do not want to see 'tail in the air' excited hollow backed horse which will not show correct movement.



www.warlanderstudbooksociety.com.au

For any assistance contact:

e: registrar@warlanderstudbooksociety.com.au

WSS appreciate our Assessors to which we would not be able to offer this service and the majority of the fee goes to them.