



**HORSE SPORT  
IRELAND**

## Irish Draught Horse Studbook Mare Selections Procedures and Guidelines



An Roinn Talmhaíochta,  
Bia agus Mara  
Department of Agriculture,  
Food and the Marine

### Applications

Application forms for mare selections are available on the HSI website. **Closing date for receipt of applications is TWO working weeks prior to the inspection dates:**

- Completed and signed online application form and accompanying documentation if necessary (naming, change of ownership, import notification forms);
- Relevant Selection Fee (**€85**). (€130 late application fee).

Incomplete entries will not be accepted. **Applications must be made online.** No paper applications will be accepted.

All mares must be named prior to selection. In instances where the mare is unnamed you should submit the passport and a naming application with the appropriate fee immediately to Horse Sport Ireland. Naming applications are available online at [horsesource.ie](https://horsesource.ie)

Following the receipt of completed applications HSI will contact mare owners via email with the details of the selection and a schedule of events.



### Duration of Selections

Mare selections are completed in one day. Selections will be carried out at venues during March/April and August/September 2025.

### Check In

All owners must report to a HSI representative upon arrival at the centre in order to check in. At this time, all owners must present the mare(s) passport and collect entry numbers for each mare.

The entry numbers provided by HSI must be used at all times during the selection.

Entrants must ensure they reach the selection site in plenty of time in order to check in their mare(s).

Please note mares that have not been checked in cannot be presented at the first stage of the selection

### Presentation

All mares are expected to be presented at show standard and must be sufficiently trained and fit to take part in all aspects of the selection. The mare should be in good condition, be well groomed and have well maintained hooves. Preferably mares' manes should be plaited, or at least be pulled and neat.

Each mare must be presented in a correctly fitted bridle.

If there is a foal present with the mare a leather head collar and canvas or leather lead should be used.

Handlers are required to dress neatly. Suitable protective footwear must be worn in order to present the animal correctly. In the case where an owner has more than one horse on the premises, sufficient handlers must be on site to cater for each animal. All handlers must be dressed appropriately.

### Selection Panel

The selection panel will consist of two inspectors. One linear score sheet and a set of overall scores will be produced from the inspector's collective deliberations.



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### Irish Draught Mare Selection Process

Mares aged 3 years and older will be given the opportunity to loose jump in order to have their athleticism assessed for an additional merit.

The selection will take place over one day and will include the following elements:

1. Pedigree assessment
2. Veterinary Examination
3. Conformation assessment
4. In hand Gait Assessment in an indoor arena
5. Free Gait Assessment
6. Free Athleticism/Jumping Assessment in jumping pen (Optional)

#### 1. Pedigree Assessment

Genetic Diversity with mean kinship statistics which clearly identify genetically diverse horses will be provided to the selectors.

#### 2. Veterinary Examination

On arrival to the veterinary examination the identification of the mare will be checked by comparing the mare's markings to the markings on its passport. The mare will also be scanned to confirm its microchip number.

At the selection mares will undergo a veterinary examination by Veterinary Surgeons appointed by Horse Sport Ireland. The examination will consist of the following:

##### Stage 1. Preliminary examination:

This includes height & bone measurement of all mares. The Preliminary Examination involves overall visual and palpable observations of the animal presented. The heart and lungs are auscultated at rest.

##### Stage 2. Gait assessment & Trotting up:

This includes co-ordination testing such as tight circling and reversing, trotting on loosened rein.

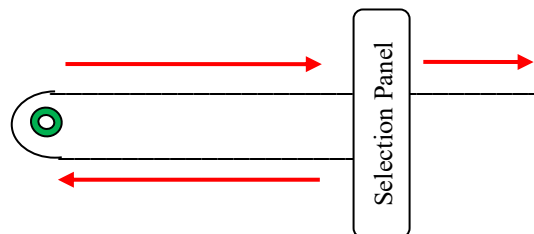
The measurements taken at the veterinary examination will be considered to be the official measurements of the mare for classification and studbook purposes.

Blood samples may be taken on the day of selection and may be subject to screening for substances listed on the FEI 'Equine Prohibited Substances List' (see [www.feicleansport.org](http://www.feicleansport.org))

### 3. Conformation Assessment

Handlers must present mares to the inspectors in the indoor arena for their conformation assessment using linear profiling. Mares must be able to stand correctly and quietly in order for the inspectors to make their assessment. No boots or leg wraps of any description are permitted at this stage of selection.

The linear score sheet for Irish Draught Horse selections contain 45 characteristics, covering conformation, movement and athleticism traits (see attached 'Sample Linear Profiling Sheet').



### 4. In Hand Gait Assessment in the Indoor Arena

In the indoor arena mares will be required to stand for a visual selection. The animal must stand side view to the selection panel to facilitate the visual assessment.

When requested the handler will move the mare in walk and then in trot.

The handler must always lead from the left side of the horse. Overuse of the whip is not permitted, the animal should be trained to show correctly.

### 5. Free Gait Assessment

Handlers are requested to safely release the mare and stand in one of the diamond shaped markers. The handler will have no further part in the handling of the mare for this phase of the selection. A trained arena party will be on hand to direct the mare through its free gait, athleticism and jumping assessment.

Mares will be shown loose on both reins in trot and canter.

Mares with foals at foot will only be assessed on loose movement if it is deemed safe to do so by the arena party and selection panel.



## Irish Draught Horse Studbook Mare Selections Procedures and Guidelines

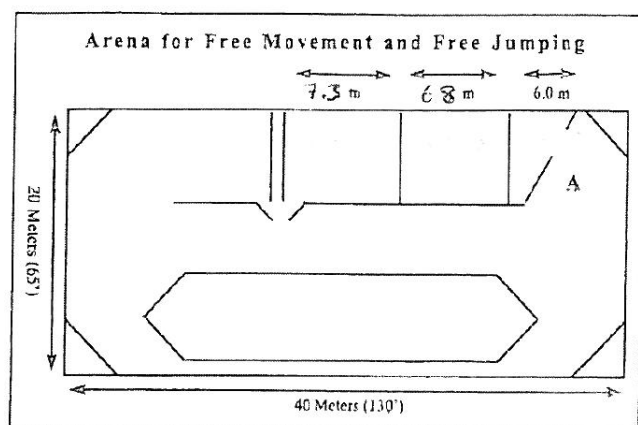


### 6. Free Athleticism Assessment in Jumping Pen for Class 1 mares

The jumping lane consists of three fences. The selection panel may use their discretion as to the number of attempts they wish to assess each horse over the obstacles and the height of the fences, however the maximum height of the fences will be 1.00m and width of 1.05m.

If in the opinion of the selection panel a horse is jumping in an unnatural manner, the selection panel reserves the right to award zero points for their assessment of the mare's athleticism/jumping ability.

**Note:** Mares are permitted to wear front tendon boots for the free gait assessment or the free athleticism/jumping assessment. If, in the opinion of the selection panel, the movement of the horse is affected in any way, the selection panel reserve the right to request the removal of the front boots. The use of boots/bandages on the hind legs is not permitted.



**Note:** The elements of the selection may not necessarily be carried out in the same order as they are outlined above. Horse Sport Ireland reserves the right to terminate any selection for health and safety reasons.

#### Photographs

Photographs of mares may be taken during the selection process by a photographer appointed by HSI. These photographs may be published in Irish Draught Horse/HSI publications. Video footage of the selection may also be recorded and used by Horse Sport Ireland.

#### Results of the Selection

Final results will be available in the office following inspection and will be made available for public access on the Horse Sport Ireland website and may be published in subsequent Horse Sport Ireland publications.

### Classification of Irish Draught Mares Following Selection

1. Irish Draught mares that meet the veterinary requirements and the selection requirements at selection (minimum scores out of 100: 70 in conformation, 65 in type and 70 in movement) will be classified as 'Class 1' in the Irish Draught Horse Studbook.
2. 'Class 1' mares that achieve average scores of 80 or higher for movement and conformation will be awarded a 'Bronze' merit in 'Conformation & Movement'.
3. 'Class 1' mares that participate in the loose jumping phase of the selection and achieve a score of 70 or higher will be awarded a Bronze Merit in showjumping.
4. Irish Draught mares that meet the veterinary requirements but do not meet the breed standard selection requirements will be classified as 'Class 2' in the Irish Draught Studbook.
5. Irish Draught mares that do not meet the veterinary requirements will be classified as 'Class 3' in the Irish Draught Horse Studbook.

### Eligibility for Class 1 Selection

Irish Draught Horse mares must be registered in the Main section of the Irish Draught Horse Studbook in Ireland and be sired by a stallion that is classified as 'Class 1 (RID)', 'Class 2 (Section 1 – S1)', 'RID GB' or 'Grade 2 Great Britain (G2 GB)' and out of a dam that is classified as 'RID', 'Class 1', 'Class 2', 'AID', 'ID' or 'Grade Up' in the Irish Draught Horse Studbook. Please see Terms and Conditions for Amnesty requirements.

The progeny of Irish Draught Horse stallions of Class 3 (Section 2 – S2) in the Irish Draught Studbook are not eligible for selection.

### Eligibility for Grade Up Register Selection

To be eligible for classification in the Supplementary (Grade-Up Register) Section of the Irish Draught Studbook, mares must be classified in the main section of the Irish Sport Horse Studbook and have one parent classified in the Irish Draught Horse Studbook as 'Class 1 (RID)' and one parent that is registered in the main section of the Irish Sport Horse Studbook, and have three grandparents classified in the Irish Draught Horse Studbook as 'Class 1 (RID)' and one grandparent classified in the main section of the Irish Sport Horse Studbook as a Thoroughbred, Connemara or Irish Sport Horse with recorded pedigree of TB/ID/CP descent.

# IRISH DRAUGHT HORSE MARE SELECTION SHEET

OPTIONAL

INSPECTOR SIGNATURE:

1: \_\_\_\_\_

2: \_\_\_\_\_

	Conformation:	Type:	Movement:	Athleticism:
				Optional for "BRONZE"
			Walk: Trot: Canter:	Reflexes: Technique: Scope:
Total Score				

a b c d e f g h i

Conformation/Trait		Obvious	Average	Obvious		Comments
1. Body shape	rectangular	[a] [b] [c]	[d] [e] [f]	[g] [h] [i]	square	
2. Head: appearance, forehead, ears, eyes, jawbones & gullet	fine	[a] [b] [c]	[d] [e] [f]	[g] [h] [i]	plain	<input type="checkbox"/> roman nose <input type="checkbox"/> long
3. Head neck connection	light	[a] [b] [c]	[d] [e] [f]	[g] [h] [i]	heavy	
4. Length of neck	long	[a] [b] [c]	[d] [e] [f]	[g] [h] [i]	short	<input type="checkbox"/> Deep out of chest
5. Muscling of neck	heavy	[a] [b] [c]	[d] [e] [f]	[g] [h] [i]	poor	<input type="checkbox"/> ewe-neck
6. Position of neck	vertical	[a] [b] [c]	[d] [e] [f]	[g] [h] [i]	horizontal	
7. Height of withers	high	[a] [b] [c]	[d] [e] [f]	[g] [h] [i]	flat	
8. Position of shoulder	sloping	[a] [b] [c]	[d] [e] [f]	[g] [h] [i]	straight	<input type="checkbox"/> narrow chest
9. Barrel	deep	[a] [b] [c]	[d] [e] [f]	[g] [h] [i]	shallow	
10. Line of back	strong	[a] [b] [c]	[d] [e] [f]	[g] [h] [i]	weak	
11. Line of loins	strong	[a] [b] [c]	[d] [e] [f]	[g] [h] [i]	weak	
12. Shape of croup	sloping	[a] [b] [c]	[d] [e] [f]	[g] [h] [i]	flat	
13. Length of croup	long	[a] [b] [c]	[d] [e] [f]	[g] [h] [i]	short	
14. Forearm	strong	[a] [b] [c]	[d] [e] [f]	[g] [h] [i]	weak	<input type="checkbox"/> tied in elbow
15. Cannon bone length	short	[a] [b] [c]	[d] [e] [f]	[g] [h] [i]	long	
16. Substance of legs	heavy	[a] [b] [c]	[d] [e] [f]	[g] [h] [i]	light	<input type="checkbox"/> tied in knee
17. Stance of forelegs	over at knee	[a] [b] [c]	[d] [e] [f]	[g] [h] [i]	back at knee	<input type="checkbox"/> standing
18. Stance of pastern	sloping	[a] [b] [c]	[d] [e] [f]	[g] [h] [i]	upright	
19. Heels	high	[a] [b] [c]	[d] [e] [f]	[g] [h] [i]	low	
20. stance of hind legs	sickle	[a] [b] [c]	[d] [e] [f]	[g] [h] [i]	straight	<input type="checkbox"/> camped out <input type="checkbox"/> abnormal <input type="checkbox"/> hock <input type="checkbox"/> abnormal stifle

a b c d e f g h i

Conformation/Trait		Obvious	Average	Obvious		Comments
21. Knees (front view)	big	[a] [b] [c]	[d] [e] [f]	[g] [h] [i]	small	<input type="checkbox"/> abnormal
22. Stance of forelegs	toed in	[a] [b] [c]	[d] [e] [f]	[g] [h] [i]	toed out	<input type="checkbox"/> offset knees
23. Shape of feet	wide	[a] [b] [c]	[d] [e] [f]	[g] [h] [i]	narrow	<input type="checkbox"/> different
24. Quality of legs	lean	[a] [b] [c]	[d] [e] [f]	[g] [h] [i]	blurred	
25. Hindquarters and gaskins	strong	[a] [b] [c]	[d] [e] [f]	[g] [h] [i]	weak	
26. Stance of hind legs	cow-hocked	[a] [b] [c]	[d] [e] [f]	[g] [h] [i]	bow-hocked	<input type="checkbox"/> base narrow
27. Type	breed standard	[a] [b] [c]	[d] [e] [f]	[g] [h] [i]	not breed standard	<input type="checkbox"/> excessive white markings
Movement/Trait		Obvious	Average	Obvious		comments
28. Walk: length of stride	long	[a] [b] [c]	[d] [e] [f]	[g] [h] [i]	short	<input type="checkbox"/> irregular
29. Walk: correctness	toed in	[a] [b] [c]	[d] [e] [f]	[g] [h] [i]	toed out	<input type="checkbox"/> uncoordinated
30. Trot: length of stride	long	[a] [b] [c]	[d] [e] [f]	[g] [h] [i]	short	
31. Trot: correctness	correct	[a] [b] [c]	[d] [e] [f]	[g] [h] [i]	incorrect	<input type="checkbox"/> dishing (F / R) <input type="checkbox"/> plaiting (F / R)
32. Trot: elasticity	elastic	[a] [b] [c]	[d] [e] [f]	[g] [h] [i]	stiff	<input type="checkbox"/> irregular
33. Trot: impulsion	powerful	[a] [b] [c]	[d] [e] [f]	[g] [h] [i]	weak	<input type="checkbox"/> uncoordinated
34. Trot: balance	carrying	[a] [b] [c]	[d] [e] [f]	[g] [h] [i]	pushing	
35. Canter: length of stride	long	[a] [b] [c]	[d] [e] [f]	[g] [h] [i]	short	
36. Canter: impulsion	powerful	[a] [b] [c]	[d] [e] [f]	[g] [h] [i]	weak	
37. Canter: balance	carrying	[a] [b] [c]	[d] [e] [f]	[g] [h] [i]	pushing	
Athleticism/Trait		Obvious	Average	Obvious		comments
38. Reflexes:	quick	[a] [b] [c]	[d] [e] [f]	[g] [h] [i]	slow	<input type="checkbox"/> forwards
39. Technique: forelegs	bent	[a] [b] [c]	[d] [e] [f]	[g] [h] [i]	stretched	<input type="checkbox"/> under the body
40. Technique: back	rounded	[a] [b] [c]	[d] [e] [f]	[g] [h] [i]	hollow	
41. Technique: haunches	open	[a] [b] [c]	[d] [e] [f]	[g] [h] [i]	tight	
42. Scope	much	[a] [b] [c]	[d] [e] [f]	[g] [h] [i]	little	
43. Elasticity	supple	[a] [b] [c]	[d] [e] [f]	[g] [h] [i]	stiff	
44. Care	careful	[a] [b] [c]	[d] [e] [f]	[g] [h] [i]	not careful	
45. Attitude	much	[a] [b] [c]	[d] [e] [f]	[g] [h] [i]	little	