



**Proposed Breeding Policy for the Irish Draught Horse (2010)**

## Contents

## Page

i.	Background – Consultation Process	3
ii.	Principles of the Proposed Breeding Policy for ID Studbook	3
iii.	Breeding Objective	4
	a) Breed Summary Description	4
	b) Type of horse, detailed description	4
iv.	ID Classification System	5
v.	HSI Irish Draught Stallion Inspection System	8
	a) Merits for Class 1 Stallions	15
vi.	HSI Irish Draught Mare Inspections	16
	a) Additional Merits for Mares	19
vii.	Studbook Initiatives	21

## **i) Background – Consultation Process**

The Horse Sport Ireland Irish Draught Breeding Policy Taskforce was established in June 2009 under instruction from the HSI Breeding Sub Board. The aim of this Taskforce was to establish a new breeding policy for the Irish Draught Horse and to preserve and improve the breed.

The members of the Taskforce are as follows: Mr Michael Duignan (Chairman), Br. Alphonsus Gavigan, Mr Pat Gleeson, Dr Charlotte Moore and Mr Timothy O'Regan.

The Taskforce has met five times and had lengthy discussions in relation to breeding policy, breed objective, breed standard and inspection processes for both mares and stallions and initiatives to improve the quality of stock.

The Irish Draught Breeding Policy Taskforce followed the terms of reference listed below:

- To define a suitable breeding objective for the Irish Draught Horse Studbook.
- To propose a suitable classification system for Irish Draught Horses in the Irish Draught Horse Studbook in line with the Horse Sport Ireland Strategic Plan.
- To propose studbook initiatives to improve the quality of Irish Draught Horses being bred in Ireland.

Submissions were sought from those within the industry and a total of ten were returned. Each submission was reviewed thoroughly by the Taskforce. The submissions expressed resounding support for a new Irish Draught classification system, a thorough review of current Performance Testing methods for stallions and the importance of introducing an open and transparent inspection system for both mares and stallions using the linear scoring system.

## **ii) Principles of the Proposed Breeding Policy for Irish Draught Studbook** **2010-2015**

The principles of the new breeding policy are:

- Build breeder confidence in the stallion inspection procedures by having an open, transparent and public stallion selection
- Assist breeders in making informed breeding decisions by maximizing the amount of information available, including inspection results and pedigree, performance and progeny information
- Introduce a mare inspection system which will provide a mare evaluation service for breeders
- Provide guidance to breeders by identifying stallions that are “Recommended for Breeding”
- Recommend initiatives to implement the principles outlined above and to improve the quality of stock

### iii) **Breeding Objective**

To breed Irish Draught Horses with good conformation, movement and temperament that conform to the breed standard, which will make good quality, sound, versatile horses and be a foundation breed that, when crossed with other breeds, will produce performance horses.

#### a) **Breed Summary Description**

The Irish Draught Horse is a versatile, powerful and athletic animal with substance and quality. It has a pleasant head, good bone and a short shin, good spring of rib, strong loins and hindquarters and an active powerful stride. Known for its good temperament, docility and willing nature, it has a robust constitution and is inherently sound.

#### b) **Type of Horse – Detailed description**

**Height:** Ideally Irish Draughts should stand between 158cms (15.2hh) and a maximum of 170cms (16.3hh) at maturity.

**Bone:** Approximately 9 inches of good strong, clean, flat bone.

**Head:** Should be pleasant, not coarse or hatchet like. Wide forehead and kind eyes set well apart with large, long quality ears and plenty of room between the jaw bones.

**Neck:** Good length of rein with head well set on, neck should be correctly muscled and well shaped.

**Front legs:** Long muscular forearms, short cannon bones with plenty of strong clean, flat bone, not back at the knee or tied in below the knee. Pasterns should be in proportion with good hoof pastern access. Hooves should not be boxy or large and flat, but hard and sound with plenty of room at the heel.

**Shoulders:** A nice sloping shoulder neither loaded, nor too heavy, nor too short, with well defined withers well set back.

**Body, back and hindquarters:** Deep girth with a good spring of rib, strong back, loins and quarters. The croup and buttocks should be long and gently sloping. Hips should not be too wide.

**Hind legs:** Clean hocks below strong gaskins set into good short shins. Should not be cow-hocked or wide apart at the hocks.

**Action:** Should be straight and free not being heavy or ponderous. Movement should be active and strong from behind, showing good flexion and freedom of the shoulders.

**Colour:** Any strong whole colour including bay, grey, chestnut, black, brown and dun. Excessive white markings not desirable.

#### **iv) Irish Draught Horse Studbook 2010 – ID Classification System**

It is proposed that both the current Irish Draught classification system and the term RID are outdated. The classification system will be completely reviewed. The breed code ID will be used and be sub-divided into four classes: Class 1, Class 2, Class 3 and Class 4. There will be a separate section for supplementary (grade up) animals.

**Class 1:** This will include the best horses within the breed.

Animals must satisfy the veterinary examination specified for the studbook entry.

Animals must meet the standard required for conformation, movement and athleticism.

All horses currently RID will become Class 1 Irish Draught.

Females must be a minimum of two years old and males must be a minimum of three years old.

The animal must be bred from the following crosses:

*Sire x Dam*

Mares:           Class 1 ID x Class 1 ID  
                      Class 1 ID x Class 2 ID  
                      Class 1 ID x Supplementary (Grade up Register)

Colts and        Class 1 ID x Class 1 ID  
Geldings:        Class 1 ID x Supplementary (Grade up Register)

**Class 2:** This will include veterinary sound horses which did not meet the inspection requirements to be entered in Class 1.

All Irish Draught stallions currently classified as Section 1 (S1) may become Class 2 Irish Draught.

Females must be a minimum of two years old and males must be a minimum of three years old.

The animal must be bred from the following crosses:

*Sire x Dam*

Mares:           Class 1 ID x Class 1, 2 or 3 ID  
                      Class 1 ID x Supplementary (Grade up Register)  
                      Class 2 ID x Class 1, 2 or 3 ID  
                      Class 1 ID x Class 4 ID

Colts and        Class 1 ID x Class 1, 2 or 3 ID  
Geldings:        Class 1 ID x Supplementary (Grade up Register)  
                      Class 2 ID x Class 1, 2 or 3 ID

**Class 3:** This is a classification for animals that do not satisfy the veterinary examination. Irish Draught stallions currently classified as Section 2 (S2) would now become Class 3 (ID). The progeny of Class 3 (ID) mares covered by a Class 1 (ID) stallion would be eligible for upgrading to Class 2 subject to meeting the inspection criteria.

Class 4: This is a holding class for all foals and horses bred from horses registered in Class 1, 2, 3, 4 sections of the Irish Draught Horse Studbook and Supplementary (Grade up Register) (ID) mares crossed by Class 1 ID stallions only. All ID animals eligible for inclusion in the studbook, but not presented for inspection, would remain in this class.

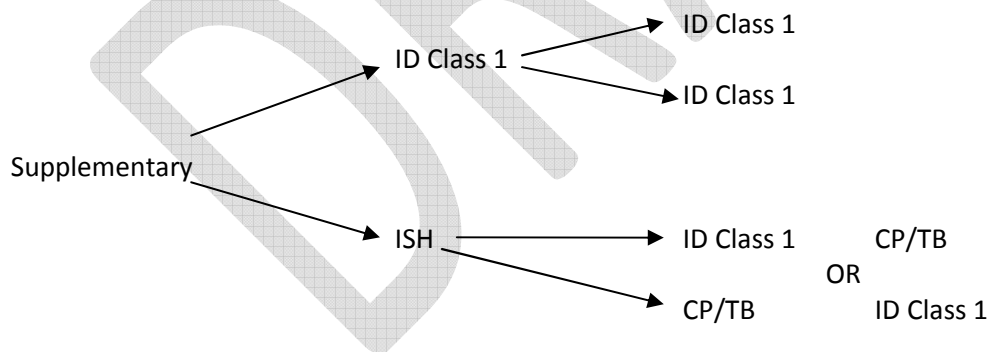
**Supplementary Section (Grade up Register)**

This is a supplementary section of the studbook, which allows mares with a small proportion of Thoroughbred or Connemara blood to enter the studbook with a view to strengthening some characteristics and adding genetic diversity.

To be eligible for inspection mares must have:

1. All parents and grandparents registered in the main section of the Irish Draught Horse Studbook or Irish Sport Horse Studbook.
2. Both parents must be by a Class 1 on the Irish Draught Horse Register or “Recommended for Breeding” (RB) sire on the main section of the Irish Sport Horse Register.
3. Be identified according to the studbook rules.
4. Be judged to conform to the breed standard at inspection.
5. The pedigree of the mare must have:
  - a) One Class 1 (ID) parent, either the dam or the sire and three Class 1 (ID) grandparents
  - b) The non-Irish Draught portion of the pedigree may comprise only Thoroughbred or Connemara.

**e.g.:**



ISH = Irish Sport Horse  
 TB = Thoroughbred  
 CP = Connemara Pony

**Animals eligible for inclusion as identified under current breed codes with the Irish Draught Horse Studbook are:**

RID stallions that are crossed with RID mares, RID stallions that are crossed with ID mares, RID stallions that are crossed with AID mares, ID stallions that are crossed with ID mares and ID stallions that are crossed with RID mares.

ID = RID x RID

RID x AID

RID x ID

ID x RID

ID x ID

**Stallions currently classified as Section 1 (S1) Stallions**

Transitional arrangements will be put in place where currently classified Section 1 (S1) stallions will be afforded the opportunity to present for inspection under the new inspection/classification system. These stallions will be required to be scored under the linear system and their gaits will be assessed in hand and loose. They will also be required to loose jump.

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## **v) HSI Irish Draught Stallion Inspection System**

It is envisaged that the new inspection process will become a major event on every breeder's calendar. The inspections will be open to the public and the outcome of the inspection will be announced on the final day.

The stallion inspection process will take place in spring each year, in one location over a 2-3 day period. The venue will be selected based on the suitability of facilities which will include:

- Indoor arena with suitable surface
- Suitable area to carry out Veterinary examination
- Hard surface to assess conformation and gaits in hand in walk and trot
- Suitable stabling
- Large capacity spectator seating and facilities



## **Stage 1 – The 7 fundamental elements of the Stallion Inspection Process**

Stallions must be a minimum of three years of age to be presented for inspection. Normally, stallions will be inspected initially in the spring of their third year. However, should a breeder/owner wish to allow their stallion to mature further, older horses will also be accommodated in suitable age or breed categories at the annual spring inspection.

The inspection will take place over three days and will include the following elements:

- 1) Pedigree Assessment
- 2) Conformation assessment using a Linear Scoring system
- 3) In hand Gait Assessment on a hard surface
- 4) In hand Gait Assessment in indoor arena
- 5) Free Gait Assessment in jumping pen
- 6) Free Athleticism/Jumping Assessment in jumping pen
- 7) Veterinary (full clinical examination, including x-ray, scoping) or presented with a certificate from veterinary surgeon on a panel authorized by HSI.

- 1) Pedigree Assessment

The stallion's pedigree will be assessed based on bloodlines and the performance/merits of those bloodlines back to three generations on both the sire and dam's line. The value of rare bloodlines will also be acknowledged.

- 2) Linear Scoring

Currently, conformation is evaluated using a subjective score (between 1 and 10) for each trait. Under the new policy it is proposed to move towards a more transparent and descriptive 'Linear Scoring' system. This method is well established in the KWPN Studbook (and in cattle breeding) and offers breeders a detailed 'description' of the conformation of a stallion for any given trait rather than a score for the trait (i.e. instead of the 'Front Leg' being described as a '6 out of 10', it could be described as 'Back at the Knee'). The new system for describing conformation will make it easier for mare owners to choose stallions whose strengths and weaknesses complement their own broodmare herd. (See sample Linear Score sheet on page 10.)

## Sample Linear Score Sheet

Judge Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Picture No: \_\_\_\_\_ Mare  Stallion

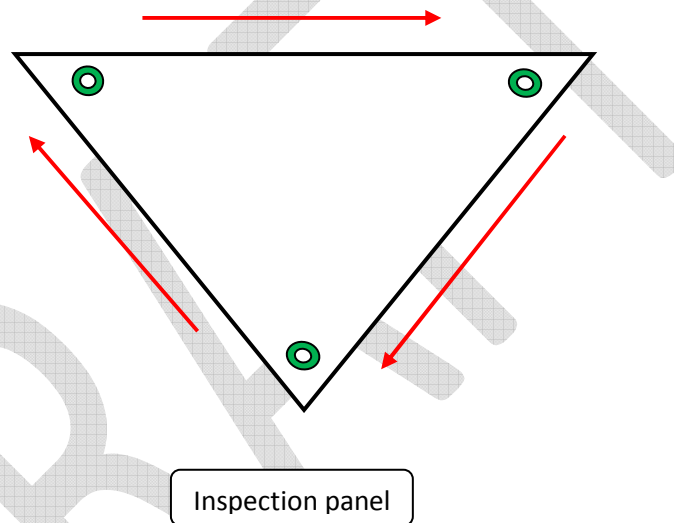
Conformation /Trait		obvious intermediate obvious				Comments	Not Visible
		a b c	d e f	g h i			
1. Head: appearance Which would include forehead, ears, eyes, jawbones, gullet & teeth alignment	Plain	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	Fine	<input type="radio"/> roman nose <input type="radio"/> long <input type="radio"/> big <input type="radio"/> small	
2. Head-Neck Connection	Heavy	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	Light		
3. Length of neck	Long	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	Short		
4. Muscling of neck	Poor	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	Heavy	<input type="radio"/> ewe-neck	
5. Neck-Chest Connection	Low	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	High		
6. Height of withers	Flat	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	High		
7. Position of shoulder	Straight	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	Sloping		
8. Barrel	Shallow	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	Deep	<input type="radio"/> narrow chest <input type="radio"/> open chest	
9. Length of back	Long	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	Short		
10. Line of back	Sway Back	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	Roached		
11. Line of loins	Weak	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	Roached		
12. Shape of croup	Flat	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	Sloping		
13. Length of croup	Short	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	Long		
14. Muscularity of Hindquarters	Poor	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	Heavy		
15. Stance of forelegs (side view)	Back at knee	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	Over at knee	<input type="radio"/> standing under	
16. Stance of forelegs (front view)	Toed in	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	Toed out		
17. Stance of pastern (forelimbs)	Weak	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	Upright		
18. Shape of feet	Wide	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	Narrow	<input type="radio"/> different	
19. Heels	High	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	Low		
20. Stance of hind legs (side view)	Sickle	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	Straight	<input type="radio"/> camped out <input type="radio"/> abnormal hock <input type="radio"/> abnormal stifle <input type="radio"/> curb	
21. Stance of hind legs (rear view)	Cow-Hocked	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	Bow-Hocked		
22. Substance of pastern (hind limbs)	Weak	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	Upright		
23. Substance of legs (Bone)	Light	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	Heavy		
24. Cannon Bone length	Long	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	Short		
25. Type	Not Breed Standard	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	Breed Standard	<input type="radio"/> excessive white markings	
26. Shape of knee	Flat Rectangular	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	Narrow Rounded		
27. Cannon/Knee Connection	Straight	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	Offset		
28. Cannon/Knee Connection (side view)	Straight	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	Tied in behind knee		

### 3) In hand Gait Assessment on a hard surface

On a hard surface the stallion will be required to stand for a visual inspection. When requested, the handler will walk the horse away from the inspection panel, around the marker and return to the panel. Then the handler will repeat the process in trot. However, in trot the stallion should continue to trot past the inspection panel.

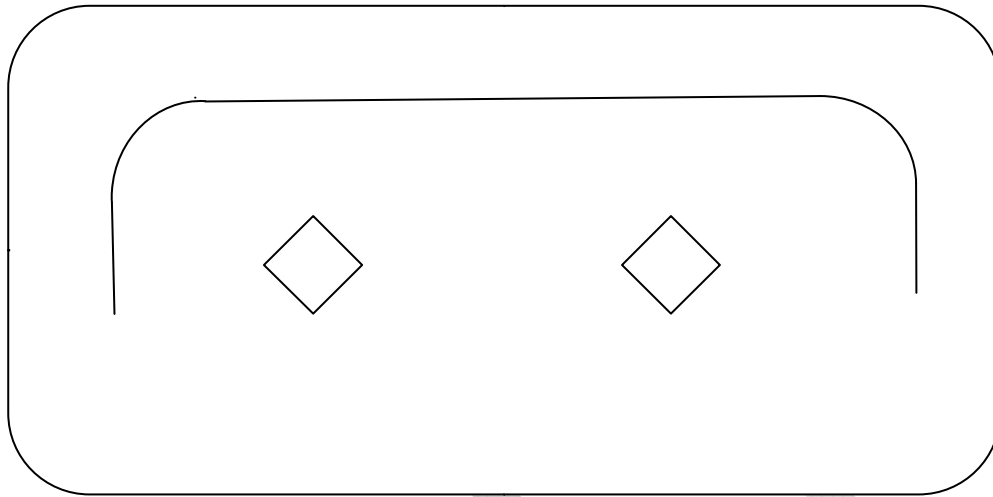
### 4) In hand Gait Assessment in indoor arena

The stallion will be required to stand for a visual inspection. When requested the handler will move the stallion in walk and then in trot in a triangle as shown.



### 5) Free Gait Assessment in jumping pen

The handler will enter the jumping pen and walk the stallion in a figure of eight around the two diamond-shaped markers and then safely release the stallion. The handler will stand quietly in one of the diamond-shaped areas and take no further part in handling the horse. The arena handlers will move the stallion in trot and canter. When the inspectors signal, the horse will be allowed to enter the jumping lane.



**Jumping Pen**

6) Free Athleticism/Jumping Assessment in jumping pen

Each stallion will be required to jump through the jumping lane at least four times, during which the dimensions of the obstacles will be adjusted and therefore the stallion should be fit enough to do so. The inspection panel may use its discretion as to the number of attempts they wish to view to assess each horse.

No hind boots may be worn by stallions during the jumping phase.

If, in the opinion of the panel, any horse is over prepared, they will not be allowed to continue with the assessment.

7) Veterinary (full clinical examination, including x-ray and wind examination)

Under the new breeding policy the veterinary procedure will be carried out in accordance with the current veterinary procedures and standards.

Stallions undergo a full five stage veterinary examination at the inspection by a Veterinary Surgeon appointed by Horse Sport Ireland.

All stallions will undergo an x-ray examination (as detailed on the next page) prior to the inspection process by a Veterinary Surgeon from the approved HSI panel.

The following x-ray views will be taken:

**RIGHT FORE** (shoe removed)

1. Lateromedial views of the phalanges - including coffin, pastern and fetlock joints **LM**
2. Dorso-palmar views of the phalanges - including coffin, pastern and fetlock joints **DP**
3. Dorso-palmar projection with the toe of the foot in a foot block and the dorsal hoof angle at 55 degrees to the horizontal **DPr55-PaDiO**
4. Dorso-palmar projection with the toe of the foot in a foot block and the dorsal hoof angle at 65 degrees to the horizontal **DPr65-PaDiO**

**LEFT FORE** (shoe removed)

5. Lateromedial views of the phalanges - including coffin, pastern and fetlock joints **LM**
6. Dorso-palmar views of the phalanges - including coffin, pastern and fetlock joints **DP**
7. Dorso-palmar projection with the toe of the foot in a foot block and the dorsal hoof angle at 55 degrees to the horizontal **DPr55-PaDiO**
8. Dorso-palmar projection with the toe of the foot in a foot block and the dorsal hoof angle at 65 degrees to the horizontal **DPr65-PaDiO**

**RIGHT STIFLE**

9. Lateromedial views including the patella, femoral trochlear ridges and femoral condyles **LM**

**LEFT STIFLE**

10. Lateromedial views including the patella, femoral trochlear ridges and femoral condyles **LM**

**RIGHT HOCK**

11. Lateromedial..... **LM**
12. Dorsolateral plantaromedial oblique ..... **DLPIMO**
13. Dorsomedial plantarolateral oblique ..... **DMPILO**

**LEFT HOCK**

14. Lateromedial ..... **LM**
15. Dorsolateral plantaromedial oblique ..... **DLPIMO**
16. Dorsomedial plantarolateral oblique ..... **DMPILO**

**RIGHT HIND FOOT**

17. Lateromedial (LM) including fetlock, pastern and coffin joints and the distal phalanx **LM**

**LEFT HIND FOOT**

18. Lateromedial (LM) including fetlock, pastern and coffin joints and the distal phalanx **LM**

Radiographs will be labelled with the stallion name, date of x-ray, and must identify right or left limb. Phalanges must be labelled fore or hind. The projections/views must be accurate. The definitions of bones, joints and soft tissue outlines should be clearly visible.

Endoscopic examination will be carried out on all stallions.

All stallions will be measured at the inspection and these measurements shall be regarded as official measurements for the purpose of stallion classification in the IHR. In instances where the measurements of a stallion are disputed, the owner shall have the option to appeal the IHR measurements at the University Veterinary Hospital at his/her own expense.

Blood samples will be taken on the day of inspection for testing for Equine Viral Arteritis (E.V.A.), Equine Infectious Anaemia (E.I.A.) and for the presence of drugs which could affect temperament and performance.

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**a) Irish Draught Stallion – Extra Merits**

Stallion Category	What does it mean? Stallion's own performance	Progeny Performance
<b>GOLD</b>	<p><b>Jumping:</b> A stallion that achieves four double clear rounds at 1.30m level under SJI rules.</p> <p><b>Dressage/Eventing/Driving:</b> Level equivalent.</p>	<p><b>Jumping:</b> A stallion that produces two distinctive progeny that achieve two double clear rounds at 1.30m level under SJI rules.</p> <p><b>Dressage/Eventing/Driving:</b> Level equivalent.</p> <p><b>In hand Showing:</b> A stallion that produces 5 distinctive progeny that achieve 1<sup>st</sup> in any showing class in the RDS, RUAS or any I.S.A. National Championships.</p> <p><b>Riding:</b> A stallion that produces 5 distinctive progeny that achieve 1<sup>st</sup> at RDS in any riding class or any other I.S.A. National Championships.</p>
<b>SILVER</b>	<p><b>Jumping:</b> A stallion that achieves four double clear rounds under SJI rules at 1.20m level.</p> <p><b>Dressage/Eventing/Driving:</b> Level equivalent.</p> <p><b>In hand Showing:</b> A stallion that achieves 1st three times in the ID stallion class in the RDS, RUAS or any I.S.A. National Championships.</p>	<p><b>Jumping:</b> A stallion that produces two distinctive progeny that achieve two double clear rounds under SJI rules at 1.20m level.</p> <p><b>Dressage/Eventing/Driving:</b> Level equivalent.</p> <p><b>In hand Showing:</b> A stallion that produces 3 distinctive progeny that achieve 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> in any showing class in the RDS, RUAS or any I.S.A. National Championships.</p> <p><b>Riding:</b> A stallion that produces 3 distinctive progeny that achieve 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> at RDS in any riding class or any I.S.A. National Championships.</p>
<b>BRONZE</b>	<p><b>Jumping:</b> A stallion that achieves two double clear rounds at 1.00m level under SJI rules.</p> <p><b>Dressage/Eventing/Driving:</b> Level equivalent.</p> <p><b>In hand Showing:</b> A stallion following approval that achieves 1<sup>st</sup> in any showing class in the RDS, RUAS or any I.S.A. National Championships.</p> <p><b>Riding:</b> A stallion that achieves 1<sup>st</sup> at RDS, RUAS in any riding class under I.S.A. rules or any other I.S.A. National Championships.</p>	<p><b>Jumping:</b> A stallion that produces two distinctive progeny that achieve two double clear rounds at 1.00m level under SJI rules.</p> <p><b>Dressage/Eventing/Driving:</b> Level equivalent.</p> <p><b>In hand Showing:</b> A stallion that produces two distinctive progeny that achieve 1<sup>st</sup> in any showing class in the RDS, RUAS or any other I.S.A. National Championships.</p> <p><b>Riding:</b> A stallion that produces two distinctive progeny that achieve 1<sup>st</sup> at RDS, RUAS in any riding class or any other I.S.A. National Championships.</p>

## **vi) HIS Irish Draught Mare Inspections**

Irish Draught mares over two years of age will be eligible to apply for inspection where they will be assessed on their pedigree, conformation and gaits. A clinical veterinary examination will be carried out on the mares. Mare owners can opt to submit x-rays (and endoscopic reports) for mares in order to receive extra merits for the mare. Conformation will be assessed using Linear Scoring and mare owners will be given a detailed description of their mare's conformational strengths and weaknesses which will be invaluable when making future breeding decisions.

The inspection will take place on one day and will include the following elements:

- 1) Pedigree Assessment
- 2) Conformation assessment using a Linear Scoring system
- 3) In hand Gait Assessment on a hard surface
- 4) In hand Gait Assessment in indoor arena
- 5) Free Gait Assessment in jumping pen/indoor
- 6) Free Athleticism/Jumping Assessment in jumping pen (Voluntary for extra merit to bronze level)
- 7) Veterinary (Clinical examination) (X-ray and Scoping – Voluntary)

- 1) Pedigree Assessment

The mare's pedigree will be assessed based on bloodlines and the performance/merits of those bloodlines back to three generations on both the sire and dam's line. The value of rare bloodlines will also be acknowledged.

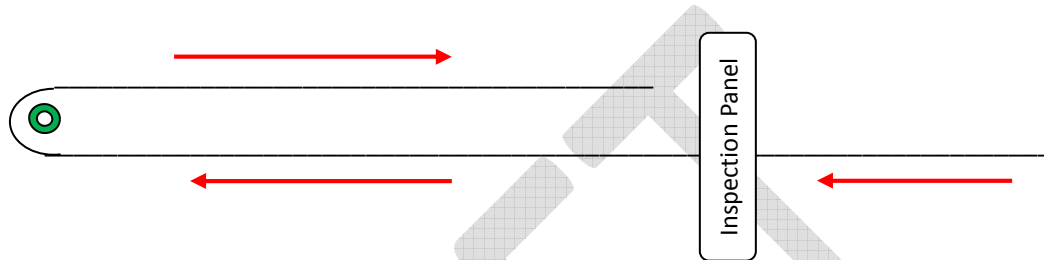
- 2) Linear Scoring

A linear scoring sheet describing conformation traits will be scored. The report sheet will provide breeders with a detailed 'description' of the conformation traits of their mare for the traits listed. This system of describing conformation will make it easier for mare owners to consider and ultimately select a stallion whose conformation strengths and weaknesses complement each of their individual mares' conformation strengths and weaknesses.



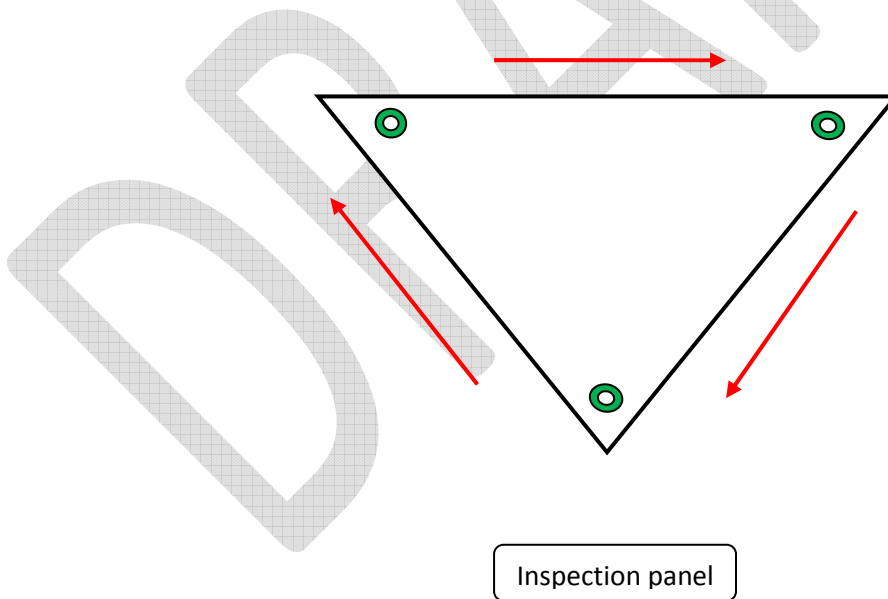
3) In hand Gait Assessment on a hard surface

On a hard surface the mare will be required to stand for a visual inspection. When requested, the handler will walk away from the inspection panel, around the marker and return to the panel. Then the handler will repeat the process in trot. However, in trot the mare should continue to trot past the inspection panel.



4) In hand Gait Assessment in indoor arena

The mare will be required to stand for a visual inspection. When requested the handler will move the mare in walk and then in trot in a triangle as shown.



5) Free Gait Assessment in jumping pen

The handler will enter the jumping pen and walk the mare in a figure of eight around the two diamond-shaped markers and then safely release the mare. The handler will stand quietly in one of the diamond-shaped areas and take no further part in handling the mare. The arena handlers will move the mare in trot and canter. When the inspectors signal, the mare will be allowed to enter the jumping lane.

6) Free Athleticism/Jumping Assessment in jumping pen (Voluntary for extra merit to bronze level)

Each mare will be required to jump through the jumping lane at least four times, during which the dimensions of the obstacles will be adjusted and therefore the mare should be fit enough to do so. The inspection panel may use its discretion as to the number of attempts they wish to view to assess each horse.

No hind boots may be worn by mares during the jumping phase.

If, in the opinion of the panel, any horse is over prepared, they will not be allowed to continue with the assessment.

7) Veterinary (Clinical examination) (X-ray and Scoping – Voluntary)

Mares will undergo a full five stage veterinary examination at the inspection by a Veterinary Surgeon appointed by HSI.

All mares will be measured at the inspection and these measurements shall be regarded as official measurements for the purpose of mare classification in the IHR. In instances where the measurements of a mare are disputed, the owner shall have the option to appeal the IHR measurements at the University Veterinary Hospital at his/her own expense.

## a) Irish Draught Mares – Additional Merits

Mare Category	What does it mean? Mare's own performance	Progeny Performance
<b>GOLD</b>	<p><b>Jumping:</b> A mare that achieves two double clear rounds at 1.20m level under SJI rules.</p> <p><b>Dressage/Eventing/Driving:</b> Level equivalent.</p> <p><b>In hand Showing:</b> A mare that wins three times at the broodmare championships at the RDS, RUAS or any I.S.A. National Championships.</p>	<p><b>Jumping:</b> A mare that produces 1 progeny or more that achieve two double clear rounds at 1.20m level under SJI rules.</p> <p><b>Dressage/Eventing/Driving:</b> Level equivalent.</p> <p><b>In hand Showing:</b> A mare that produces two distinctive progeny that achieve 1<sup>st</sup> in any showing class in the RDS, RUAS or any I.S.A. National Championships.</p>
<b>SILVER</b>	<p><b>Jumping:</b> A mare that achieves two double clear rounds at 1.10m level under SJI rules.</p> <p><b>Dressage/Eventing/Driving:</b> Level equivalent.</p> <p><b>In hand Showing:</b> A mare that wins the broodmare championships at the RDS, RUAS or any I.S.A. National Championships.</p>	<p><b>Jumping:</b> A mare that produces two progeny that achieve two double clear rounds at 1.10m level under SJI rules.</p> <p><b>Dressage/Eventing/Driving:</b> Level equivalent.</p> <p><b>In hand Showing:</b> A mare that produces two distinctive progeny that achieve 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> in any showing class in the RDS, RUAS or any I.S.A. National Championships.</p> <p><b>Riding:</b> A mare that produces two distinctive progeny that achieve 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> at RDS, RUAS in any riding class or any other I.S.A. National Championships.</p>
<b>BRONZE</b>	<p><b>Conformation &amp; Movement:</b> Mares that, on inspection, pass the clinical veterinary and achieve an above average score on conformation and movement (i.e. &gt; 70%) will receive a bronze merit. Also, mares that are already classified within the IHR as "Premier broodmares".</p> <p><b>Jumping:</b> A mare that achieves one clear double round at 1.00m level under SJI rules <u>OR</u> a mare that loose jumps under the HSI inspection process to 1.00m level.</p> <p><b>Dressage/Eventing/Driving:</b> Level equivalent.</p> <p><b>In hand Showing:</b> A mare that achieves 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> in any showing class in the RDS or 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> at RUAS or any I.S.A. National Championships.</p> <p><b>Riding:</b> A mare that achieves 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> at RDS, RUAS in any riding class under I.S.A. rules or any other I.S.A. National Championships.</p>	<p><b>Jumping:</b> A mare that produces two progeny that achieve two double clear rounds under SJI rules at 1.00m level.</p> <p><b>Dressage/Eventing/Driving:</b> Level equivalent.</p> <p><b>In hand Showing:</b> A mare that produces one progeny that achieves 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> in any showing class in the RDS, RUAS or any I.S.A. National Championships.</p> <p><b>Riding:</b> A mare that produces one progeny that achieves 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> at RDS, RUAS in any riding class or any other I.S.A. National Championships.</p>

"x-ray"	x-ray certificate sent to HSI / or x-ray film/disc
"Ins"	Presented in the formal HSI mare inspection.

**Additional Merits – Inspection and Health Traits**

"Ins" If a mare is brought forward for inspection she will have the merit "Ins" recorded in the studbook after her name, indicating that she has been presented in the formal HSI mare inspection.

"x-ray" There is no requirement for mares to undergo x-ray examination as part of the mare inspection process outlined above.  
 However, should a mare owner wish to have their mare x-rayed and the radiographs are examined by the HSI panel, if they are deemed to be an acceptable standard, the mare will receive an "x-ray" merit on her record.

"Wind" There is no requirement for mares to undergo a voluntary endoscopic examination as part of the mare inspection process outlined above.  
 However, should a mare owner wish to have their mare scoped by a vet on the HSI panel, the vet will submit the result to HSI and the mare will receive a "wind" merit on her record.

## **vii) Studbook Initiatives**

### **1. Training and Education**

#### **Inspectors**

A comprehensive training programme should be initiated by HSI for Irish Draught inspectors that will be carrying out the new mare and stallion inspections for the Irish Draught Horse Studbook. This should include a thorough understanding of the Linear Scoring system as it applies to the Irish Draught breed.

Training should also be provided for the arena party who will be responsible for the loose gaits and the loose jumping element of the inspection process.

#### **Breeder Education**

A brochure outlining the new breeding policy and requirements for the inspections under the new breeding policy should be developed and made available for mare owners and stallion owners. This should be followed up by an information evening, which would outline the new breeding policy and the inspection procedures.

Workshops / demonstrations should be provided for stallion and mare owners to familiarise them with the new inspection procedures.

Ongoing familiarisation programmes through breeders' groups should be provided to breeders on the use of new information e.g. Linear Scoring profiles and EBVs to enable breeders to make informed breeding decisions. Increased breeder education on the best use of breeding values and Linear Scoring profiles is considered crucial to the success of the breeding programme.

The Taskforce recommended that a Breeders' Week be held on an annual basis each year, at which time inspections, seminars and demonstrations would also take place.

### **2. Genetic Diversity**

It was recommended that ICBF (or other provider) should be contracted on an annual basis to produce a genetic relatedness report for each individual in the Irish Draught Horse Studbook.

It was further recommended that colts with good diversity values should be identified and flagged at birth.

Within the new HSI database it was suggested that if possible, a test mating module should be developed with an online calculator to examine genetic consequences of proposed matings e.g. inbreeding coefficient.

Identify stallions of particular interest (e.g. rare bloodlines) which can contribute to the breeding programme and collect and freeze semen from these horses.

Identify broodmares which do not carry any of the common bloodlines and inform their owners.

### **3. Studbook Harmonisation**

Following the report from the ID Breeding Policy Taskforce, it recommends that HSI contacts the other daughter Irish Draught Horse Studbooks in the UK, America and Canada etc., notifying them of the changes in the classification and encouraging them to harmonise their classification and inspection processes.

### **4. Research**

Evaluate the outcomes and value from breeding initiatives currently in place e.g. Irish Draught Colt Retention scheme.

Research should be carried out to identify what the key markets are for the Irish Draught breed and to ensure that the breeding objective is appropriate to meet the requirements of these markets.

### **5. Central Performance Testing**

The Taskforce believes that the Central Performance Testing of stallions has provided a very useful facility for breeders. It recommends that the provision of Central Performance Testing should be considered for the future.