



## Mare X-Ray Screening Scheme 2026

Horse Sport Ireland (HSI) are delighted to launch an x-ray screening scheme for breeders/owners of young fillies/mares aged 2-5 years old. This scheme is funded by the Department of Agriculture, Food, and the Marine (DAFM) by National Breeding Services. The scheme is open to fillies/mares who are registered/endorsed in a DAFM approved studbook and meet specific requirements. Breeders/owners will have the opportunity to apply to participate in the x-ray screening scheme by completing an online application.

**In 2026, successful applicants must pay 30% of X-Ray Screening Costs.**

HSI will cover the remaining 70% of the screening cost (up to €245 ex vat) and notify the selected HSI approved veterinarian.

Please see the table below for relevant deadlines.

Ponies are also eligible to receive funding under the scheme but must also meet the performance criteria and be registered/endorsed in an EU/DAFM Approved Pony Studbook. Ponies may be 2-6 years old.

*This scheme has three objectives:*

1. Provide breeders with an accessible x-ray screening programme for their own personal use in benchmarking their breeding herd.
2. Document the prevalence osteo-abnormalities the degree of bony changes in the Irish young horse population.
3. Use the data as a benchmark for bony changes in the Irish herd and disseminate this information in a scientific journal/scientific conference(s).

### TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- **The deadline for applications is COB 31<sup>st</sup> July 2026 and x-rays must be completed and submitted by COB 7<sup>th</sup> August 2026.**
- **All applicants must show proof of a completed DAFM Equine Operator profile or EEN (if resident of NI)\*. [CLICK HERE](#) to get information on the EOP.**
- **In 2026, applicants must pay 30% of the costs to their approved veterinarian.**
- Performance Fillies/Mares must meet the following eligibility criteria:
  - Be 2-5 years old (2-6 years old for ponies) and registered/endorsed in a DAFM approved studbook.
  - Provide verified results demonstrating the performance criteria outlined below (female relatives only):
    - Dam, sister or granddam of the young horse must be a 1-star or above mare based either on her own performance or on the performance of her progeny.
    - OR**
    - mare who is the subject of the application has an HSI estimated breeding value or pedigree index for show jumping of 110 or above. Breeding values for mares are available to their owners and breeders on request from HSI by emailing [genetics@horsesportireland.ie](mailto:genetics@horsesportireland.ie).
    - OR**
    - Irish Draught mares/filles by Class 1 stallions out of Class 1 dams
    - Connemara pony mares/filles by Class 1 stallions out of Class 1 dams



- Kerry Bog Pony mares/filles by Class 1 stallions out of Class 1 dams
- Welsh/Clyde/Shire/IPSA pony mares/filles who meet their studbook classification criteria.
- Sires must have an Approved/Preliminary Approved or Recognised/Preliminary Recognised classification/Class 1 in a WBFSH/DAFM-Approved studbook.
- Equivalent pony performance criteria including but not limited to:
  - Two DC/top 10% performance in at an officially recorded class/event as follows:
    - 128 – 80cm
    - 138 – 90cm
    - 148 – 1m
    - CCIP
    - CC11\*

Prior to completion of x-rays the applicant is required to provide;

- Evidence of WBFSH/DAFM stallion classification OR Class 1 classification
  - Evidence of 1-star performance/progeny performance for the dam
  - Evidence of ownership of the animal
- Mares must be SNP tested or submit sample for testing
  - Approved equines must release permission to access equine genotype (if not existing in HSI) for the purposes of research into traits and breed improvement
  - The equine must be resident on the island of Ireland (inc. Northern Ireland).
  - Applicants must be the registered owner of the animal at the point of application and ownership of the animal cannot be changed for the purpose of gaining entry onto the scheme.
  - 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 funds will not occur in the absence of this written or email permission.
  - Applicants may apply for up to two mares/fillies.
  - Animals must be registered/endorsed in a DAFM-approved studbook.
  - 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.
  - 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 of the required detail and evidence of verified performance/classification.
  - HSI will pay the approved veterinarian directly and receive each animals' x-rays directly from the clinic.
  - The veterinarian will not provide any 'live' interpretation of the x-rays to the applicant on the day of screening.
  - X-rays will be interpreted and scored by a HSI expert x-ray panel.



- Applicants will receive a digital copy of the X-rays & interpretation directly from HSI
- All x-ray images will be retained by HSI for research purposes. This research will not publish any identifiable features of the animals/owners/breeders who participated in the scheme.
- Horse Sport Ireland will provide the results of this scheme, where relevant, to the studbook of origin of the equine in question.
- This screening is solely for the purpose of documenting the incidence of a variety of orthopaedic conditions; these x-rays do not provide recommendation for subsequent suitability for sale.
- Please note that applicant and horse application data will be shared with the relevant studbook to confirm breed, studbook, ownership, and any other relevant eligibility.
- I confirm that I have reviewed Horse Sport Ireland's Data Protection and Privacy policies (available at [www.horsesportireland.ie](http://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.

**\* - PLEASE NOTE – Where an applicant DOES NOT submit acceptable proof of their Equine Operator Profile, their application WILL be rejected.  
The applicant will be welcome to re-apply when they can provide evidence of their Equine Operator Profile.**

**By submitting an application, 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 images taken 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 mare name) on the HSI website**
- **I understand that drawdown of funding is subject to the completion of scheme feedback.**
- **I understand that applicant details and results will be shared as necessary with the DAFM studbook of origin/endorsed DAFM studbook.**



Irish Sport Horse Mares					
Minimum Performances Required for each Rating Level					
Rating Type	5*	4*	3*	2*	1*
Mare performance – Showjumping	2 double clear rounds at CSI/CSIO 4* level (Grand Prix or Nations’ Cup class or equivalent <sup>2)</sup> or higher	2 of the following:  Double clear rounds at CSI/CSIO3* level <sup>6</sup> 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 <sup>5</sup> or higher	Be entered in Select class <b>and</b>  Jump 4 double clear rounds at National 1.20m level <sup>7</sup> or higher	Be entered in Select class and jump 3 double clear rounds at National 1.10m <sup>8</sup> or higher or On inspection pass the clinical veterinary, conformation and movement assessments and achieve an athleticism score of at least 80 or Be classified as a ‘Premier Broodmare’



Irish Sport Horse Mares					
Minimum Performances Required for each Rating Level					
Rating Type	5*	4*	3*	2*	1*
Mare performance – Eventing	2 MERs <sup>15</sup> at:  CCI 3* level <sup>11</sup> up to 2018 or CCI4*-L level from 2019 or higher	2 MERs <sup>15</sup> 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 <sup>13</sup> up to 2018 or Top 25% finishes at CCI 2* level <sup>13</sup> up to 2018 or Top 25% finishes at CCI2*-L level <sup>13</sup> from 2019 or Top 25% finishes at CCI3*-L level <sup>13</sup> 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 <b>and</b> 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	Be entered in Select class <b>and</b> have  2 of the following:  Top 10% finishes at EI110 level 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 <b>and</b> have 2 placings at National Medium level with a score of 65% or higher	Be entered in Select class <b>and</b> have 2 placings at National Elementary 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*	1*
Mare progeny – Showjumping	<p>1 progeny with</p> <p>2 of the following:</p> <p>Double clear rounds at CSI/CSIO 3* level<sup>6</sup> or</p> <p>Double clear rounds in FEI competitions at a fence height of at least 1.45m at CSI/CSIO level or</p> <p>Top 4 placings in FEI speed classes at a fence height of at least 1.45m at CSI/CSIO level or higher</p>	<p>2 progeny with</p> <p>2 of the following:</p> <p>Double clear rounds at CSI/CSIO 2* level<sup>9</sup> or</p> <p>Double clear rounds in FEI competitions at a fence height of at least 1.40m at CSI/CSIO level or</p> <p>Top 4 placings in FEI speed classes at a fence height of at least 1.40m at CSI/CSIO level or</p> <p>Double clear rounds at National 1.45m level<sup>3</sup> or higher</p>	<p>2 progeny with</p> <p>2 double clear rounds at National 1.30m level<sup>5</sup> or higher</p>	<p>Be entered in Select class <b>and</b> have</p> <p>2 progeny with</p> <p>2 double clear rounds at National 1.20m level<sup>7</sup> or higher</p>	<p>Be entered in Select class <b>and</b> have</p> <p>2 progeny with</p> <p>2 double clear rounds at National 1.10m<sup>8</sup> or higher</p>
Mare progeny – Eventing	<p>1 progeny with</p> <p>2 MERs<sup>15</sup> at:</p> <p>EI120 level or</p> <p>CIC3* level up to 2018 or</p> <p>CCI4*-S level from 2019 or higher</p>	<p>2 progeny each with</p> <p>2 of the following:</p> <p>Top 25% finishes at CCI 2* level<sup>12</sup> up to 2018 or</p> <p>Top 25% finishes at CCI3*-L level from 2019 or higher</p>	<p>2 progeny each with</p> <p>2 of the following:</p> <p>Top 25% finishes at CCI 1* level<sup>13</sup> up to 2018 or</p> <p>Top 25% finishes at CCI2*-L level from 2019 or</p> <p>Top 10% finishes at EI115 level or</p> <p>Top 10% finishes at CIC2* level up to 2018 or</p> <p>Top 10% finishes at CCI3*-S level from</p>	<p>Be entered in Select class <b>and</b> have</p> <p>2 progeny each with</p> <p>2 of the following:</p> <p>Top 10% finishes at CIC1* level up to 2018 or</p> <p>Top 10% finishes at CCI2*-S level from 2109 or higher</p>	<p>Be entered in Select class <b>and</b> have</p> <p>2 progeny each with</p> <p>2 Top 10% finishes at EI110 level or higher</p>



Irish Sport Horse Mares					
Minimum Performances Required for each Rating Level					
Rating Type	5*	4*	3*	2*	1*
			2019 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 <b>and</b> have  2 progeny each with  2 placings at National Medium level with a score of 65% of higher	Be entered in Select class <b>and</b> have  2 progeny each with  2 placings at National Elementary level with a score of 65% or higher