

## 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 showjumping 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.

Region	Venue	Date
Region 1 Wicklow, Louth, Kildare, Laois, Offaly, Meath, Westmeath, Dublin	Mullingar Equestrian Centre Athlone Road, Mullingar, Co Westmeath*	18th July 2015
Entries directly to the show: <a href="http://www.mullingarequestrian.com">www.mullingarequestrian.com</a>		
Region 2 Tipperary, Wexford, Carlow, Kilkenny	Wexford Equestrian, Tomhaggard, Co. Wexford *	12th July 2015
*Entries directly to the show: <a href="http://www.wexfordequestrian.ie">www.wexfordequestrian.ie</a> or call 087-6613088		
Region 3 Waterford, Kerry, Limerick, Cork	Newcastle West Show, Castlemahon, Co. Limerick*	19th July 2015
*Entries directly to the show:		
Region 4 Mayo, Galway, Clare	Creagh Equestrian Centre, Ballinasloe, Galway*	26th July 2015
*Entries directly to the show: <a href="mailto:creaghequestriancentre@gmail.com">creaghequestriancentre@gmail.com</a> or call 087-2254227		
Region 5 Donegal, Sligo, Leitrim, Cavan, Monaghan, Longford, Roscommon	Tubberbride Stables, Co. Sligo*	19 <sup>th</sup> July 2015
*Entries directly to the show: <a href="mailto:noeleenkerins14@gmail.com">noeleenkerins14@gmail.com</a> or call 087-6712200		
●Northern Ireland	The Meadows Equestrian Centre Lurgan, Co Armagh*	1st August 2015
*Entries directly to the show: <a href="http://www.themec.co.uk">www.themec.co.uk</a> 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 be registered in a studbook that is a member of the WBFSH or Weatherbys and must have a registration number available and microchip implanted on the day of the qualifier. Microchips will be checked and scanned on the day.
- 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.
- 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 with rounded corners.
- Shows cannot schedule or hold other foal classes as part of the show;
- Entry fees should not exceed €40.

## Competitors

- Foals must be lead to and from the arena, and only turned loose when requested to do so by the judges.
- The judge's decision as announced is for the qualifiers and Championship is final, the only exception is where the pedigree of the foal is not subsequently confirmed by DNA.
- Pedigree points allocation are based on the information provided by the owner on the completed entry form and these points allocated in the qualifier will not change retrospectively for the qualifier, but they may be updated for the final should additional information be forthcoming.
- Foals must be registered & microchipped for the qualifiers and must provide their passport for the final. Prize money will only be provided after pedigree confirmed by DNA and passport details are verified.

## 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
2 <sup>nd</sup>	€250	€250	€250	€250

### Final (€10,000)

	<b>Showjumping Colt</b>	<b>Showjumping Filly</b>	<b>Eventing Colt</b>	<b>Eventing Filly</b>
<b>1st</b>	€1,500	€1,500	€1,500	€1,500
<b>2<sup>nd</sup></b>	€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. Completely shaving the foals is not recommended, because shaved foals are more likely to get a cold when they are outside in bad weather.

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:

	<b>Showjumping Section</b>	<b>Eventing Section</b>
<b>Performance Pedigree</b>	30	25
<b>Functional conformation</b>	15	20
<b>Walk</b>	10	10
<b>Trot</b>	10	15
<b>Canter</b>	15	10
<b>Overall athleticism and balance</b>	20	20

The judge's decision is final.

### 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.

Maximum Points for:	Showjumping Pedigree Points	Eventing Pedigree Points
Sire	10	5
Dam	10	10
Maternal Grandsire	5	5
maternal granddam or maternal great granddam	5 (maternal granddam) <i>Or</i> 2.5 (maternal great granddam)	5 (maternal granddam) <i>Or</i> 2.5 (maternal great granddam)
<b>Maximum Points Available</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>25</b>

The points awarded for each of these ancestors will be based on the individual's 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 showjumping performance and a 3 star rating for her progeny's showjumping 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 Showjumping 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.