

Sport Horse Foal Championship Information Note

Horse Sport Ireland is pleased to announce the details of an inaugural Sport Horse Foal Championship. The Championship will have a very generous prize fund of €30,000 and will aim to identify, evaluate and reward breeders who have bred a foal that has the potential to be competitive at the highest International level in the disciplines of Show Jumping or eventing.

There will be 6 Regional Championships with separate sections for potential Show Jumping foals and potential eventing foals. €4,000 in prize money will be on offer at each of the 6 Regional Championships where 4 foals will be selected for the Final; the best show jumping type colt and filly, and the best eventing type colt and filly.

Please Note: Foals are only permitted to enter one Regional Championship and must compete in the Region in which the owner resides.

Regional Championship	Venue	Date	Closing Date
Region 1 Wicklow, Louth, Kildare, Laois, Offaly, Meath, Westmeath, Dublin	Mullingar Equestrian Centre Athlone Road, Mullingar, Co Westmeath	18th July 2015	Friday 3rd July 2015 Entries directly to the show: info@mullingarequestrian.com or call Dorothy on 087 2488017.
Region 2 Tipperary, Wexford, Carlow, Kilkenny	Wexford Equestrian, Tomhaggard, Co. Wexford	12th July 2015	Monday 29th June 2015 Entries directly to the show: www.wexfordequestrian.ie or call 087-6613088
Region 3 Waterford, Kerry, Limerick, Cork	Newcastle West Show Castlemahon, Co. Limerick	19th July 2015	Friday 3rd July 2015 Entries directly to the show: Sharon.burke@live.ie Sharon Burke, Boherbui, Newcastlewest, Co. Limerick or call Donal Lynch on 087 2561813
Region 4 Mayo, Galway, Clare	Creagh Equestrian Centre, Ballinasloe, Galway	26th July 2015	Friday 10th July 2015 Entries directly to the show: creaghequestriancentre@gmail.com or call 087-2254227
Region 5 Donegal, Sligo, Leitrim, Cavan, Monaghan, Longford, Roscommon	Tubberbride Stables, Co. Sligo	19th July 2015	Friday 3rd July 2015 Entries directly to the show: noeleenkerins14@gmail.com or call 087-6712200
*Northern Ireland	The Meadows Equestrian Centre Lurgan, Co. Armagh	1st August 2015	Friday 17th July 2015 Entries directly to the show: www.themec.co.uk or call 0044 28 38322417

- Regional Championship will be funded by the Northern Ireland Horse Board (NIHB).

The Final of the Sport Horse Foal Championship will be held at Millstreet International Horse Show (11th-16th August 2015). A pot of €10,000 will be on offer for the Final where two Champions will be named, Champion Show Jumping foal and Champion Eventing foal. There will also be a special prize for the overall best traditionally-bred foal.

Criteria for entry

- Foals must also be registered in a studbook (pending DNA where this can be verified by the studbook is acceptable) that is a member of the WBFSH or Weatherbys and must be shown with their dams.
- Foals are only permitted to enter one Regional Championship and must compete in the Region in which the owner resides.
- Foals must be entered in either the Show Jumping Section **or** the Eventing Section. They **cannot** compete in both sections.
- The dam's passport should be available on the day of the regional for inspection.
- All foals must be a minimum of 6 weeks old to compete at the Final.
- All foals must be named in order to compete in the Final.

Classes

- All Classes must run on a pre-entry basis. Entries will be taken by the show/venue and will be required 2 weeks prior to the event.
- All rounds must be held a prominent arena at the show with a suitable surface to cope with adverse conditions with a suitable loose movement pen (20x40m) or an indoor arena which should be fenced off 20m by 40 m.
- Shows cannot schedule or hold other foal classes as part of the show;
- Entry fees should not exceed €40.

Please note foals need to be kept on their lead at the venues except when in the loose arena.

Prize Money

Regional Championships (€4,000 per venue)

	Show Jumping Colt	Show Jumping Filly	Eventing Colt	Eventing Filly
1st (Qualifies for Final)	€750	€750	€750	€750
2nd	€250	€250	€250	€250

Final (€10,000)

	Show Jumping Colt	Show Jumping Filly	Eventing Colt	Eventing Filly
1st	€1,500	€1,500	€1,500	€1,500
2nd	€500	€500	€500	€500

In addition €1,000 will be awarded to the best traditionally-bred foal and €1,000 towards prizes in kind, sashes etc.

Preparation

It is important for the foals to be well prepared for the classes. To practice for the championship it is wise that the foal has been familiarised with the headcollar and leading at a young age. During the events the foals may not have lost all of their foal hairs. The judges will only examine the quality of the foal and does not pay attention to colour or coat. During the classes a foal's health is more important than show condition coat.

These classes are not traditional show foal classes, they are for potential performance animals. Any evidence of foals having been over-fed or pushed to grow and develop unnaturally, which could be detrimental for their future bone development and general wellbeing will be penalised.

Evaluation

Foals will be presented to the judges accompanied by their dam. During the individual presentation the foal is positioned in front of the judges with a halter, in order to evaluate its posture and conformation. The mare will be kept at hand during the foals movement evaluation. The foal can then be judged freely on walk, trot and canter as indicated by the judges. When all the foals are evaluated, the judges will announce the Regional Champion and the Reserve. The judges will describe the positive attributes of the foals to the audience and provide an assessment as to whether they think the foal is Eventer type or Show jumper type.

Judging Criteria:

There will be two judges for each category of Show jumping and Eventing.

Foals will be judged according to the following criteria.

1. Performance Pedigree
2. Functional conformation
3. Walk
4. Trot
5. Canter
6. Overall athleticism and balance

Scoring will be judged out of 100 and will be based on the following traits:

	Show Jumping Section	Eventing Section
Performance Pedigree	30	25
Functional conformation	15	20
Walk	10	10
Trot	10	15
Canter	15	10
Overall athleticism and balance	20	20

System for Evaluating Pedigree

Performance pedigree will be assessed by the studbook prior to the class. Points for pedigree will be based on the ISH Star Rating system, including 3 generations on the dam line. Information relating to the % Thoroughbred and Estimated Breeding Values (EBVs) will also be provided to the judges at the final.

Maximum Points for:	Show Jumping Pedigree Points	Eventing Pedigree Points
Sire	10	5
Dam	10	10
Maternal Grandsire	5	5
maternal granddam or maternal great granddam	5 (maternal granddam) Or 2.5 (maternal great granddam)	5 (maternal granddam) Or 2.5 (maternal great granddam)
Maximum Points Available	30	25

The points awarded for each of these ancestors will be based on the individuals ancestor's own performance or its progeny's performance component of the star rating criteria, whichever is highest.

For example a foal whose dam is eligible for a 4 star rating for her own Show Jumping performance and a 3 star rating for her progeny's Show Jumping performance will be considered to be a 4 star mare out of an available 5 stars. Her foal will receive 4/5 of the 10 points for this dam = 8 points (see breakdown of points below).

Where 10 pedigree points are available for an ancestor (i.e. the dam and the sire in the case of Show Jumping foals) they will be awarded as follows:

Star Rating	No Points Awarded
5	10
4	8
3	6
2	4
1	2

Where 5 pedigree points are available for an ancestor (i.e. the sire in the case of Eventing foals and the maternal grandsire/granddam) they will be awarded as follows:

Star Rating	No Points Awarded
5	5
4	4
3	3
2	2
1	1

Where 2.5 pedigree points are available for an ancestor (i.e. the maternal great granddam) they will be awarded as follows:

Star Rating	No Points Awarded
5	2.5

4	2
3	1.5
2	1
1	0.5

ENDS.