

Proposed Irish Sport Horse Stallion and Mare Inspection Review Process.

Irish Sport Horse Stallion selection process.

1. Eligibility for Selection process:

The Stallion must be eligible for classification and/or registration in the Irish Sport Horse Studbook.

2. Classification process:

a) Veterinary examination: (to enter the “Vetted” class)

Must meet the full veterinary examination including x-rays and wind soundness at one of the 4 approved centres (i.e. meet current veterinary requirements as outlined for stallions)

b) Conformation, Movement and Athleticism: (to enter the “Licensed” Class). Evaluation of conformation and movement traits through Linear Profiling (and upper beam) will be carried out regionally by selectors from HSI panel.

Stallions that meet conformation and movement above will be required to demonstrate athleticism (loose jump/ridden) on the day of the HSI Stallion parade. Older stallions can complete this assessment under saddle. Stallions that do not meet the conformation, movement and athleticism requirements will remain in the ‘Vetted’ class.

c) Performance and Progeny requirements (to enter “Approved” Class).

Stallions that have already met the licensed criteria and:

- Own Performance in competition (4 double clears at 1.40m) **OR**
- Performance of progeny in competition (2 Progeny with 4 double clears at 1.40m) **OR**
- Progeny performance in specified young horse classes **OR**
- produce 40 progeny and a minimum of 2 licensed stallion progeny, and

Pedigree assessment.

The pedigree of Sport Horse Stallions and Mares will be assessed through the Validated Pedigree Report on application for selections.

3. Classification titles:

Irish Sport Horse born Stallions	
Approved	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stallions that have already met the licensed criteria. <p>And</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Own Performance in competition (4 double clears at 1.40m) OR• Performance of progeny in competition (2 Progeny with 4 double clears at 1.40m). OR• Progeny performance in specified young horse classes OR• Produce 40 progeny and a minimum of 2 licensed stallion progeny
Licensed	Stallions that meet the veterinary, conformation, movement and athleticism minimum requirements through public selection and have a VPR*
Vetted	Stallions that have met the veterinary requirements but have not met the other inspection requirements for Licensed.
Not Licensed	Stallions that do not meet the Veterinary Requirements
Entry	Stallions Eligible for entry into ISH studbook

* VPR – Validated pedigree report which includes three generations of pedigree and performance information.

Please note: Animals that have met the veterinary and any but not all elements of conformation, movement or athleticism, will remain in the “Vetted” class, until all other elements are met.

- The horses currently classified as “Preliminary Approved” do not easily fit into the above proposal, and will require further consideration.

- **Thoroughbred Stallions.**

In this proposal, it is assumed that **Thoroughbred Stallions** will be treated as outlined under the selection process above. However, to meet the Approved criteria TB stallion must meet the following:

TB Stallions that have already met the Licensed criteria **AND**

- Own Performance in competition (4 double clears at 1.20m) **OR**
- Performance of progeny in competition (2 Progeny with 4 double clears at 1.30m) **OR**
- Produce 30 progeny and a minimum of 2 licensed stallion progeny

TB Timeform stallions will now require to meet the veterinary requirements and have a linear profile completed by HSI inspectors as proposed to the HSI Breeding Sub Board recently.

- **Foreign Horses.**

For top Continental sires that do not physically go through the HSI selection process but have high performance or high performance progeny and are approved in specified studbooks (KWPN, Hannoverian Verband, Holsteiner Verband, Selle Francais, Swedish Warmblood, Belgian Warmblood, Danish Warmblood, Verband der zuchter des Oldenburger Pferdes, Zangersheide or Westphalian Studbook) need to be classified differently to Approved. The criteria for ‘Approved’ and ‘Recognised’ are different and this proposal is recommending that “Recognised” class, is a concept and title that understood already and is used in other world leading studbooks.

Irish Sport Horse Mare Selection process.

1. Eligibility for selection:

Must be eligible for classification and/or endorsed in the Irish Sport Horse Studbook.

2. Classification process:

a) Veterinary examination:

Mares will undergo a veterinary examination (current mare criteria) carried out by owners choice of vet from the HSI Veterinary Panel regionally/groups or at home. The panel will be established, in consultation with the HSI veterinary advisory committee.

b) Optional linear profiling of conformation and movement will be carried out by an inspector from HSI panel.

3. Classification titles:

Irish Sport Horse born Mares	
Elite	Mares that meet the 3* criteria (see Appendix 2) performance or progeny requirement and have a VPR*
Select	Mares that meet the veterinary requirements and have a upper beam score completed by the veterinary practitioner and have a VPR*
Entry	Mares eligible for entry into ISH studbook

* VPR – Validated pedigree report which includes three generations of pedigree and performance information. **Appendix 1** Inspection Working Group Upper beam scoring system. **Appendix 2** Three star ratings.

Proposed Irish Draught Horse Stallion and Mare Inspection Process.

Irish Draught Horse Stallion Selection Process.

1. Eligibility for Selection:

Must be eligible for entry to and registered in the Irish Draught studbook.
To qualify for entry into the main section of the Irish Draught Horse Studbook an animal must: Be descended from parents that are entered in the main section of the studbook and have a pedigree established according to the rules of the studbook.

Under this proposal, all colts, out of or by Class 1, Class 2, Class 4 animals are eligible for selection for the next 5 years.

2. Classification process:

- a) **Veterinary examination: (for entry into the ‘Vetted’ class)**
 - a. Must meet the full veterinary examination including x-rays and wind soundness at approved centre (meet current veterinary requirements for stallions)
- b) **Conformation and Movement. (for entry into the ‘Vetted’ class)** Evaluation of these traits through Linear Profiling will be carried out regionally by inspectors from HSI panel.

4. Classification titles:

Irish Draught Horse Stallions	
Class 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stallions that meet the veterinary, conformation, movement requirements and have a VPR*. And <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stallions that produce 20 progeny and a minimum of 1 licensed stallion progeny.
Vetted	Stallions that have met the veterinary requirements but have been assessed for conformation and movement but have not met the other selection requirements for ‘Class 1’
Not Licensed	Stallions that do not meet the Veterinary Requirements
Entry	Stallions Eligible for entry into ID studbook

* VPR – Validated pedigree report which includes three generations of pedigree and performance information.

Note: Athleticism is optional under this proposal. Stallions that meet points 2a and 2b above will be invited to demonstrate athleticism (loose jump/ridden) on the day of the HSI Stallion parade but it is not a requirement to become Licensed/Approved as outlined above. Older stallions can complete this assessment under saddle if the owner wishes.

Class 2 Stallions: Those stallions that are currently Class 2 will remain so, and the term “Class 2” will become a historic classification. New stallions that meet the veterinary requirements will be termed “Vetted”

Irish Draught Horse Mare Classification Proposal:

1. Eligibility for selection:

Must be eligible for entry to and registered in the Irish Draught studbook.

To qualify for entry into the main section of the Irish Draught Horse Studbook an animal must: Be descended from parents that are entered in the main section of the studbook and have a pedigree established according to the rules of the studbook.

All fillies, out of or by Class, 1, Class 2 or Class 4 animals, are eligible for selection.

2. Classification process:

a) Veterinary examination:

Mares/geldings will undergo a veterinary examination and upper beam carried out by the HSI Veterinary Panel regionally or at home. Panel to be established.

b) Optional Linear profiling of conformation and movement will be carried out by an inspector from HSI panel.

Classification titles:

Irish Draught Horse Mares/geldings	
Class 1	Mares/geldings that meet the veterinary requirements and upper beam scoring system have a VPR*.
Not Licensed	Mares/geldings that do not meet the Veterinary Requirements
Entry	Mares/geldings eligible for entry into ID studbook

* VPR – Validated pedigree report. **Appendix 1** Inspection Working Group Upper beam scoring system.

This document has been prepared as a draft working document for the Breeding Sub Board of HSI to aide decision making, in relation to the Selection and Classification procedures.

Other Points/issues that need to be considered/addressed prior to implementation.

1. The changes outlined above will require changes to the current Classification system.
2. The changes outlined above will also require changes to the Rules in both studbooks. When the new rules are drafted, in accordance with EU legislation, it may take a number of weeks to have them approved by DAFM.
3. Any such approved rule changes would need to be outlined and discussed with our three daughter studbooks in the case of the Irish Draught breed. This is normally dealt with through a meeting, with the daughter studbooks in the case of the Irish Draught breed. Under the legislation HSI is required to: *Article 1; “The organisation or association which maintains the stud-book of the origin of the breed must ensure close collaboration with the organisation and associations which maintain stud-books or sections of a stud-book of the same breed, particularly with a view to preventing any dispute.”*

Appendix 1. Upper beam scoring system previously outlined in the Inspections Working Group Report, Chaired by Dr Jack Murphy in 2014.

Update the Upper Beam to an Information Notes system

Method: Simplify and improve the Upper Beam scorecard for assessing and evaluating the horse's traits and characteristics with a view to having a simple easy-to-read 'scorecard' for each individual horse.

Background and rationale: The IWG discussed the potential for discrepancies between the linear profile and the descriptive comments as there is evidence of mis-alignments within the current system for at least some of the stallions inspected during 2014. The IWG propose to replace the current 'upper beam' scores with a revised scoring system, which identifies 10 traits that are each then scored out of 10 as a mechanism to simplify the process for breeders. The proposed scoring system also employs a 'note' aspect which simply identifies the basis for the attributed score. The LP should help to define the basis for attributed scores further in more detail.

The IWG also recommend that inspectors no longer provide a comment as part of the inspection process as the new scoring system will immediately provide the details numerically – and further interpretation will be possible from analysis of the Linear Profile output for each animals. This system is to undergo continual review.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	73
7	7	8	8	9	7	6	8	6	7	

Obviously it will be necessary to install minimum values or Threshold Scores for Approved status.

- An example might be that the stallion requires a minimum score of 73 overall (73%) where all 10 traits were assessed. And compensation permitted with only one score of 6 (sufficient) among the scores.
- However, in the case of Private inspections for TB stallions, the athleticism trait might not actually be scored and therefore a score of 66 overall (73%) from the nine traits measured with the same compensation measure (only one 6) to apply.
- This system will require trialling and calibration and final decisions on minimum thresholds values and compensation scores prior to the actual Inspection in 2015.

Note: The Likert Scale reflects the overall population measure and obviously stallions selected for breeding purposes should score at the upper end of this scale – generally more than sufficient (7s) and above in all traits.

The proposed list of traits and scale of assessment is shown below.

Standard List Traits:	Likert Scale:	Alternative List Traits:
(a) pedigree	0 No Assessment	(a) pedigree
(b) type	1 Very bad	(b) type and top-line
(c) top-line	2 Bad	(c) forelegs
(d) forelegs	3 Fairly bad	(d) hind legs
(e) hind legs	4 Clearly insufficient	(e) walk
(f) walk	5 Insufficient	(f) trot
(g) trot	6 Sufficient	(g) canter
(h) canter	7 More than sufficient	(h) elasticity
(i) elasticity	8 Good	(i) power, technique & scope
(j) athleticism	9 Very good	(j) athleticism
	10 Excellent	

Note: The trait 'type' refers to what would be decided as the ideal or optimal ISH type (standard) or model of horse that is desired – in other words the "Benchmark Animal" and a degree of tolerance around this ideal. In the case of assessing the stallions (or mares) the Inspectors would attempt to assess just how close the individual animal under scrutiny comes to that ideal standard and/or is likely to contribute to or influence this standard in future progeny as a breeding animal. Two List Traits are included for discussion: the Alternative List Traits applies a slightly greater weighting to performance measures particularly around the kinematics of jumping.

Appendix 2. Irish Sport Horse Mare Star ratings for select 3* mares.

Rating Type	3*
Mare performance – Showjumping	2 double clear rounds at National 1.30m level ⁵ or higher
Mare performance – Eventing	2 Top 25% finishes at CCI 1*/CCI2* level ¹³ or 2 Top 10% finishes at CNC2* level or higher
Mare performance – Dressage	2 placings at National Advanced level with a score of 65% or higher
Mare performance – Endurance	2 completions at 32 km level or higher