



Australian Stock Horse  
SOCIETY



## The Breed for Every Need

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## From the Board

Dear Member,

The Board of Directors have received many questions from members about certain aspects of the proposed changes to the General Register rules to be voted on by the members at the upcoming Annual General Meeting (AGM). Many of these questions are largely consistent. The Board has responded to those questions from individual members, but we want to take this opportunity to share some of those questions and the relevant answers (Q&A) for the benefit of all members to see, so that members are well informed about the proposed changes.

### HSH percentages

- Q.** Can you please explain the percentages of HSH required for horses to be registered in the General Register under the new proposal?
- A.** Under the proposed changes, to determine the eligible General Register category of a horse, the key consideration is the HSH designation of its ancestors over three generations - and it doesn't matter whether those ancestors are 87.5% or 100% or anywhere in between.

### Base Register

The product of a cross where one of the four grandparents or two of eight great-grandparents is HSH will continue to be eligible to be registered in the Base Register.

- 25% simply means one grandparent, or two great-grandparents are HSH (this has been in place for 5 years now) this remains unchanged from the current rules in place since 2020.

### First Cross

Outside of a Stud Book mating (i.e. not SB x SB or SB x 2C), the product of a cross between one HSH parent and any other horse with no HSH designation will be a First Cross. As will the product of a cross where one grandparent on each side of the pedigree is HSH.

- 50% simply means one parent, or two grandparents are HSH.

### Second Cross

Again, outside of the Stud Book, the product of a cross where three of the four grandparents are HSH will be a SECOND CROSS. As will the product of a cross where one parent is HSH and so is one grandparent on the other side of the pedigree.

- 75% simply means three grandparents, or one parent plus one grandparent are HSH.

### **Horse registrations and financial sustainability**

**Q.** Some members have been saying that registration numbers are dropping, and the financial sustainability of the Society is at risk. Is this true?

**A.** Data for the last full year available being 2025 saw an all-time high record number of horses registered with the Society, and as per prior years the majority of those were registered at the top, in the Stud Book (63%).

The next largest groups represented were First Cross (21%) and Second Cross (6%). Only just over 6% were registered into the Base Registry.

Total number of registrations completed for the year 2025 was 3,773, eclipsing the previous record of 3,320 registrations completed in 2024.

The 2025 number was well above the long-term annual average. The 2024 number (completely unaffected by the 2025 rule changes) was also well above the long-term annual average, indicating a healthy amount of growth.

Analysis completed by the Board when developing the proposal showed that only around 2.6% of horses registered with the Society under the current rules over recent times will fall into the category of horses that will not be eligible to be registered with the Society in any category.

The Board resolved that was an acceptable position to adopt in order to achieve the Board's obligation to deliver on the Mission of the Society, namely "To maintain the heritage and to promote the bloodlines and high performance of the Australian Stock Horse..."

The Board further considered the financial implications of this and resolved that the Society can absorb the small financial costs that will flow from this given the modelling shows that 97.4% of current registrations will continue to be able to be registered with the Society.

The recently released 2025 Financial Report shows that the Society is in a strong financial position in terms of operating surplus being posted in both 2024 and 2025, and cashflow and assets/reserves are all strong.

### **Implementation Timing**

**Q.** If adopted by the members, when will the proposed changes become effective?

**A.** The proposed implementation date is 1 October 2028 – over 2 years away. This timing was selected to allow for the proposed changes to have no impact on any horse born in the 2026/27 foaling season; and also have no impact on any mating already planned for this year for horses that will be born in the 2027/28 foaling season.

Any horse born before 1 October 2028 will be eligible to be registered under the current rules of the Society.

### **Impact on Breeding Programs**

**Q.** What impact will the proposed changes have on long-established breeding programs, and will they reduce the flexibility breeders have to crossbreed?

**A.** First thing to note is that the proposed changes do not affect the rules contained in our Constitution for the Stud Book.

Secondly, the proposed changes will not impact on the registration status, privileges or rights of any horse already registered with the Society in any category, including any horse born before 1 October 2028.

No horse will be downgraded or removed from its current category. In fact, there are a large number of colts and stallions currently registered in the Base Registry that may be eligible to be upgraded under the proposed new rules – effectively expanding the available breeding pool for all members.

Members can continue to breed however they choose, and crossbreeding remains an accessible and valid choice for many breeders.

But under the proposed new rules, the level of HSH ancestry of any non-Stud Book horse born after 1 October 2028 will determine which category they can be registered in the General Register.

This is already the case for the Base Registry – the members decided at the 2020 AGM that no non-Stud Book progeny is eligible to be registered with the Society if they have less than one HSH grandparent or two great-grandparents (25%). The current proposed changes simply take this same approach into determining the eligibility of horses to be registered as First Cross and Second Cross.

### Consultation

**Q.** Has there been sufficient time for consultation with members about the proposed changes?

**A.** The Board first presented (conceptually) the proposed changes to the members 12 months ago at the 2025 AGM on the Gold Coast.

Since then, the proposed changes have been presented to various Management Council and Branch meetings. The Board's expectation is that delegates to those Management Councils will have shared those discussions with all members in their respective Branches.

In February this year the Board published a comprehensive discussion paper about the proposed changes which was published to all members on the ASHS website and distributed to members at a number of Society and other relevant events across the country.

Now that the exact wording of the proposed changes has been published and shared with all members along with the AGM papers, the Board believes that the members have the information that they need to make their own well-informed decisions, and they are looking forward to the members having their say by voting on the proposed changes at the upcoming AGM.

### Special General Meeting

**Q.** Why has a Special General Meeting been called?

**A.** A group of members have directed the Board to convene a Special General Meeting (SGM) to deal with a proposed members resolution seeking to prevent the entire membership from being able to vote on the proposed changes to the General Register at the upcoming AGM. The Members Resolution seeks to block the members from voting on the proposed changes for 12 months.

The Board does not believe that a small group of members should seek to block the entire membership from voting on this proposal; but the Board has acted in good faith and enabled the smooth conduct of an SGM for the members' resolution to be decided in advance of the AGM.

This is an important matter, and your vote counts. The Board encourages every member to view all the relevant information available at <https://ashs.com.au/the-society/information/2026-agm-information/> and participate in the SGM and AGM to have your say.

  
Larry Cutler Chair