



DAFM Development Series 2026: Dressage

Horse Sport Ireland are delighted to announce the 2026 DAFM Dressage Development Series, this will include a selection of horse and pony classes. This year, the DAFM Dressage Development Series will run as four legs with €5,000 in funding available across the series with prizes for 4-, 5-, 6-&7-Year-Old horses and ponies as well as breeders' prizes.

The dates and venues for the 2026 DAFM Dressage Development Series are as follows:

Leinster Dressage Festival, CoilOg, Co. Kildare – 6th June
Summer Festival, Castle Irvine, Necarne, Co. Fermanagh – 11th & 12th July
SER Festival, Barnadown EC, Co. Wexford – 2nd & 3rd August
North Munster Region, Tipperary Equestrian, Co. Tipperary – 30th August

Notes on 2026 Series:

It is the responsibility of riders, and their guardians where relevant, and owners to familiarize themselves with all criteria in this document.

Entries:

- All DAFM Development Series classes must run on a pre-entry basis made through Dressage Ireland
- Entries must be made via an online portal. No other form of entry will be accepted
- Ponies can be ridden by adult or pony athletes
- For Dressage Ireland nonmembers, day tickets will not be accepted.
- Each leg is a standalone competition.

Late entries will be charged double the class entry fee. Late entries can be made via the Dressage Ireland website
 Entries will be no more than €30 (£25) per class.

Eligibility:

- Classes are restricted to horses/ponies registered in a **studbook with a valid, listed breed** contained within the studbook passport (UNK is not a breed).
 - Main and Supplementary section studbook animals are permitted.
 - Pedigree recording with an 'UNK' breed code is not a studbook passport and not eligible for entry/prizemoney.
 - Breeder's prizes will only be paid to breeders residing on the Island of Ireland.
 - All studbook horses born outside of the island of Ireland entering the DAFM Development Series must be lodged with an Irish PIO prior to entry or participation in the league.
 - HSI will not accept responsibility nor provide prize monies to any combination who do not meet this criteria.
 - **To check if your horse is eligible to compete, please email; grants@horsesportireland.ie**



Horse Sport Ireland reserve the right to change or alter the terms and conditions of the DAFM Development Series at any time.

At the show:

The DAFM Dressage Development Series, delivered by Horse Sport Ireland, must be organized and run in full compliance and adherence of Dressage Ireland rules. The designated pony classes are as listed.

Combinations entered to compete in these classes are strictly limited to warming up in the designated practice arenas. Any athlete found in breach of this rule by the DI steward will be eliminated from the class. Riders who choose to compete in a leg(s) of the DAFM Dressage Development Series are consenting to their rounds being live-streamed and/or available for publication on platforms of Horse Sport Ireland's choosing.

Horse Qualifiers & Finals

4-year-old – [FEI 4YO test](#)

5-year-old - DI 5 year old horse test

6 year old - DI 6 year old horse test

7/8 year old - DI 7 year old horse test

Ponies

5-year-old - DI 5-year-old horse test

6/7-year-old – DI 6-year-old horse test

[Link to Dressage Ireland tests.](#)

Prize money:

Prize winners will be asked to submit their details for the prize fund at the end of each show through an online payment system. QR codes will be available at each show office to scan and complete the [online payment form](#) and submit to Horse Sport Ireland, please select the 'DAFM Development Series' option. Where there are 3 participants or less only 1st place will be paid out. If only one participant, only 50% of advertised first prize will be paid out.

Dressage: HORSE

	4 YO	5 YO	6 YO	7/8YO
1st	€ 100.00	€ 100.00	€ 100.00	€ 100.00
2nd	€ 80.00	€ 80.00	€ 80.00	€ 80.00
3rd	€ 50.00	€ 50.00	€ 50.00	€ 50.00
Breeder	€ 50.00	€ 50.00	€ 50.00	€ 50.00

Prize Money Breakdown (Ponies)

	5 YO	6/7 YO
Top Finishing Pony*	€50.00	€50.00
Breeder	€50.00	€50.00



Please note:

- Prize money cannot be paid out to horses who are not **registered in the correct ownership** in the relevant studbook.
- Payment will not be issued to riders unless HSI has received **written permission** from the registered owner of the horse.
- Payment details must be submitted within **7** days via the [online form](#); if received beyond this window, payment **cannot** be processed.
- Breeders' prizes will only be issued to breeder residing on the Island of Ireland.

As per the Equidae (Change of Ownership) Regulations 2016 subsection 5, equines must have their ownership details updated within 30 days of their purchase.

Please see below:

<https://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/2016/si/201/made/en/print>

<https://animallaw.ie/2020/05/08/s-i-no-62-2016-european-union-identification-of-equidae-regulations-2015/>



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