



Foal Championships 2025

Information Note

Horse Sport Ireland (HSI) is pleased to announce the details of the 2024 Sport Horse/Pony Foal Championship. The Championship for horses and ponies has a prize fund of **€27,650**. The aim is 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 showjumping or eventing. The 2025 Foal Championships are funded under National Breeding Services delivered by Horse Sport Ireland thanks to the Department of Agriculture, Food, and the Marine.

There will be 5 qualifiers with separate categories and sections for horses and ponies, for potential showjumping foals and potential eventing foals. The qualifiers will be held in August & September. The highest scoring Show Jumping type foal, and Eventing type foal from both the horse and pony categories will be selected for the final at each provincial qualifier. There will be prizes for the highest scoring traditional foal at the qualifiers.

Foal Championship Qualifier Dates for 2025
14 th August - JAG
21 st August - Kernans
25 th August - Tubberbride
4 th September - Wexford
11 th September - Banner
Foal Championship Final Date 2025
2nd October - Emerald

The final will be held in Emerald Equestrian where Champions will be named in each category. A prize fund* of €16,250 for horses and €9,100 for ponies will be on offer at the final for qualified entries.

- Entries must be made online and payment made directly to the venue. Payments are processed by the venue(s) separately to applications.
- The Foal Championships is open to all studbook registered foals, with a breed code recorded. Foals registered on Identify Document passports are not eligible for participation or funding.
- **Entries will not be accepted on the day of the event.**
- Entries will close 3 working days prior to the competition date. This is to facilitate calculating Pedigree Bonus Points (PBPs).
- A start list and start time will be allocated to each competitor by email. Competitors must be present for their allotted time to compete.
- **Foals must be microchipped and have begun the registration process (with any studbook) for the qualifiers.**
- Foals must be passported and named to compete in the final.
- **The process of receiving a studbook passport for a foal can take over 6 weeks pending DNA requirements.**
- **Horse Sport Ireland reserve the right to change or alter the terms and conditions of the Foal Championship at any time.**

*including prizes in kind



Criteria for entry

- Horse foals must be registered in a studbook; they can be entered in the main or supplementary section but must have a breed listed.
- Pony foals must be registered in any pony studbook (as above) and must have their dams present.
- Pony foals' sire and dams must be **studbook registered**.
 - If the pony foal has a horse bred sire or dam: the dam must have a lifetime measurement (see below) or will be measured on the day.
 - **Pony dams will be measured on the day**, if they do not have a lifetime measurement, or are not a registered pony breed. If a Pony Dam measures as over height at the competition, the foal will not be able to compete in the pony section. They may compete in the equivalent horse section.
 - The pony height restriction is based on the measurement of the height at the withers which cannot exceed **a maximum of 151.0cm with shoes** on the day of competition. Pony height will be measured by a veterinarian on the day (151.0cm and under).
 - **148cm is the height limit for ponies without shoes** (148cm and under).
 - **The HSI appointed veterinarian's decision on the day is final.**
 - Where the dam is not present, competitors must present the Dam's passport. **In this case, an official lifetime measurement must be recorded in the Dam's passport in order for the foal to compete in the pony section.**
 - **Only FEI, SJI and Studbook Authority measurements** are considered official measurements in this case.
 - Pony foals who attend without their dams/ dam's passport will not be permitted to compete in the pony section¹.
- Horse and Pony foals can enter up to a maximum of 2 qualifiers where they have not won prize money at any previous qualifier.
- Foals must be entered in either the Show jumping Section **or** the Eventing Section. Foals **cannot** compete in both sections.
- The dam's passport must be available on the day for inspection.
- All competing foals must be a **minimum of 6 weeks old**.
- For information on how to register your foal please contact the Passport Issuing Organisation (PIO) please [CLICK HERE](#) for all DAFM approved studbooks.
- The foaling survey must be completed as part of the application.

Competitors & Classes

- Foals should present to the vet at least 15 minutes prior to their allotted start time for the qualifier.
- Foals must be led to and from the arena and only turned loose when requested to do so by the judges.
- The judge's decision for the qualifiers and the Championship is final, the only exception is where the pedigree of the foal is not subsequently confirmed by DNA for studbook entry.
- Foals must be microchipped and have initiated the registration process for the qualifiers and must provide their passport for the final. **Prize money will only be provided after pedigree confirmed by DNA and studbook passport details are verified.**

¹ For embryos or pony dams who have since deceased, the applicant must provide proof of the dam's official measurement (FEI/National federation measurement).



- Pedigree Bonus Points (PBP) (see Appendix. 2) will be allocated up to a maximum of 10 points in the horse sections, applicants must provide the relevant verified performance links for PBP allocation, only the information which is provided ahead of the designated deadline can be assessed.
 - To have PBP allocation, applicant must have submitted their application 5 working days in advance of the qualifier (see dates below).
 - Please see table 1 below which contains detail of PBP allocation.
 - Verified performance links must be provided. This includes Eventing Ireland Records, Show Jumping Ireland Records, Equipe, and other relevant verified performance databases. **Please note Horsetelelex and Hippomundo are not verified performance links and will not be accounted for in PBP allocation.**
- Where the qualifier winner is unable to attend the final, the next highest scoring reserve from any qualifier will be offered the place in the final.
 - Should there be a tie, the foal with the highest athleticism score will progress.
 - Should there be a tie in athleticism the combined athleticism and PBP score will be awarded the space.

Foal Welfare

- It is important for the foals to be well prepared for the classes in the interest of safety. It is advised that the **foal has been handled and familiarised with the headcollar, leading and catching.**
- During the events the foals may not have lost all their foal coat. The judges will be assessing the quality of the foal, cosmetic aspects related to a foal's natural coat and colour will not be assessed or used to penalise.
 - During the classes a foal's health is more important than a 'show condition' coat.
- **Clipping foals is not permitted.**
- 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 mean elimination from the competition.
- Please do not attend if your foal is unwell or unsound.

Prize Money

- Details for prize payment processing must be provided with the application to ensure efficient processing after each event.
- Prize money will only be paid out where the foal has received a studbook passport **AND** DNA parentage has been verified to match the original entry.
- Prize money will be paid to the registered owner of the foal, unless otherwise indicated by the registered owner.
- **Failure to adhere to the above terms and conditions may result in prize money being forfeited.**



Prize Money for HORSE SECTIONS

Regional Qualifiers (€1,850 per venue)

	Show Jumping Foal	Eventing Foal	TIH Foal*
1st (Qualifies for Final)	€500	€500	€350
2nd	€250	€250	

*Top scoring TIH foal will win €350 – TIH foals will only qualify for the final if they come 1st overall in SJ/EV category.

Final (€8,970)

	Show Jumping Foal	Eventing Foal
1st	€2,000	€2,000
2nd	€1,000	€1,000
3rd	€500	€500

In addition, €1,400 will be awarded towards prizes in kind, sashes etc.

Prize Money for PONY SECTIONS

Regional Qualifiers (€1,100 per venue)

	Show Jumping Foal	Eventing Foal
1st (Qualifies for Final)	€350	€350
2nd	€200	€200

Final (€3,600)

	Show Jumping Foal	Eventing Foal
1st	€1,000	€1,000
2nd	€500	€500
3rd	€300	€300

*In addition, €800 towards prizes in kind, sashes etc.



Foal Evaluation and Scoring

Foals will be presented to the judges, accompanied by their dams (see relevant section for more information).

- During the individual presentation the foal is positioned in front of the judges with a halter, to evaluate functional conformation.
- The mare and foal will move loose, and the foals walk, trot, canter, athleticism and balance are assessed.
- When all the foals are evaluated, the numbers of the winners and reserves will be called out and they will return to the arena for presentations.
- The results for each qualifier will be announced as soon as possible on the Horse Sport Ireland website. The judges' sheet will describe the positive attributes of the foals and provide an assessment as to whether they think the foal is Eventer type or Showjumper type.
- **Competitors will receive their score sheet via email no later than 10 working days after the competition.**
- For detail on horse pedigree bonus points please see appendix 2.

Judging Criteria

There will be two judges for each category of Show jumping and Eventing.

Scoring will be judged out of 110 for eventing horses and showjumping horses and will be based on the following traits:

Trait	Showjumping Section Qualifier/Final	Eventing Section Qualifier/Final
Functional conformation	20	25
Walk	10	15
Trot	15	25
Canter	25	15
Overall athleticism and balance	30	20
Pedigree Bonus Points	10	10
TOTAL	110	110

Scoring will be judged out of 100 for ponies and will be based on the following traits:

Trait	Showjumping Section Qualifier/Final	Eventing Section Qualifier/Final
Functional conformation	20	25
Walk	10	15
Trot	15	25
Canter	25	15
Overall athleticism and balance	30	20
TOTAL	100	100



APPENDIX 1. DETAILS INCLUDING PAYMENT TO VENUES

Qualifier	Venue	Date	Closing Date
1	JAG	14 th August	11 th August
2	Kernans	21 st August	18 th August
3	Tubberbride	26 th August	21 st August
4	Wexford	4 th September	1 st September
5	Banner	11 th September	8 th September
FINAL	Emerald	2nd October	N/A

APPENDIX 2. Pedigree Bonus Points Breakdown – Horse Sections only

Show jumping

Showjumping pedigree bonus points will be allocated based on dam line and sire show jumping performance.

- The applicant is required to submit verified show jumping performance links or the dam line and sire, where relevant.
 - Verified performance links must be provided. This includes Eventing Ireland Records, Show Jumping Ireland Records, Equipe, and other relevant verified performance databases. **Please note Horsetelelex and Hippomundo are not verified performance links and will not be accounted for in PBP allocation.**
- Two double clears are required at the below ratings to receive the full PBP allocation in the relevant category.
- Where a mare has 2 progeny that meet the performance requirement, the relevant PBPs will be applied (eg, mare has 2 progeny with 2 DC at 1.30m each, the foal will get 3 PBP).
- Where there is one double clear, half of the point allocation will be provided.
- Performance will only be relevant to the discipline for the category in which the foal is entered (for a foal entering in SJ category only SJ performance will be accounted for).

Please see example below:

Foal	Dam	Grand Dam	Great Grand Dam	Sire	PBP Allocation
-	2 DC at 3*	1 DC at 2*	2 DC at 4*	Sire DC 4*	-
Points	3	.5	1	.5	5

*including prizes in kind



Show Jumping (star ratings)	Dam	Grand dam	Great Grandam	Approved Sire	Max points
1* (1.10m)	1	0.5			1.5
2* (1.20m)	2	1			3
3* (1.30m)	3	1.5	0.5		5
4* (1.45m)	4	2	1	0.5	7.5
5* (1.50m+)	5	2.5	1.5	1	10

Eventing

Eventing pedigree bonus points will be allocated based on dam line and sire eventing performance.

- The applicant is required to submit verified eventing performance links or the dam line and sire, where relevant.
 - Verified performance links must be provided. This includes Eventing Ireland Records, Show Jumping Ireland Records, Equipe, and other relevant verified performance databases. **Please note Horsetelelex and Hippomundo are not verified performance links and will not be accounted for in PBP allocation.**
- One MER in either short or long format are required at the below short or long form ratings to receive the full PBP allocation in the relevant category.
- Where a mare has 2 progeny that meet the performance requirement, the relevant PBPs will be applied (eg, mare has 2 progeny with 2 MERs at 3* each, the foal will have 3 PBPs).
- Performance will only be relevant to the discipline for the category in which the foal is entered (for a foal entering in EV category only EV performance will be accounted for).

See example of PBP allocation below:

Foal	Dam	Grand Dam	Great Grand Dam	Sire	PBP Allocation
-	MER 3*	MER 2*	MER 4*	MER 4*	-
Points	3	1	1	.5	5.5

Eventing (MERs)	Dam	Grand dam	Great Grandam	Approved Sire	Max points
1*	1	0.5			1.5
2*	2	1			3
3*	3	1.5	0.5		5
4*	4	2	1	0.5	7.5
5*	5	2.5	1.5	1	10

ENDS.