



**HORSE SPORT
IRELAND**



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

Irish Sport Horse/Pony Studbook Mare Selections Procedures and Guidelines

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 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 to complete online at 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 in March/April & 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. Comfortable 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 inspectors collective deliberations.



Irish Sport Horse/Pony Studbook Mare Selections Procedures and Guidelines

Irish Sport Horse Mare Selection Process

Irish Sport Horse mares must be a minimum of 3 years of age to be presented for selection.

Mares will be given the opportunity to loose jump in order to have their athleticism assessed.

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

The mare's pedigree will be assessed and the classification of the sire and dam will be taken into consideration.

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.

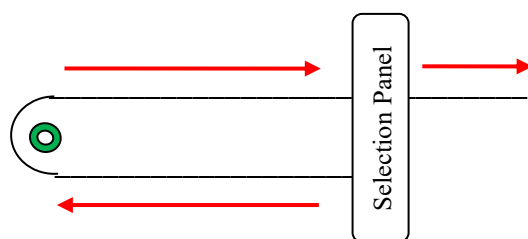
The measurements taken at the veterinary examination will be considered to be the official measurements of the mare for classification and studbook purposes.

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)

3. Conformation Assessment

Handlers must present mares to the inspectors in the indoor arena for their conformation assessment using linear scoring. 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 Sport Horse selections contain 37 characteristics, covering conformation, movement and athleticism traits (see attached 'Sample Linear Scoring 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.

6. Free Athleticism Assessment in Jumping Pen

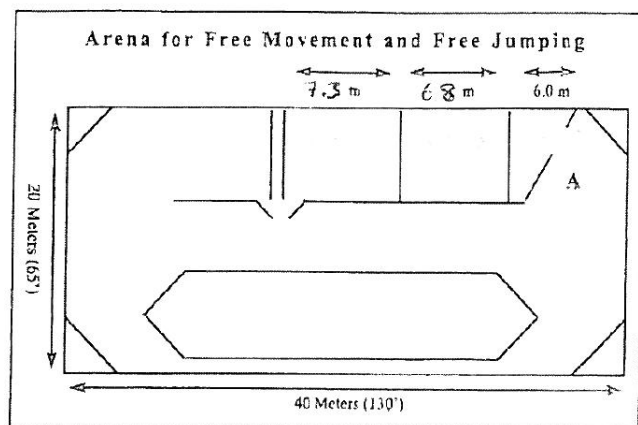
The jumping lane consists of three fences. The selection panel may use their discretion as to the number of attempts they wish to assess each horse over the obstacles and the height of the fences, however the maximum height of the fences will be 1.15m and width of 1.05m.



Irish Sport Horse/Pony Studbook Mare Selections Procedures and Guidelines

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 Sport 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 Sport Horse Mares Following Selection

1. Irish Sport Horse mares that meet the veterinary requirements and the selection requirements at selection (minimum scores out of 100: 70 in conformation, 65 in movement) will be classified as 'Select' in the Irish Sport Horse Studbook.
2. Mares in the 'Select' class are eligible for star ratings based on their own, or their progeny's performance.
3. 'Select' mares that participate in the loose jumping phase of the selection and achieve a score of 80 or higher in athleticism will be awarded a 'One Star' rating in show jumping.
4. Mares which do not meet the veterinary or selection requirements will retain their original classification in the Irish Sport Horse Studbook.

Eligibility for 'Select' Selection

Irish Sport Horse mares must be registered in the main section of the Irish Sport Horse Studbook. All Irish Sport Horse mares are eligible for selection.

Sport horse mares that are registered in the main section of a studbook that is approved by the Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine in Ireland are eligible for selection. The passports of such mares must be endorsed on the Irish Horse Register.

Foreign bred sport horse mares must be registered in the main section of a studbook that is a full member of the World Breeding Federation for Sport Horses (WBFSH). The passports of such mares must be endorsed on the Irish Horse Register.

Thoroughbred mares registered with Weatherbys are eligible for selection. The passports of such mares must be endorsed on the Irish Horse Register.

IRISH SPORT HORSE/PONY SELECTION SHEET

INSPECTOR SIGNATURE:

1: _____

2: _____

Optional for 1*

	Conformation: /100	Movement: /100	Athleticism: /100
		Walk: Trot: Canter:	Optional for 1*
			Reflexes: Technique: Scope:
Total Score:			

a b c d e f g h i

CONFORMATION/TRAIT		Obvious	Average	Obvious		Comments
Condition						<input type="checkbox"/> fat <input type="checkbox"/> poor
Mouth						<input type="checkbox"/> underbite <input type="checkbox"/> overbite
Head						<input type="checkbox"/> convex profile <input type="checkbox"/> coarse <input type="checkbox"/> long
1. Body shape	rectangular	[a] [b] [c]	[d] [e] [f]	[g] [h] [i]	square	
2. Body direction	uphill	[a] [b] [c]	[d] [e] [f]	[g] [h] [i]	downhill	<input type="checkbox"/> short legged
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. Position of neck	vertical	[a] [b] [c]	[d] [e] [f]	[g] [h] [i]	horizontal	
6. Muscling of neck	heavy	[a] [b] [c]	[d] [e] [f]	[g] [h] [i]	poor	<input type="checkbox"/> ewe-neck
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	
9. Line of back	roached	[a] [b] [c]	[d] [e] [f]	[g] [h] [i]	weak	
10. Line of loins	roached	[a] [b] [c]	[d] [e] [f]	[g] [h] [i]	weak	
11. Shape of croup	sloping	[a] [b] [c]	[d] [e] [f]	[g] [h] [i]	flat	
12. Length of croup	long	[a] [b] [c]	[d] [e] [f]	[g] [h] [i]	short	
13. Stance of forelegs	over at knee	[a] [b] [c]	[d] [e] [f]	[g] [h] [i]	back at knee	<input type="checkbox"/> tied in <input type="checkbox"/> standing under
14. Stance of hind legs	sickle	[a] [b] [c]	[d] [e] [f]	[g] [h] [i]	straight	<input type="checkbox"/> cow hocked <input type="checkbox"/> tied in <input type="checkbox"/> abnormal hock <input type="checkbox"/> abnormal stifle
15. Stance of pastern	weak	[a] [b] [c]	[d] [e] [f]	[g] [h] [i]	upright	

a b c d e f g h i

16. Shape of feet	wide	[a] [b] [c]	[d] [e] [f]	[g] [h] [i]	narrow	<input type="checkbox"/> different
17. Heels	high	[a] [b] [c]	[d] [e] [f]	[g] [h] [i]	low	
18. Quality of legs	lean	[a] [b] [c]	[d] [e] [f]	[g] [h] [i]	blurred	
19. Substance of legs	heavy	[a] [b] [c]	[d] [e] [f]	[g] [h] [i]	fine	

Movement/trait		Obvious	Average	Obvious		Comments
20. Walk: length of stride	long	[a] [b] [c]	[d] [e] [f]	[g] [h] [i]	short	<input type="checkbox"/> irregular
21. Walk: correctness	toed in	[a] [b] [c]	[d] [e] [f]	[g] [h] [i]	toed out	<input type="checkbox"/> uncoordinated
22. Trot: length of stride	long	[a] [b] [c]	[d] [e] [f]	[g] [h] [i]	short	
23. Trot: elasticity	elastic	[a] [b] [c]	[d] [e] [f]	[g] [h] [i]	stiff	<input type="checkbox"/> irregular
24. Trot: impulsion	powerful	[a] [b] [c]	[d] [e] [f]	[g] [h] [i]	weak	<input type="checkbox"/> uncoordinated
25. Trot: balance	carrying	[a] [b] [c]	[d] [e] [f]	[g] [h] [i]	pushing	
26. Canter: length of stride	long	[a] [b] [c]	[d] [e] [f]	[g] [h] [i]	short	
27. Canter: impulsion	powerful	[a] [b] [c]	[d] [e] [f]	[g] [h] [i]	weak	
28. Canter: balance	carrying	[a] [b] [c]	[d] [e] [f]	[g] [h] [i]	pushing	

Athleticism/trait		Obvious	Average	Obvious		Comments
29. Take off: direction	upwards	[a] [b] [c]	[d] [e] [f]	[g] [h] [i]	forwards	
30. Take off: quickness	quick	[a] [b] [c]	[d] [e] [f]	[g] [h] [i]	slow	
31. Technique: forelegs	bent	[a] [b] [c]	[d] [e] [f]	[g] [h] [i]	stretched	<input type="checkbox"/> under the body
32. Technique: back	rounded	[a] [b] [c]	[d] [e] [f]	[g] [h] [i]	hollow	
33. Technique: haunches	open	[a] [b] [c]	[d] [e] [f]	[g] [h] [i]	tight	
34. Scope	much	[a] [b] [c]	[d] [e] [f]	[g] [h] [i]	little	
35. Elasticity	supple	[a] [b] [c]	[d] [e] [f]	[g] [h] [i]	stiff	
36. Care	careful	[a] [b] [c]	[d] [e] [f]	[g] [h] [i]	not careful	
37. Attitude	much	[a] [b] [c]	[d] [e] [f]	[g] [h] [i]	little	