



Colt Retention Scheme 2025

Horse Sport Ireland (HSI) are delighted to reintroduce a colt retention scheme for breeders/owners of young colts aged 2 years old who wish to go forwards for studbook inspection. This scheme is funded by the Department of Agriculture, Food, and the Marine (DAFM) under National Breeding Services. The scheme is open to colts who are registered in a DAFM approved studbook or are listed as bred in Ireland in their passport and registered in a studbook and meet the specific requirements outlined below.

Breeders/owners will have the opportunity to apply to participate in the colt retention scheme by completing an online application. Successful applicants are eligible to receive up to €2000 towards the retention costs of the colt over a 3-month period. Please see the table below for relevant deadlines.

Ponies are also eligible to receive funding under the scheme but must also meet the criteria and be registered/endorsed in a DAFM Approved Pony Studbook.

This scheme has two main objectives:

1. To encourage owners and breeders to retain and breed from colts which are of high genetic merit or descended from rare bloodlines.
2. To identify potential breeding colts in advance of studbook inspection and support their breeders/owners to retain them for future studbook selection.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Closing	Deadline for submission of receipts
01/05/2025	29/08/2025

- Applicants must submit proof (screenshot) of their 2024 Equine census submission as part of the application process. Applications are not valid without proof of same.
- Colts must meet the following eligibility criteria:
 - They must be DAFM studbook registered/WBFSH studbook registered **and** Irish bred.
 - The sires must be Approved/Recognised in DAFM/WBFSH Approved studbook **OR** be Class 1 and deemed Rare for native/rare breeds.
 - Rare Breed Colts must be by sires with no other approved stallion sons in Ireland and have less than 3 full siblings.
 - OR**
 - The colt must have a dam or a sister (dam line) competing up to 3* or EBV >130.
- Owners must submit a veterinary letter confirming the colt is entire.
- Applicants must be the registered owner of the animal at the point of application and must be residing on the island of Ireland.
- For inclusion of equines registered in dual ownership, permission in written or email correspondence must be received by HSI from the non-applicant owner. Scheme approval/payment of prize funds will not occur in the absence of this written or email permission.



- Applicants may apply for up to two colts.
- A hair sample from the colt must be submitted for genotyping.
- Owners of approved colts must release permission to the colts genotype (if not existing in HSI) for the purposes of research into traits and breed improvement.
- Receipted expenses for the retention costs of the colt must be submitted to HSI before the **29th August 2025.**
- Eligible expenses may include but are not limited to:
 - Grass livery
 - Feed (concentrates)
 - Dentistry/farrier/veterinary
 - Handling training
- Payment will not be issued until receipt of valid copy of the invoices, receipts and video evidence of the colt leading up in-hand.
- Equine census must be submitted
- All applications must be completed online.
- This scheme will operate on a first come first served basis up to the maximum allocation facilitated by the existing budget allocation. Horse Sport Ireland reserves the right to close the scheme ahead of the advertised deadline.
- Ownership of the animal cannot be changed between family members for the purpose of entering the scheme.
- Horse Sport Ireland reserve the right to change, amend or update scheme terms and conditions. In the event of same, existing applicants will be notified.
- Horse Sport Ireland reserves the right to use performance equivalents and will consider breeding values from other studbooks on a case-by-case basis.
- Horse Sport Ireland reserves the right to reject any application.
- Incomplete applications will not be assessed, the onus is on the applicant to provide HSI with all the required detail and evidence of verified performance/classification.
- Horse Sport Ireland will provide the results of this scheme, where relevant, to the studbook of origin of the equine in question.
- If the colt is kept at livery:
 - The applicants must be satisfied as to the skills, knowledge, experience and facilities of their selected keeper to care for their horse appropriately.
 - The applicant and keeper are responsible for all insurance costs and liability for both horse and producer i.e., to cover any personal accident/injury and or horse accident/injury. Horse Sport Ireland will not be liable for any damages or losses incurred by applicants or producers during the training period.
 - Horse Sport Ireland will not be party to any contracts or agreements entered or between breeders/owners and producers.
 - Horse Sport Ireland will have no role to play in the event of any disputes between breeders/owners and producers arising from participation in this scheme.
- The video must show the colt Leading well in walk and trot and will obediently halt and move backwards when gentle pressure is applied.



- Applicants must be prepared to provide Horse Sport Ireland with a Tax clearance certificate should the sum of their approvals and or prize money equal €10,000 or more. If a tax clearance cert cannot be furnished on request, grants cannot be provided.
[CLICK HERE FOR INFORMATION ON HOW TO APPLY.](#)
- I confirm that I have reviewed Horse Sport Ireland's Data Protection and Privacy policies (available at www.horsesportireland.ie or on request) and I note that HSI only process personal data for legitimate business purposes and/or where required by law. All processing will have due regard to the DPA 2018 and GDPR 2016. I note that this personal data may include sensitive personal data, as defined within the DPA and GDPR, the processing of which requires my explicit consent. I note that HSI and selected/approved veterinary clinics will honour the rights and freedoms of the data subjects at all times, as long as there is no other overriding law which limits those privileges.

By signing this form, I declare that:

- I understand and agree to the terms and conditions of this scheme in their totality
- I provide my informed consent to participate in this scheme
- I understand HSI retain ownership of all data accrued under this scheme
- I understand and provide consent for my equines' anonymised data to be used for research purposes, including but not limited to scientific publication
- I understand that HSI will publish a list of awardees (forename, surname, county and equine name) on the HSI website
- I understand that drawdown of funding is subject to the completion of scheme feedback.
- I understand and provide consent for my equine's data to be used for research and studbook purposes, including but not limited to publication
- I understand that if I do not adhere to the scheme's terms and conditions, I will not receive funding.



Appendix 1. Mare star rating performance classifications

Irish Sport Horse Mares				
Minimum Performances Required for each Rating Level				
Rating Type	5*	4*	3*	2*
Mare performance – Showjumping	2 double clear rounds at CSI/CSIO 4* level (Grand Prix or Nations' Cup class or equivalent ²) or higher	2 of the following: Double clear rounds at CSI/CSIO3* level ⁶ or Double clear rounds in FEI competitions at a fence height of at least 1.45m at CSI/CSIO level or Top 4 placings in FEI speed classes at a fence height of at least 1.45m at CSI/CSIO level or higher	2 double clear rounds at National 1.30m level ⁵ or higher	Be entered in Select class and Jump 4 double clear rounds at National 1.20m level ⁷ or higher
Mare performance – Eventing	2 MERs ¹⁵ at: CCI 3* level ¹¹ up to 2018 or CCI4*-L level from 2019 or higher	2 MERs ¹⁵ at: EI120 level or CIC3* level up to 2018 or CCI4*-S level from 2019 or higher	2 of the following: Top 25% finishes at CCI 1* level ¹³ up to 2018 or Top 25% finishes at CCI 2* level ¹³ up to 2018 or Top 25% finishes at CCI2*-L level ¹³ from 2019 or Top 25% finishes at CCI3*-L level ¹³ from 2019 or Top 10% finishes at EI115 level or Top 10% finishes at CIC2* level up to 2018 or Top 10% finishes at CCI3*-S level from 2019 or higher	Be entered in Select class and have 2 of the following: Top 10% finishes at CIC 1* level up to 2018 or Top 10% finishes at CCI2*-S level from 2019 or higher
Mare performance – Dressage	2 placings at CDI/CDIO4*level (big tour or equivalent) with a score of 65% or higher	2 placings at CDI/CDIO3*level (big tour or equivalent) with a score of 65% or higher	2 placings at National Advanced level with a score of 65% or higher	Be entered in Select class and have 2 placings at National Medium level with a score of 65% or higher



Irish Sport Horse Mares				
Minimum Performances Required for each Rating Level				
Rating Type	5*	4*	3*	2*
Mare progeny – Showjumping	1 progeny with 2 of the following: Double clear rounds at CSI/CSIO 3* level ⁶ or Double clear rounds in FEI competitions at a fence height of at least 1.45m at CSI/CSIO level or Top 4 placings in FEI speed classes at a fence height of at least 1.45m at CSI/CSIO level or higher	2 progeny with 2 of the following: Double clear rounds at CSI/CSIO 2* level ⁹ or Double clear rounds in FEI competitions at a fence height of at least 1.40m at CSI/CSIO level or Top 4 placings in FEI speed classes at a fence height of at least 1.40m at CSI/CSIO level or Double clear rounds at National 1.45m level ³ or higher	2 progeny with 2 double clear rounds at National 1.30m level ⁵ or higher	Be entered in Select class and have 2 progeny with 2 double clear rounds at National 1.20m level ⁷ or higher
Mare progeny – Eventing	1 progeny with 2 MERs ¹⁵ at: EI120 level or CIC3* level up to 2018 or CCI4*-S level from 2019 or higher	2 progeny each with 2 of the following: Top 25% finishes at CCI 2* level ¹² up to 2018 or Top 25% finishes at CCI3*-L level from 2019 or higher	2 progeny each with 2 of the following: Top 25% finishes at CCI 1* level ¹³ up to 2018 or Top 25% finishes at CCI2*-L level from 2019 or Top 10% finishes at EI115 level or Top 10% finishes at CIC2* level up to 2018 or Top 10% finishes at CCI3*-S level from 2019 or higher	Be entered in Select class and have 2 progeny each with 2 of the following: Top 10% finishes at CIC1* level up to 2018 or Top 10% finishes at CCI2*-S level from 2109 or higher
Mare progeny – Dressage	1 progeny with 2 placings at CDI/CDIO3* level (big tour or equivalent) with a score of 65% or higher	2 progeny each with 2 placings at CDI2* level (big tour or equivalent) with a score of 65% or higher	2 progeny each with 2 placings at National Advanced level with a score of 65% or higher	Be entered in Select class and have 2 progeny each with 2 placings at National Medium level with a score of 65% or higher