



## Subject: Immediate Changes to Registration Rules – DEFRA Review Update

Dear Members

We are writing to inform you of **important changes to our registration rules**, which are **effective immediately**. These changes are the result of **new guidance from DEFRA**, following a comprehensive review of studbook registers across all breed societies — not just our own.

DEFRA's review has led to a restructuring of registration protocols to ensure consistency and compliance across all recognized breed societies. As a result, we are required to make the following adjustments to our own processes with immediate effect.

### Key Changes to Registration:

#### 1. Streamlined Studbook Structure

In line with DEFRA's guidance, we have consolidated our studbook into three clearly defined registers:

- **Main Register**
- **Supplementary Register**
- **ID Only Register**

Main & Supplementary have sections within them which can grade up. This structure is designed to simplify the registration process and ensure compliance with DEFRA's national framework.

#### 2. Revision of Allowable Outcrosses

We have reduced the number of allowable outcross breeds. This change aligns with DEFRA's guidance and supports the development of a **clear and consistent breed standard**. See list below:-

- **National Pony Society**
    - Restricted to Animals in the British Riding Pony Studbook (BRPSB)
  - **Dartmoor Pony Society**
  - **Welsh Pony & Cob Society (Sections A & B)**
  - **Welsh Pony & Cob Society (Sections C & D, up to 14.2hh)**
  - **Fell Pony Society**
  - **Shetland Pony Stud Book Society (subject to Rule 4)**
  - Ponies from the now-defunct Spotted Pony Breed Society (GB) are also accepted if they meet ancestral requirements.
- Riding Pony  
Type
- Cob Type
- Under 42" Type

### 3. **Removal of the Spotted Sport Horse Register**

DEFRA has advised the removal of the Spotted Sport Horse register. Members with animals previously registered under this category are encouraged to register offspring with other recognized spotted horse societies.

We understand that such sudden changes may cause some disruption, but please be assured that these updates are necessary to meet DEFRA's expectations and to safeguard the integrity of our studbook going forward.

#### **What You Need to Do:**

- Review the full details of the updated registration rules in the **Members Handbook**.

Thank you for your continued cooperation and support.

Warm regards,

From your British Spotted Pony Society Council