

**Nomination and Selection Policy**  
**FEI WBFSH World Breeding Jumping Championships for Young Horses 2026**  
**CH-M-YH-S Lanaken, BEL**  
**16<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> September 2026**

**Participation in FEI WBFSH World Breeding Jumping Championships**  
**funded by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine under National Breeding Services.**



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

**SECTION I TIMELINES**

**1.1 The selection timelines for the CH-M-YH-S are as follows:**

May - September 2026	Athletes interested in being included on the Irish Young Horse Squad at the FEI WBFSH World Breeding Jumping Championships for Young Horses in Lanaken, Belgium must submit an expression of interest. If riding an Irish Sport Horse, submit the form found <a href="#">HERE</a> If riding an Irish Warmblood, send an email to <a href="mailto:nominations@irish-warmblood.com">nominations@irish-warmblood.com</a> by Wednesday, August 26 <sup>th</sup> , 2026.
September 2026	The Team Ireland Chef D'Equipe for the World Breeding Jumping Championships shall nominate the combinations for the Irish studbooks team in the age categories (5-, 6-, and 7-year-olds) to Horse Sport Ireland (HSI) in its role as the National Equestrian Federation/FEI Affiliate and selector.  WSI shall nominate the combinations for the Irish Warmblood breed in the age categories (5-, 6-, and 7-year-olds) to HSI in its role as the National Equestrian Federation/FEI Affiliate and selector. All nominations on behalf of the ISH Studbook and by the WSI Studbook must be sent to HSI by September 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2026.
September 2026	Selected combinations will be required to complete FEI Registration immediately prior to Definite Entries.  More information on FEI registration can be found by clicking <a href="#">HERE</a>
As per FEI Schedule	HSI will submit the Definite Entries to the FEI.

**SECTION II ELIGIBILITY FOR SELECTION**

2.1 A maximum of **24 horses\*** shall be selected to represent the Irish WBFSH-Member Studbooks at the FEI World Breeding Jumping Championships for Young Horses. For the avoidance of doubt, the Irish WBFSH Studbooks are the Irish Sport Horse Studbook (ISH) and the Warmblood Studbook of Ireland (WSI).



- 2.2 All horses must be registered and possess a unique equine life number (UELN) issued by an Irish studbook that is a Full Member of the WBFSH. Specifically, only horses whose registration is with the ISH or WSI Studbook are eligible to compete in the Championships.
- 2.3 Eligible horses will be nominated and selected irrespective of their riders' nationality.
- 2.4 Eligible horses will be nominated and selected irrespective of their country of birth.
- 2.5 Breeding criteria: All horses registered in the Irish Sport Horse Studbook with the breed code ISH, and with sire and dam recorded on their passport, and all horses registered in the Warmblood Studbook of Ireland with the breed code WSI, are eligible for nomination and selection.
- 2.6 Only horses nominated on behalf of the ISH Studbook or by the WSI Studbook and nominated according to the criteria and rules contained in this document, may be selected by the NF to compete in the FEI WBFSH World Breeding Jumping Championships.
- 2.7 As per previous policies, in 2026, the breeding nomination and selection criteria includes that all Irish Studbook team horses must be sired by a stallion that is Approved or Recognised by the ISH or WSI Studbook, or by a studbook that is a Full Member of the WBFSH. Nominated horses must also have three generations of recorded pedigree.
- 2.8 Stallions **will not** be nominated to compete if they have not been inspected and passed at least Stage 1 of the Irish Sport Horse Studbook inspection process, or Stage 1 and Stage 2 in the Warmblood Studbook of Ireland selection process. As per the studbook inspection processes, this must include the full veterinary examination.

**\*\*New for 2026\*\***

**Minimum Eligibility Requirements (MER's)**

To be eligible, horses must achieve the following Minimum Eligibility Requirements (MERs):

- 5-year-old horses – 3 clear rounds in competitions of at least 115 cm
- 6-year-old horses – 3 clear rounds in competitions of at least 125 cm
- 7-year-old horses – 3 clear rounds in competitions of at least 135 cm

**\*Many participating countries do not utilise their full allocation; any unused FEI quotas are redistributed to National Federations. In previous years, Ireland has been provided additional allocation on that basis. Athletes and producers should be aware that Horse Sport Ireland will not be informed of the unused allocations until early September. There is no guarantee that any additional allocations will be made in each of the age categories.**

**SECTION III FEI/WBFSH Quota Agreement/OC WILDCARDS**

- 3.1 The information below is based on the 2025 FEI Schedule; information will be updated following the release of the 2026 Schedule. Athletes, Owners, and Personal Management teams should familiarise themselves with the FEI/WBFSH/OC Agreement in respect of National Federation (NF) quotas and wildcards.
- 3.2 For the Irish NF, a maximum of 6, 7 and 6 horses will be the quota in each of the following age categories (as per 2025 FEI schedule), respectively:
  - 6 x 5-year-olds.
  - 7 x 6-year-olds.
  - 6 x 7-year-olds.
- 3.3 FEI Schedule 2025 for the Championships provides for the respective countries quota as noted below.
- 3.4 In respect of Wildcards, Athletes, Owners, Personal Management teams should note the following position will be outlined in the 2026 FEI Schedule, which is to be released
- 3.5 In 2026, Athletes will be granted a maximum of **TWO** FEI Quota wildcards per age group.
  - 3.5..1 Wildcard priority will be given to athletes based in Ireland.



## VI. INVITATIONS

### 1. GENERAL

The Organizing Committee (OC) in accordance with the FEI reserves the right to invite approximately 170 5-yr old horses, 190 6-yr old horses and 140 7-yr old horses entered only by their NF plus approx. 30% additional wildcards from the Organizing Committee (except the competitions for the Sires of the World). The distribution is as follows:

AGE CATEGORY	WBFSH QUOTA	FEI QUOTA
5 YEARS OLD	85	85
6 YEARS OLD	95	95
7 YEARS OLD	70	70

All horses must be registered in a studbook, which is a member of the WBFSH. Only the studbook in which the horse in question is first registered is acceptable for participation at the Championship. The quota for each country is for horses registered in a studbook which is originally recognized in that country. Countries, which are not mentioned, because there is no WBFSH Member Association, can apply for a FEI Quota-place.

	WBFSH Quota	WBFSH Quota	WBFSH Quota		WBFSH Quota	WBFSH Quota	WBFSH Quota
	5-YR	6-YR	7-YR		5-YR	6-YR	7-YR
Austria	1	1		Latvia	1	1	
				Lithuania	1	1	
Belgium	7	8	6	Luxembourg	1	1	
Bulgaria	1	1		Netherlands	10	11	9
Croatia		1	1	Norway	1	1	1
Czech Republic	1	1	1	Poland	1	2	1
Denmark	5	5	5	Portugal	1	1	1
Estonia	1	1	1	Slovakia	1	1	
Finland		1		Slovenia	1	1	
France	12	12	10	Spain	2	3	2
Germany	13	14	11	Sweden	7	8	4
Great Britain	4	4	4	Switzerland	1	1	1
Hungary	1	2	1				
Ireland	6	7	6				
Italy	5	5	5				



## SECTION IV VETERINARY

- 4.1 Horse Sport Ireland (HSI) in its role as the National Equestrian Federation/FEI Affiliate and selector can request that a horse be made available for inspection by the Team Veterinarian(s) or an appointed Veterinarian at any time. Athletes must comply with this request.
- 4.2 Athletes must notify the Chef d'Equipe of any change in their horse's health status or of any veterinary issues when they first become apparent;
- 4.3 HSI can send the Team Veterinarian or an appointed Veterinarian to take a blood and/or urine sample from a horse at any time, for the purposes of testing for prohibited substances, and/or as part of an assessment of the horse's well-being;
- 4.4 Athletes (at their own expense) shall make available, upon the request of the Team Veterinarian or an appointed Veterinarian, the veterinary records of horse(s) selected for the Championship. In addition, Athletes, (at their own expense), shall be responsible for supplying any follow-up diagnostic information requested by the Team Veterinarian for horses selected for the Championship. Failure to comply with any request of the Team Veterinarian or an appointed Veterinarian may result in the removal of the Athlete/horse combination from selection.
- 4.5 Each Athlete will be required to keep a medication logbook for their horses in which they shall record all products, treatments, foodstuffs and supplements used on or given to their horse from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2026 until the conclusion of the Championship.
- 4.6 The Team Veterinarian will be entitled to view this logbook at any time. Athletes are required to submit this logbook (in strict confidence) together with the Medication and Anti-Doping Control Declaration (Appendix 3) to the Team Veterinarian for assessment on or before the FEI Final Definite Entries [date to be confirmed] in line with Rule 8.12 of the Horse Sport Ireland General Rules.
- 4.7 In the event that treatments and medications are necessary subsequent to the submission of the logbook, express written approval is required from Team Veterinarian following notification of the Chef d'Equipe by the Athlete. This is a mandatory requirement to ensure that selected horses are managed appropriately within the pre-competition window and before departure.

## SECTION V SPECIFIC NOMINATION AND SELECTION CRITERIA

- 5.1 The primary aim of these criteria is to select athlete and horse combinations that are capable of achieving podium finishes in each of the respective age categories at the FEI WBFSH World Breeding Jumping Championships for Young Horses 2026.
- 5.2 The following criteria shall be used for nomination and selection within each age category:
- 5.3 Horses must also meet the Minimum Eligible Requirements as outlined [here](#)

### 5 Year Old Category

- 5.2.1 (1) place of the quota of (6) places for the 5-year-old category will be allocated the winner of the Dublin Horse Show 5-year-old Championship.
- 5.2.2 The remaining quota places will be allocated by the Chef D'Equipe based on the Competition and general measures are outlined in sections 5.3 and 5.4 below.
- 5.2.3 Non-travelling reserves shall be selected in the 5-year-old Table 1. Such reserves shall be listed in ranking order and must be available to travel in the event of a selected combination is unable to travel.

### 6 Year Old Category

- 5.2.4 (1) place of the quota of (7) places for the 6-year-old category will be allocated the winner of the Dublin Horse Show 6-year-old Championship.
- 5.2.5 The remaining quota places will be allocated by the Chef D'Equipe based on the competition and general measures outlined at section 5.3 and 5.4 below.

- 5.2.6 (2) non-travelling reserves will be selected in the 6 year old category. Such reserves will be listed in ranking order and must be available to travel in the event of selected combination unable to travel.

### 7 Year Old Category

- 5.2.7 (1) place of the quota of (6) places for the 7-year-old category will be allocated the winner of the Dublin Horse Show 7-year-old Championship, or highest placed eligible 7-year-old if in the Top 5, provided that they obtain a clear round in round 1 of the final.
- 5.2.8 The remaining quota places will be allocated by the Chef D'Equipe based on the competition and general measures outlined at section 5.3 and 5.4 below.
- 5.2.9 (2) Non-travelling reserves will be selected in the 7year old category. Such reserves will be listed in ranking order and must be available to travel in the event of combination unable to travel.

5.4 In assessing the performance of combinations, the Chef d'Equipe will consider nominations but will retain the ability to select based on the 5.3 and 5.4 below in the interest of safeguarding the welfare of both horse and rider. The Chef d'Equipe will give consideration to the performances in 2026 at the following events:

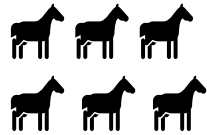
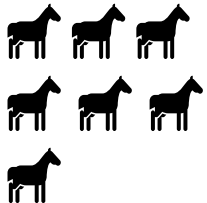
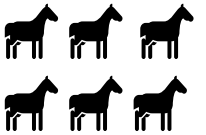



5.3.1	DAFM Studbook Series (Show Jumping)
5.3.2	Showjumping Ireland national events inclusive of relevant age classes.
5.3.3	FEI designated events in Ireland and abroad inclusive of relevant age classes.
5.3.4	All relevant competitions approved by other National Federations.
5.3.5	Official team viewing days at the National Sports Campus Arena. If/where these occur athletes will be charged a fee for same.

5.5 In assessing the performance of combinations, the Chef D'Equipe will give consideration to the following general measures. These measures include, but are not limited to:

- 5.5.1 Studbook nomination(s) which must be submitted on or before the 1<sup>st</sup> of September 2026 for consideration. Where nominations are/are not received, the Chef d'Equipe will select on the basis of details contained within the selection criteria (v) to safeguard the horse and rider.
- 5.5.2 An athlete's form on other horses may also be taken into consideration;
- 5.5.3 The suitability of the Combination with regard to the likely characteristics of the arenas in Lanaken and for the unexpected conditions of the CH-EU- S (taking into account the objective of the of this Policy)
- 5.5.4 The ability of the Athlete and his/her support team to operate and perform in a FEI championship environment which is highly regulated & pressurised;
- 5.5.5 The ability of the Athlete and/or support team to contribute towards an effective team and winning orientated environment;
- 5.5.6 The overall balance of the Combinations that have been selected;
- 5.5.7 The ability and experience of the Combination to compete successfully at a high level of international competition;
- 5.5.8 Demonstrated experience and/or success at Championship level; the ability, or potential ability, of a Horse and/or Athlete to perform under the stress and pressure of a FEI World Championships;
- 5.5.9 The ability of the Athlete, and/or their personal management team to prepare their Horse appropriately to peak condition for a major campaign, such as the FEI Championship;

- 5.5.10 Overall form of the combinations under similar conditions (e.g. similar time allowed, water fences, light fence material, width of oxers) to those that will be met at Lanaken;
- 5.5.11 Consistency of performance and the likelihood of a suitable performance to contribute towards a medal outcome may be a consideration;

**Table 1. Irish Studbook allocation and selection criteria**

5-year-old	6-year-old	7-year-old	Studbook/ Comp.	Criteria
			WSI & ISH	As per section V
			RDS	The winner of the RDS 5-, 6- and 7-year classes.
Horse figures are based on the 2025 allocation for Irish Studbooks by the FEI (19-21). Should the allocation change, the places will be re-allocated across nominated studbook horses, subject to section V.				

5.6 The Chef d'Equipe will consider section 5.4.8 in the following guise:

- i. Individual success;
- ii. Personal bests at targeted competitions;
- iii. Taking ownership of their performances;
- iv. Willingness to change and develop;
- v. Commitment to excellent horsemanship;
- vi. Have personal coaches, individual performance plans, personal fitness structures and horse management programmes in place;
- vii. Demonstration of mental resilience and ability to seek necessary supports where needed and recommended. Riders must have the capacity to mentally prepare for, and cope with, the rigors and pressures associated with championship performance.

5.7 The soundness of the horse to meet the challenges of competing and travelling to the CH-EU- S will be a significant factor in any selection decision. Athletes must keep the Chef d'Equipe and WSI (for Irish Warmbloods) fully briefed on any health or soundness issues the horse may have both historically and throughout the Season. From the date of selection, all squad members must immediately inform the Chef D'Equipe, WSI (for Irish Warmbloods), and Team Veterinarian(s) of any illness or injury (however minor). Where it becomes apparent that a squad horse is unsound, and/or that there was a non-disclosure relating to soundness, the Chef D'Equipe reserves the right to remove that combination from selection with immediate effect. The decision of the Chef D'Equipe, must be based on advice from, and agreement by the Team Veterinarian, is final.

5.8 Prior and subsequent to selection, the Chef d'Equipe and WSI (for Irish Warmbloods) may undertake regular evaluations as to the combination's standard of fitness, their progress in training, their preparedness for the event and their form. Any advice provided by the Team Veterinarian, and medical professionals may be utilised by the Chef d'Equipe and WSI, where required. However, such evaluations shall be discretionary on the part of the Selector.

5.9 Furthermore, the Chef d'Equipe shall have the authority to remove a selected horse/athlete combination from Selection, where the selected horse and/or athlete has not maintained their fitness, standard of performance, or any other performance related matter in which the Chef d'equipe considers important,

which is not a standard comparable to that exhibited so as to gain selection to represent Ireland at the CH-EU- S.

5.10 The Chef d'Equipe's decision in respect of selected combinations is final and binding.

5.11 Where horses have been sold after their selection for Lanaken it is requested that the Owners, Riders and Relative Parties will honour the selection and retain the horse until after the championships.

## **SECTION VI FORCE MAJEURE**

6.1 In considering the performances of athletes and horses to compete at the Championships, the Chef d'Equipe may, at their discretion, give weight to extenuating circumstances.

6.2 For the purposes of section 6.1 above, extenuating circumstances means an inability to compete, or perform at an optimum level arising from:

- i. Injury or illness;
- ii. Bereavement or personal misfortune, and/or;
- iii) Any other factors reasonably considered by the Chef d'Equipe to constitute extenuating circumstances.

6.3 Athletes unable to compete at camps, events, trials or other attendances required under this policy must advise the Chef d'Equipe by email of this fact, and the reasons thereof, as soon as practicable after the extenuating circumstances arise.

6.4 In the case of injury or illness, athletes may be required to undergo a confidential medical examination by a doctor or doctor (s) nominated by Horse Sport Ireland. The findings of the examination directly related to the athletes ability to compete at the CH-EU- S will be disclosed to HSI without the written consent of the Athlete; the doctor must advise HSI in writing whether or not it is advisable, based on the findings of the examination, for the Athlete to participate in the Championship. The Chef d'Equipe reserves the right to remove an athlete where the designated medical officer deems the athlete unfit to compete at the level that resulted in their selection for CH-EU- S.

6.5 A decision in each case of extenuating circumstances will be made by the Chef d'Equipe on a case-by-case basis.

6.6 Post selection, Athlete substitutions will normally not be allowed except on medical or veterinary grounds, but all substitution decisions will be at the discretion of the Chef d'Equipe. In the case of a bona fide sale, where an Athlete substitution is requested, the Chef d'Equipe reserves all rights in respect of granting the substitution request.

6.7 Athletes must sign the HSI code of conduct.

6.8 Athletes must have their own personal accident and liability cover.

## **SECTION VII REMOVAL OF ATHLETES**

7.1 An Athlete shall be removed from squad selection (individual or team), non- travelling reserve selection, FEI Nominated Entries, and FEI Final Entries by the Chef d'Equipe pursuant clause 5.6, 5.8 & 6.4 above;

7.2 An Athlete may be removed from non- travelling reserve selection, FEI Nominated Entries, and/or FEI Final Entries for any of the following reasons, as determined by Horse Sport Ireland Sport Panel;

- i. Notification of an adverse analytical finding following on from testing pursuant to the FEI & HSI Equine Anti-Doping Rules and Equine Controlled Medication Rules & FEI & Sport Ireland Human Anti-Doping Protocols;
- ii. Violation of the FEI & HSI Equine Anti-Doping Rules and Equine Controlled Medication Rules & FEI & Sport Ireland Human Anti-Doping Protocols;
- iii. Violation of the FEI Hypersensitivity Protocol;
- iv. Violation or alleged violation of the FEI Sport Rules and Regulations, HSI General Rules and/or Policies;
- v. Violation or alleged violation of the HSI Code of Conduct and Jumping Programme Participation Agreement.
- vi. Any action which could damage the reputation of the National Federation, Sport, or the Country.

7.3 Pursuant to Section 7 above, the Chef d'Equipe's decision is final and binding.

#### SECTION VIII DISCLAIMERS

- 8.1 These procedures are based on FEI General Regulations and applicable FEI Sport Rules as presently known and understood. The selection criteria are based on the latest information available to HSI. However, the selections are always subject to unforeseen, intervening circumstances, and realistically may not have accounted for every possible contingency.
- 8.2 As such, this policy can be amended at any time by the National Federation (Horse Sport Ireland). Horse Sport Ireland reserves the right to amend or change the Selection Policy where necessary at any time to fulfil the objective of the Selection Policy subject to the constraint that the Nomination Policy and Selection Policy may not be changed without written consent from the Warmblood Studbook of Ireland. In the event that Horse Sport Ireland is of the opinion that such an amendment is necessary as a result of any change in any of the above stated rules, regulations and agreements, to give effect to the policy following discovery of a drafting error or oversight or for any other reason determined to be in the best interests of Horse Sport Ireland and/or Warmblood Studbook of Ireland, with the written consent of WSI if the change concerns the Nomination Policy or Selection Policy. Horse Sport Ireland and the Warmblood Studbook of Ireland shall not be responsible or liable in any way to anyone as a result of any such amendment.
- 8.3 This initiative is funded by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine under National Breeding Services, Horse Sport Ireland and the Warmblood Studbook of Ireland shall not be responsible or liable in any way to anyone because of any change or reduction in funding available, where the competing combination may be liable for some additional or all associated competing costs.
- 8.4 Athletes and their horses may be asked to wear or have their horses wear clothing or tack branded "Team Ireland"; athletes are asked to do so. Athletes and their horses may be asked to wear or have their horses wear clothing or tack branded by a sponsor who has provided in-kind support to Team Ireland for the FEI WBFSH World Breeding Jumping Championships for Young Horses; athletes are asked to do so. Athletes who do not cooperate will not receive funding from DAFM National Breeding Services association with their participation at the FEI WBFSH World Breeding Jumping Championships for Young Horses.

