



Schooling (II) Scheme 2026

Horse Sport Ireland are delighted to re-launch the schooling scheme for owners of future breeding performance studbook sport horses, rare breeds and studbook ponies including fillies, young mares and stallions. This scheme is delivered by Horse Sport Ireland and funded by the Department of Agriculture, Food, and the Marine (DAFM) under National Breeding Services.

Schooling (II)

This scheme is open to breeders/owners with young horse/pony mares and stallions intended for breeding born between 2019 and 2021 (5–7-year-olds). Equines are sent for training with a producer, selected by the owner, who must meet producer criteria outlined below.

Breeders/owners will have the opportunity to apply to participate in the scheme by completing an online application. **HSI will reimburse breeders with funds towards eight weeks training with a producer to school their young horse up to a maximum of €3,000 per horse/pony** following receipt of a valid application which is subsequently approved prior to the training period. Prior to reimbursement, the following must also be supplied: an invoice from the producer, geotagged identification video, geotagged video evidence of the horse’s progress (before and after videos), producer feedback, an inspection report (inc. linear profile) and the horse’s genotype. Training must begin **within 14 days** of approval.

SCHEME DEADLINES		
	Application closing	Return of invoices
DATE	March 31 st 2026	July 23 rd 2026
*Subject to availability under the maximum budget allocation, this scheme may close earlier owing to demand.		

TERMS AND CONDITIONS – General terms

- Applicant hereafter pertains to the breeder/owner of the horse(s) funded under this scheme.
- Horse hereafter pertains to both horses and ponies.
- Training must begin within 14 days of approval. The approval process typically takes 2 – 8 working days. Training period must not begin until after approval date.
- All applications must be submitted before the above stated deadlines.
- **Invoices/documentation received thereafter will not be funded.** This deadline will not be extended, and no late submissions will be accepted.
- The scheme may be closed ahead of the advertised deadline if the maximum allocation facilitated by the existing budget allocation has been reached.
- Horse Sport Ireland reserves the right to use performance/classification equivalents as appropriate.
- Horse Sport Ireland reserves the right to reject any application.



- Horse Sport Ireland reserves the right to permit veterinary equine identification and welfare spot checks for any applicant's horses at producer's yards onsite to ensure that the horses entered into the scheme are the same horses present for training.
- Applicant and horse application data will be shared with the relevant studbook to confirm breed, studbook, ownership, and any other relevant eligibility for application processing.
- Horse Sport Ireland will provide the results of this scheme, where relevant, to the studbook of origin of the equine in question.
- All information and videos provided to HSI may be retained by HSI for research and studbook purposes.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS – Equine eligibility

- Mares and stallions must meet all of the following eligibility criteria:
 - Be born in 2021, 2020 or 2019;
 - Be registered/endorsed and **classified (inspected)** with a DAFM approved studbook;
 - Sires must have an Approved/Preliminary Approved or Recognised/Preliminary Recognised or Class 1 classification in a DAFM-WBFSH Approved studbook; or equivalent in their breeding programme (i.e. height categorised).

OR

 - In rare breed studbooks, the animal subject to the application has attended an inspection and been designated either Class 1 or Class 2. The applicant must provide proof of classification.
 - **Have completed inspection with a DAFM approved studbook** and are classified by a DAFM approved studbook with dam line performance:
 - dam line (sister/dam/granddam with performance equivalents to mare merit 2* (SJ/Eventing/dressage))

OR

EBV of 120 OR the relevant 2* for 2 progenies. Colts must also have dam line (sister/dam/granddam with performance equivalents to mare merit 2* (SJ/Eventing/dressage))

OR EBV of 120 OR the relevant 2* for 2 progenies,

OR Own Performance

 - 5-Year-Old has jumped DC at 1m
 - 6/7-Year-Old has jumped DC in any leg of the DAFM Studbook Series **Or** age class equivalent in 2025.
 - Be accompanied by a letter from a veterinary surgeon to confirm that stallions are entire;
 - Native Rare Breeds must meet the relevant performance criteria, be registered in the Connemara Pony, Irish Draught or Kerry Bog Pony* studbooks with a full recorded pedigree.

*See Appendix 1 for further KBP criteria.

 - Performance criteria for NRB maternal sibling/dam successful in ID/CP classes in RDS/Clifden/National Show. *See Appendix 2 for further ID/CP/TIH criteria



- In rare breed studbooks, the animal subject to the application has attended an inspection and been designated either Class 1 or Class 2. The applicant must provide proof of classification.
- Irish Standardbred Pacers/Trotters must meet attached criteria*.
*See Appendix 3 for IHRA criteria.
- Horses started on the 2026 Starting Scheme are not eligible to be schooled under the 2026 Schooling Schemes.
- Mares produced under the 2026 Premium Mare Retention Scheme are not eligible to be schooled in the 2026 Schooling Schemes.
- Approved equines must release permission to access equine genotype (if not existing in HSI) for the purposes of research into traits and breed improvement.
- Animals must be in the applicant ownership and ownership of the animal cannot be changed between family members for the purpose of gaining entry onto the scheme.
- **Applicants must provide a screenshot of their [DAFM Equine Operator Profile](#) (ROI) or [Equine Establishment Number](#) (EEN) (NI) must be uploaded as part of the application process.**
 - **Applications are not valid without proof of same.**
- Horses are sent for training with a producer selected by the owner who must meet the specific criteria. Breeders/owners may apply for up to two equines to participate in the scheme.
- Approved equines must release permission to access equine genotype and bar chart (linear profile) (if not existing in HSI) for the purposes of research into traits and breed improvement.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS – Applicant:

- Applicants and producers must be resident in Ireland (including Northern Ireland).
- Applicants must be the registered owner of the animal at the time of application.
- The applicant and producer are responsible for all insurance costs and liability for both horse and producer i.e. to cover any personal accident/injury and or horse accident/injury. Horse Sport Ireland will not be liable for any damages or losses incurred by applicants or producers during the training period.
- Application numbers are limited to two horses per applicant.
- Applicants must be satisfied as to the skills, knowledge, experience, and facilities of their selected producer to care for their horse appropriately and to produce it in an appropriate manner.
- Applicants must select their own producer, HSI cannot provide or recommend producers.
- HSI will reimburse the pre-approved costs of eight weeks of training up to a maximum of €3,000. This may include training, livery and associated equine health/management costs (dentistry, saddle fitting, farriery and feeding costs) and associated livery costs (producer fee, entry fees, arena hire, etc.) all receipts must be submitted with the invoice. Payment will not be issued until receipt of valid copy of the invoices, receipts, a relevant competition record and video evidence of the young horse's progress.



- Video evidence **must** be submitted to the online portal by the applicant to HSI and should include one video [identifying the equine](#) (showing markings and microchip) one video in the first week of training showing the horse's starting point and one video towards the end of the training showing the horse's progress.
 - In the Schooling II Scheme horses must be under saddle in both training videos and should be riding at a competition in the second training video.
- **The two videos submitted must be geotagged and dated videos via the 'Timestamp Camera Basic' App from Apple's App Store to take Geotagged videos or via the suitable application on other devices.**
- A relevant competition record for the young horse and producer (i.e., SJI/EI etc) must be provided to HSI at the end of the 8 weeks of training.
- If videos are not submitted (with geotags) and/or the horse is not progressing to a sufficient standard Horse Sport Ireland reserve the right to withhold/refuse payment.
- Payment will not be issued until receipt of valid copy of the paid invoices, receipts, producer feedback, equine inspection and genotype, and video evidence of the young horse's progress.
 - All receipts/invoices must clearly indicate: Company/supplier name and address, receipt ID number, date of issue, date of payment, horse details (name/UELN/Chip number) itemised breakdown of services including unit prices and the amount paid.
- Grant payments are made in respect of costs already incurred. Invoices (marked with proof of payment) **must** include the following:
 - Name and address of person receiving invoice (owner)
 - Name and address of person giving invoice (producer/ Vet Clinic etc.)
 - Date of Invoice (must be dated within scheme dates)
 - Invoice Number
 - Name and UELN/Microchip of equine the invoice refers to, which must be the same as the approved equine for the scheme
 - Description of services provided (schooling/livery, Embryo Transfer, dentist/farrier etc)
 - A total figure for the invoice, provided in €
 - **Proof of Payment-** invoices not marked as paid or accompanied by proof of payment are not accepted.

Invoices that do not include the above will not be accepted.

- For invoices given in Sterling, HSI will not calculate the exchange rate, the figure supplied will be paid in Euro.
- IBANs provided for scheme payment **MUST** be the IBAN of the horse owner (applicant).
- Applicants must provide Horse Sport Ireland with a Tax clearance certificate should the sum of their approvals and or prize money equal **€5,000 or more**. If a tax clearance cert cannot be furnished on request, grants cannot be provided. [CLICK HERE FOR INFORMATION ON HOW TO APPLY.](#)

TERMS AND CONDITIONS - Producer Criteria



- The selection of a producer is at the discretion of the applicant; Horse Sport Ireland accept no liability for potential damage arising during or related to the funded period.
- Producers must not be the owner/close family members of the applicant/breeders/co-owners of the young horse/employees of the applicant or operating from the same premises as the applicant.
 - Nominated producers must produce the horse, no other rider/producer is acceptable.
- Applicants must be satisfied as to the skills, knowledge, experience and facilities of their selected producer to care for their horse appropriately and to produce it in an appropriate manner.
- Nominated Producing professionals' qualification must meet one of the following criteria:
 - Riders that have qualified a horse for the final in RDS SJ 4-, 5-, 6- or 7-year-olds in the last 3 years;
 - Riders that have qualified a horse for the final day of any leg in the HSI Studbook Show Jumping Series in the last 3 years;
 - Riders that have competed a horse for the final in RDS Young Event Horse class in the last 3 years;
 - Riders that have recorded a MER at CCI2*L or EI115 in the last 3 years;
 - Riders that have recorded a double clear at National 1.35m or higher in the last 3 years.
 - Riders that have recorded a MER in the HSI Studbook Eventing Series /age class equivalent in the last 3 years.
 - Riders that have qualified a horse for the World Breeding Championships for Young horses in Lanaken or Lion d'Angers;
 - Producer and underage rider combinations that have qualified a pony for the RDS in the last 3 years.

OR
- Producers for ponies and Native Rare Breeds will be selected based on their skill set in specific discipline (i.e., pony size, driving, showing etc) and must have relevant producing and competing experience (Kerry Bog Pony Society showing and Dublin Horse Show equivalents for Irish Draught and Connemara Ponies)
 - Nominated Producers must provide verification of qualification for the Connemara Performance hunter class in the RDS Dublin Horse Show OR the Clifden High Performance Final Or a top 5 placing in a RDS/Clifden pony showing class in the last 3 years
 - Nominated Producers must provide verification of qualification for the Performance Irish Draught class in the RDS Dublin Horse Show OR a top 5 placing in a RDS Irish Draught showing class in the last 3 years
 - Equivalents are in place for Kerry Pony Nominated Producers outlined in Appendix 1.
- HSI reserve the right to refuse an applicant/producer based on the information provided. Incomplete applications will not be accepted.
- Applicants must select their own producer, HSI cannot provide or recommend producers.
- Horse Sport Ireland will not be party to any contracts or agreements entered or between breeders/owners and producers.



- Horse Sport Ireland will have no role to play in the event of any disputes between breeders/owners and producers arising from participation in this scheme.

By signing this form, 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 that the drawdown of funding is subject to the completion of scheme feedback.**
- **I understand that HSI will publish a list of awardees (forename, surname, county and mare name) on the HSI website**
- **I am satisfied as to the skills, knowledge, experience and facilities of my selected producer to care for my horse appropriately and to produce it in an appropriate manner and I understand that I, the applicant, accept liability and responsibility for any damages or losses occurring to i) the producer ii) the horse(s) during or related to the funded period.**
- **I understand and provide consent for my equine's data to be used for research and studbook purposes, including but not limited to publication**
- **I understand that if I do not adhere to the scheme's terms and conditions, I will not receive funding, even if my horse has been produced by my chosen producer.**
- **I agree to indemnify and keep indemnified Horse Sport Ireland against all liabilities, losses, costs, demands, orders, recommendations, determinations, judgments, damages, actions, expenses, fines, penalties, interest, reasonable legal costs and expenses and all claims howsoever and whenever incurred by the Company:**
 1. **relating to any income tax, PRSI, levies, contributions and any other liability, deduction, contribution, assessment or claim arising from or made in connection with either the provision of the Services; and/or any payment or benefit claimed or received by any person engaged by me (or associates) in connection with the performance of the Services, where such recovery is not prohibited by law:**
 2. **as a consequence of any allegation or claim related to employment or alleged employment, transfer or employment, worker status or worker remuneration brought by me, or by any person or persons procured by me in the provision of the Services whether under contract, in equity, at common law or pursuant to statute (including, without limitation pursuant to the Unfair Dismissals Acts 1977 to 2007), or otherwise;**
 3. **relating to injury, loss or damage caused by an act or omission by me or by any person or persons procured by the me in the provision of the Services;**
- **I/we understand that pursuant to the Data Protection Act 2018 and the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) 2016, customer consent is required by the data controller, Horse Sport Ireland, to process personal data which it may have in its possession**



including direct disclosure to third parties (data processors) such as, but not limited to selected/approved producers for the purpose of the Schooling Schemes 2026.

- I/we understand that selected owners are responsible for administration services relating to the Schooling Schemes on behalf of HSI and are responsible for the processing of any information relating to that scheme, either contained within the application form or otherwise. I note that selected producers will only process this data for the purpose of administration of the Schooling Schemes 2026.
- I confirm that I have reviewed Horse Sport Ireland's Data Protection and Privacy policies (available at 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 producers 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.



CHECKLIST for Schooling II

- ✓ Please ensure that the producer invoice includes the following information:
 - Name and address of producer
 - Name and address of applicant
 - Correct amount on invoice in euro
 - Invoice must be for **8 weeks**
 - Name and UELN of horse
 - Invoice is signed and paid

- ✓ Video evidence must be submitted to the online portal by the applicant to HSI.
 - One video must be provided identifying the horse, showing its scanned microchip number and markings,
 - One from the first week of training showing the horse's starting point,
 - One video towards the end of the training (week 8) showing the horse's progress.
 - All under saddle
 - **The videos submitted must be geotagged and dated videos via the 'Timestamp Camera Basic' App from Apple's App Store to take Geotagged videos or via the suitable application on other devices.**

- ✓ Stallion/colts applications must be accompanied by a letter from a veterinary surgeon to confirm that they are entire.

- ✓ Competition record/link

- ✓ [Producer feedback form](#) must be completed and returned to HSI.

- ✓ Equine Operator Profile screenshot must be uploaded.

- ✓ IBANs provided for scheme payment **MUST** be the IBAN of the applicant. The producer, partner or any other IBAN is not permitted for payment

- ✓ [CLICK HERE](#) for FAQ document for all schemes.



Appendix 1 Damline Performance and Draught Merits

Sport Horse Mares				
Minimum Performances Required for each Rating Level				
Rating Type	5*	4*	3*	2*
Mare performance – Showjumping	2 double clear rounds at CSI/CSIO 4* level (Grand Prix or Nations’ Cup class or equivalent ²) or higher	2 of the following: Double clear rounds at CSI/CSIO3* level ⁶ 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 ⁵ or higher	Be entered in Select class and Jump 4 double clear rounds at National 1.20m level ⁷ or higher
Mare performance – Eventing	2 MERs ¹⁵ at: CCI 3* level ¹¹ up to 2018 or CCI4*-L level from 2019 or higher	2 MERs ¹⁵ 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 ¹³ up to 2018 or Top 25% finishes at CCI 2* level ¹³ up to 2018 or Top 25% finishes at CCI2*-L level ¹³ from 2019 or Top 25% finishes at CCI3*-L level ¹³ 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 and 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
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 and have 2 placings at National Medium level with a score of 65% of higher



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



Irish Draught – Bronze Jumping/Dressage/Eventing/Showing

Category	Own Performance (minimum) – available to Class 1 mares & geldings	Progeny Performance (Minimum)* - available to Class 1 and 2 mares
GOLD	<p>Jumping: A mare or gelding that achieves 2 double clear rounds at 1.20m level.</p> <p>Dressage: A mare or gelding that achieves 2 scores of above 64% at elementary level.</p> <p>Eventing: a mare or gelding that has completed 2 events at EI110 with a clear round SJ and clear jumping XC OR on completion of one EI110 and either one CCI*/CIC* (up to 2018) or one CCI2*-S/L (from 2019) with a clear round SJ and clear jumping XC..</p> <p>Showing: A mare or gelding that wins 3 times in Championship classes held at the RDS, RUAS, national ISA Championships and the two national breed societies’ shows.</p>	<p>Jumping: A mare that produces 2 progeny that each achieves 2 double clear rounds at 1.20m level.</p> <p>Dressage: A mare that produces 2 progeny that each achieve 2 scores of above 64% at elementary level.</p> <p>Eventing: A mare that produces 1 progeny that each has completed 2 events at EI110 with a clear round SJ and clear jumping at XC OR on completion of one EI110 and either one CCI*/CIC* (up to 2018) or one CCI2*-S/L (from 2019) with a clear round SJ and clear jumping at XC.</p> <p>Showing: A mare that produces 2 progeny that each achieves 1st in Championship classes held at the RDS, RUAS, national ISA Championships and the two national breed societies’ shows.</p>
SILVER	<p>Jumping: A mare that achieves 2 double clear rounds at 1.10m level.</p> <p>Dressage: A mare that achieved 2 scores of 64% novice level.</p> <p>Eventing: A mare that has completed 2 events at EI100 with a clear round SJ and clear jumping at XC.</p> <p>Showing: A mare or gelding that wins in Championship classes held at the RDS, RUAS, national ISA Championships and the two national breed societies’ shows.</p>	<p>Jumping: A mare that produces 2 progeny that each achieves 2 double clear rounds at 1.10m level.</p> <p>Dressage: A mare that produces 2 progeny that each achieves 3 scores of above 64% at novice level.</p> <p>Eventing: A mare that produces 1 progeny that each have completed 2 events at EI100 with a clear round SJ and clear jumping at XC.</p> <p>Showing: A mare that produces 2 progeny that each achieves 1st / 2nd in Championship classes held at the RDS, RUAS, national ISA Championships and the two national breed societies’ shows.</p>
BRONZE	<p>Jumping: A mare or gelding that achieves one double clear round at 1m level</p> <p>Dressage: A mare or gelding that achieves 2 scores of above 64% at preliminary level.</p> <p>Eventing: A mare or gelding that has completed 2 events with a clear round SJ and clear jumping XC at EI90 level.</p> <p>Showing: A mare or gelding that achieves 1st/2nd in Championship classes held at the RDS, RUAS, national ISA Championships and the two national breed societies’ shows.</p>	<p>Jumping: A mare that produces one progeny that achieves 2 double clear rounds at 1m level.</p> <p>Dressage: A mare that produces one progeny that achieves 2 scores of above 64% at preliminary level.</p> <p>Eventing: A mare that produces one progeny that has completed 2 events with a clear round SJ and clear jumping XC at EI90 level.</p> <p>Showing: A mare that produces one progeny that achieves 1st / 2nd in Championship classes held at the RDS, RUAS, national ISA Championships and the two national breed societies’ shows.</p>



Appendix 2 Connemara, Irish Draught and TIH Performance Criteria

- CP/ID: Animal itself must compete in qualifiers for a national show e.g. CP/ID performance qualifiers for RDS or Clifden performance qualifiers/ ID working hunter classes and National breed shows
- TIH: Must compete in age classes eg YH old RDS horse qualifiers/ Balmoral qualifiers/Burghley qualifiers /Studbook Series/YR event horse qualifiers/YR SJ 115 qualifiers
- Proof of result of class is required, and a video must be taken at least one of those classes.

Appendix 3 IHRA Criteria

- Horses must be 3 years old.
- For horses that have not raced at 2 years old.
- Fillies and colts are permitted.
 - Colts must be accompanied by an entirety letter.
- Horses must be the progeny of Sires that have raced with the following minimum mile rate race time
(Pacer Sires: Under 2.00- UK/Ireland, 1.55- USA/Canada/ Southern Hemisphere or have progeny that have won races.
Trotter Sires: Kilometre rate of 1.14 or have progeny that have won races).
- Both Trotters and Pacers must have competed in at least 1 race within the time (June-September).

Trainer/Producer:

- To be selected by the owner of the horse.
- Must be a public trainer licensed with the IHRA.
- The Applicant must also be licensed with the IHRA