



Spanish-Norman Horse



Spanish Spotted Saddle Horse



Hispano-Arab Horse



PRE Fusion Horse



Albion Azteca Horse

2026 VIRTUAL GRADING - REQUIREMENTS & PROCEDURES **STALLIONS & MARES - Registered in the Above 5 BAPSH Ltd UK Studbooks**

INTRODUCTION

The Virtual Grading is in Four Sections which can be undertaken in any order, and if necessary you can spread the completion of each Section over the whole month of June.

This Year we are being Strict. You MUST COMPLETE ALL the listed Measurements, Photos, and Video clips. If ANY ITEM is missing from the Submitted GRADING Entry the Horse will NOT BE ASSESSED.

If the Photos or Video Clips are not ideal (out of focus, horse's feet chopped off/ wrong angle etc) when you re-view what you have captured then please try for a better photo or video if you have time.

The horse will be assessed on the information, photos, and videos that you submit so it is very important that they are the best you can obtain

Sections

1. Morphological

A) Conformation and Type - assessed from your Photographs

B) Physical measurements of your horse

2. Movement In-hand and on the lunge

3. Movement Loose

4. Jumping - loose down a row of 3 jumps.

THINGS YOU WILL NEED

a) Help from one or more extra people.

b) A camera/ video recorder or a phone with a good camera able to zoom in and take high quality photos and video.

Note: It is essential that your camera/video/phone is able to download the photos and the video to **either a USB stick or a standard size Memory Card.**

c) Measuring Tools (see *Helpful hints at the end)

i) Equine Measuring Stick - this can be a shop bought stick or a home-made stick with accurately marked Centimetres marked along the length from 0cm to at least 1.70m.

ii) An extra short stick for taping at right-angles to the 0cm end of the Equine Measuring Stick for Body Length etc

iii) Soft dress-makers tape, and a builders metal tape

iv) Smart-Phone with a Builders Spirit-Level App downloaded onto it from one of the App stores

v) A Note book to write down all the measurements you take from your horse .

vi) A non-stoney flat surface for measuring your horse's height

vii) A level area for your horse to perform Sections 2, 3 and 4.

viii) Lunge-Line

ix) Well fitted in-hand bridle/headcollar/cavesson

SECTION 1. MORPHOLOGICAL

A. CONFORMATION AND TYPE - 15 Photographs

The Photos of your horse must be in focus, clear of background clutter, and between 1MB and 4MB in size.

1. OVERVIEW OF HORSE - 4 Photos

1a. Side-Views - One Good Photo of Each Side.

i) Left-side

ii) Right-side

The whole horse must be within the photo. Stand the horse with legs almost square and the horse exactly parallel to the photographer who should be placed central to the horse to form an equal sided triangle ie equidistant to the nose and the tail of the horse. The horse's head and neck should be at a natural angle, which for a PRE based breed will mean that the neck is at an angle of 45 degrees or higher from the horizontal at the base of the neck.

1b. Overall Front-View of Horse facing the camera

1c. Overall Rear-View of Horse with head, neck, back and hindquarters all lined up straight to give a clear view from tail to poll.

The photographer should be lined up precisely with the horse's spinal column and at a height so that the judges can see the horse's hindquarters from ground to croup and also along the spine to the poll . If it is easier to take 2 separate photos to accomplish this then please do so. Different sizes of horse and photographer will affect how easy this view is to achieve.

2 - HEAD - 3 Photos

2a. Head Profile from Left side with the Forelock tucked out of the way so that the judges can see the Forehead profile clearly.

2b. Head Profile from Right-side with the Forelock tucked out of the way so that the judges can see the Forehead profile clearly.

2c. Head from the Front. The Head needs to be close to Vertical through the Poll to the Nose so that the structure of the head can be seen without distortion (ie. avoiding a big fat nose and teeny-weeny ears).

3. FRONT-LEGS - 4 Photos

1 photo from each of the 4 view-points showing the front-legs from ground to shoulder-joint

a. Front view, b. Rear view, c. Left-side view, d. Right-side view

3. HIND-LEGS - 4 Photos

1 photo from each of the 4 view-points showing the hind-legs from ground to ischial prominence (top of buttocks)

a. Front view, b. Rear view, c. Left-side view, d. Right-side view

B. PHYSICAL MEASUREMENTS OF THE HORSE

Remember to have a Notebook and pen ready to record each measurement after you complete it

1. Height at Highest Point of Withers

Stick measurement in Centimetres as per the two photos Below



2. Height at Lowest point of Withers

Stick measurement in Centimetres as per the photo Below



3. Height at Point of Croup

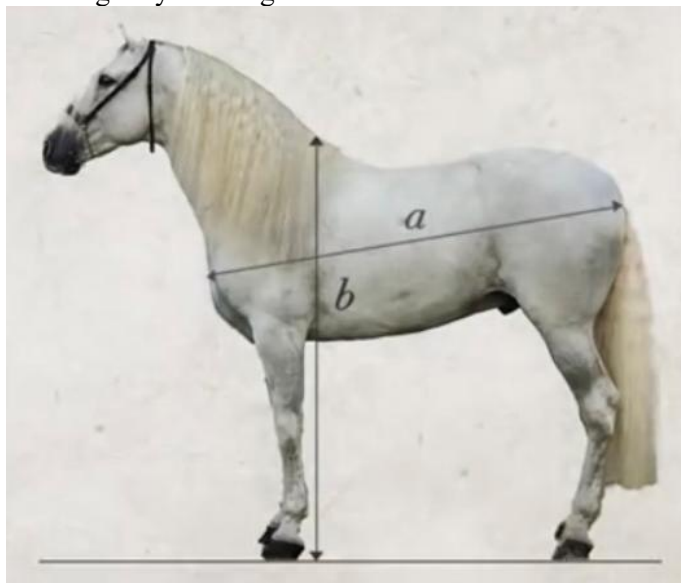
Stick measurement in Centimetres as per the two photos Below.



4. Scapula-Ischial Length

Body length - measure as per photo Left Below, and also see 'a' on the diagram in the photo Right Below.

Use your equine measuring stick plus a second short piece of wood taped at right angles at the base, or a long stick and two pieces of wood front and back of horse to get the length by marking on the wood.



5a. Length of Head.

Use a soft tape-measure to get the length from poll to the tip of the Muzzle. See Photo Below Left



5b. Length of Lips/ Mouth

Use a soft tape-measure or the builders taped measure (whichever you find easier) to get the length from the upper end of the lips to the bottom of the lips. See Photo Above Right

6. Width of Head.

Use a soft tape-measure to get the length from the outside of the eye-socket to the outside of the other one.



7. Length of Neck

Use equine measuring stick and an extra stick to get the length from the Poll to the Shoulder -spine line; mark and measure the distance on the wood if you are using a long plain piece of wood. Photo Below Left.



8) Width of Breast (Chest) - Photo Above Right.

Use equine measuring stick and an extra stick to get the width from outside the Shoulder-Joint to outside the other Shoulder-Joint. Or Mark your plain wood stick with its two short sticks held at right angles and measure the distance.

9) Length of Shoulder

Point of the Shoulder Joint to the top of the Shoulder-blade

Use equine measuring stick and an extra stick to get the length as shown in photo Below.



10) Length of Upper Arm

Point of the Shoulder Joint to the back of the Elbow Joint (the knobby pointed bit)

Use equine measuring stick and an extra stick to get this length

Use your equine measuring stick and an extra stick to get the measurements for 11 through to 16

11) Length of Forearm - Photo Above Right

Length from point of Elbow to centre of back of Knee, as shown in photo Below.



12) Width of Croup - Photo Below Left.

Width from the outside of each hip-bone prominence, as shown in photo.



13) Length of Croup - Photo Above Right

Length from the centre of the hip-bone prominence to the ischial prominence, as shown in photo.

14) Length of Thigh (Femur)

Length from the ischial prominence to the centre of the front of the Stifle-joint.

15) Length of Second Thigh

Length from the centre of the front of the Stifle-joint down to the centre of the front of the Hock-joint

16) Width of Hock Joint

Length from the Point of the Hock to the centre of the front of the Hock-joint. A metal tape may be easier for this.

17) Thoracic Perimeter (Girth Measurement)

Use a soft tape-measure to get the circumference, or a longer piece of string if the girth is greater than the tape's length. As per the photos below but keep the tape tight to the horse rather than giving any extra cms to the girth.



18) Knee Perimeter

Use a soft tape-measure as per photo Below Left.



19) Cannon Bone Perimeter (Front-leg)

Use a soft tape-measure as per Photo Above Right

20) Angle of Shoulder - Photos Below.

Use the App on your Phone and lay the phone along the central Spine of the Shoulder-blade to get the correct reading. See Photos Below.



21) Angle of Croup - Photos Below

Make a line in the hair of your horse's hindquarters as shown in the photo Above Right, and then use the App on your Phone and lay the phone along the line to get the correct reading.



SECTION 2 MOVEMENT - IN-HAND & LUNGED (Video)

WALK IN HAND

1a. Front & Rear View

Walk your horse in a straight line away from the video camera for about 15 metres, turn and come back in a straight line towards the camera. Your horse should be relaxed and walking out actively and freely. The horse's head and neck should be allowed to find their own position - not too far up nor too far down.

1b. Walk side-view - this may need some practice to get the correct distance away from the camera.

Walk your horse for a distance of about 15 metres across the field of view of the camera holder who should be positioned half-way along the path you and the horse are taking. Turn at the end and walk back again to your starting point.



TROT IN HAND

2a. Front & Rear View

Trot your horse in a straight line away from the video camera for about 15 metres, turn and come back in a straight line towards the camera. Your horse should be moving actively and freely forwards with plenty of drive from behind. Use a longish lead-line so that you don't pull the horse towards you or restrict its gait. The horse's head and neck should be allowed to find their own position which will normally be higher than at the walk.

2b. Trot side-view - your camera handler may need to be further away to catch the trot-up as it will be much faster and harder to follow smoothly.

Trot your horse for a distance of about 15 metres across the field of view of the camera holder who should be positioned half-way along the path you and the horse are taking. Turn at the end and trot back again to your starting point. The trot should be active and forward going.



CANTER ON THE LUNGE

Canter your horse on as long a lunge line as possible without losing the horse's canter - this will assist balance and activity.

Your horse needs to complete 3 or 4 full canter circles in whichever direction it is better for the horse. Don't worry if the odd buck or leap is included !



SECTION 3 MOVEMENT – LOOSE (Video)

The horse needs to show some Walk, Trot, and Canter. This can be in any order, and should be filmed from different angles so that both side movement and the towards & away movement is captured.

Aids to encourage active movements can be used, provided they do not come into contact with the horse, eg, Whip, plastic bag, a bottle with stones in it to rattle, etc

SECTION 4 - JUMPING

Your horse may wear front-boots for this section of the grading. A lunge whip for guidance of your horse is essential, and a human helper, or several, will be very useful to assist you on the day.

Remember that you need an extra person to make a good quality Video record of your horse's jumping. Try several different angles and distances from the jumps to see what gives the best results on video.

As with all the grading procedures, the very best that your horse does, be it the first pass or the last, will be the one to submit for assessment to the Grading Panel.

Jumping Set-up Options

- a) The ideal jumping layout is Three Jumps set out down the long side of an arena if you have one
- b) Three Jumps set-out down the long-side in a long 'roped off' section of a field (electric tape & stakes can be useful for this if your horse respects them or poles placed on extra jump-stands work well too)
- c) If neither of these options are possible, the horse can be jumped on a lunge-line down the row of Three Jumps laid out in an open field at the correct distances using sloping poles angled to the top of the 'wing' or jump support nearest the person holding the lunge to prevent the lung line catching on the jumps. The person holding the lunge line will have to run with the horse on a long line and must be careful not to pull the horse off balance. This may take some practice and it is best to start with a single jump and work up to 3 jumps over a week or so.
- d) Hire an indoor arena for an hour and get 3 Sections completed at the arena - Jumping, Loose Movement, and Movement In-Hand/on Lunge.

The Jumps

The first jump (a cross pole) should be approximately 3 metres from the corner, the second jump (a vertical) should be approximately 6.6 metres from the first and then a distance of approximately 7.65 metres to the third jump (an oxer)

This is a universal distance which may not exactly suit our PRE based breeds so the distances should be altered to suit your own horse's paces to make sure it is confident and enjoying the experience and can produce a good result.

The jumps can be raised to the best height for your horse's preference and abilities but please note that the assessment is about the Quality of the Jumping and not the overall heights jumped. A perfectly jumped sequence of smaller jumps will be better than a sequence of large badly executed jumps.

Do not push the poles up high to see what your horse can do, he/she will lose confidence very quickly, this is about technique, balance, rounded frame and a nice rhythmical canter, not the height cleared. Remember a good show jumper is a confident, calm, happy horse .



ORV Bandit - Gold Medal Approved PRE Fusion Horse - Graded at 3yrs old.

HELPFUL HINTS

Presentation

Make sure your horse is clean.

Trim away long hair on the back of fetlocks and around the coronet bands, trim off tufty stick-out hairs on the ears but leave protective inner-ear hair alone, trim close any hairy beards lingering along the cheeks and jaw-line of the head, but do NOT trim any feeler-whiskers.

Manes and tails should be clean and brushed out but left natural. Mares can be shown with the traditional Spanish trimmed mane/forelock and the top 6 or 8 inches of the tail, and often look better presented this way

Equine Head-gear - Use an In-hand Bridle, a Spanish Serreta with a leather cover over the noseband, a light-weight lunge cavasson, or a strong leather/ nylon halter with a fixed lead-line attachment ring under the jaw. Do NOT use a show-bridle with a chain under the jaw; this type of bridle is not acceptable.

Measuring

An Equine Measurement Stick can be made using a good straight piece of planed wood around 44mm x 10 or 5mm and about 1.70 or 1.80m long. Place a clear line across the wood at 145 cm above one end (0cm) and then mark from the 145cm in 1cm increments divided up with lines every 0.2mm all the way up to 1.70m (more if your horse is longer or taller than 1.70m). Buy a Post Level from E-Bay or similar online shop and attach the post level to your planed wood stick as shown in the Photo. Two shorter pieces of wood with the same width and depth can be used as your cross-pieces.



Dress makers soft tape is perfect



Photos

Practice taking the necessary Photos and make sure you have the horse in-focus.

Select as plain a background as possible, so the horse is clearly seen and the eye is not distracted by a busy background. If you don't have anything suitable borrow a double-bed Sheet in a contrasting colour to your horse and firmly pin all four corners to a wall or a couple of doors or tree-trunks behind your horse. Make sure you keep your horse in front of this backdrop without head or bottom overlapping the edge of the backdrop - your photographer needs to keep a close eye on this and ask you to re-position the horse if necessary.

Save your Photos at a High Resolution and around 4 or 5MB each in size on to a USB stick. Use one of the Standard file formats eg **JPEG or PNG**

Video Clips

Practice taking the videos of Sections 2, 3 and 4. Work out exactly the best places for the Camera person to be standing in order to obtain great video and stills for each Section. No-one wants to miss recording the best moments of a horse moving or jumping because they were in the wrong place.

Check that your Camera Batteries are Fully Charged before starting.

Check that you have plenty of Memory Capacity to Store your photos and Video

Check that your Photographer/ Video Recorder keeps the Sun behind their back so the light falls onto your horse.

The British Breeding Futurity website has some nice video clips of horses being videoed and photographed for their Virtual Gradings last year, and these can help you see what to do and what not to do in order to get a great result.

Send Your **2026 Section 1B Measurements Document** completed along with all your Horse's Photos and Video Clips on a USB Stick or a Memory Card (standard size) by Royal Mail Tracked or Special Delivery to BAPSH Ltd (address below) before 30th JUNE 2026 for the VIRTUAL Grading

Any Queries Contact:-

Mary McBryde - BAPSH Ltd Director

Holly Trees Farm, Chesterblade Road, Stoney Stratton, Shepton Mallet, Somerset. BA4 4EQ

Tel: 07887 890098. Email: bapshregistrar@btinternet.com. Website: www.bapsh.co.uk



The British Association for the
Purebred Spanish Horse
(British Andalusian Horse Society)
Founded 1982

Copyright BAPSH Ltd 2026-01-12