



Foal Championships 2026

Information Note

Horse Sport Ireland (HSI) is pleased to announce the details of the 2026 Foal Championship. The Championship is for horse and pony foals and has a prize fund of over **€25,000**. 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 2026 Foal Championships are funded by the Department of Agriculture, Food, and the Marine under National Breeding Services.

There will be 4 provincial 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 2026

Glenamaddy – 10 th September
Kernans – 15 th September
Goresbridge – 24 th September
Maryville – 30 th September
Foal Championship Final Date 2026
Emerald – 15th October

The final will be held in Emerald Equestrian where the winners from each provincial qualifier will compete for an overall winner.

Entries

- Entries are made online through Horse Sport Ireland for eligibility checks
 - Entry fees are payable directly to the venue; entry is only confirmed on venue receipt of payment.
- Entries close three working days before show date.
 - Entries on the day will not be accepted.
- Entries cost €30 for pony foals and €40 for horse foals.
- Start lists and timeslots will be provided by HSI.

Entry Criteria

- The Foal Championships is open to all studbook registered foals with a valid breed code recorded.
- Foals registered on Breeding and Production Identification Documents are not eligible to compete at the Foal Championships.
- Foals must be microchipped prior to the day and must have proof of registration submitted with their application.
- Foals must be at least 6 weeks old to compete.
- For information on how to register your foal please contact the Passport Issuing Organisation (PIO) please [CLICK HERE](#) for all DAFM approved studbooks.



- Horse and Pony foals can enter up to a maximum of 2 qualifiers where they have not won the 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.

Pony Foals

- 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** (148.0cm 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 for the foal to compete in the pony section.**
- **Only FEI, SJI (or equivalent) 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 section.
 - For embryos or pony dams who have since deceased, the applicant must provide proof of the dam's official measurement (FEI/National federation measurement).

Competitors & Classes

- Competitors should arrive at least twenty minutes ahead of their timeslot.
- Foals must present to the vet at least 10 minutes before their timeslot, to have their microchip scanned.
- Foals should be led to and from the arena and only turned loose when instructed to do so.
- Prize money will only be provided after pedigree if confirmed by DNA and studbook passport details are verified.
- 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.



Pedigree Bonus Points

- Pedigree Bonus Points (PBPs) (see Appendix. 1) 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 Horsetelex and Hippomundo are not verified performance links and will not be accounted for in PBP allocation.**

Foal Welfare

- Foals must be well prepared and handled, in the interest of safety for all competitors, judges, arena party and staff.
- It is advised that foals are well handled and familiar with leading and catching. There are points for presentation and handling.
- 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, where this is suspected the judges reserve the right to penalise including removal from the class,
- 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.

Final

- Foals must have a passport/have DNA verified for the final.
 - **The process of receiving a studbook passport for a foal can take over 6 weeks pending DNA requirements.**

Prize Money

- Details for prize payment processing must be provided along 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 (€2,150 per venue)

	Show Jumping Foal	Eventing Foal	TIH Foal*
1st (Qualifies for Final)	€500	€500	€450
2nd	€350	€350	

***Top scoring TIH foal will win €450** – TIH foals will only qualify for the final if they come 1st overall in SJ/EV category.

Final (€7,400)

	Show Jumping Foal	Eventing Foal
1st	€2,000	€2,000
2nd	€1,000	€1,000
3rd	€500	€500
4th	€200	€200

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

Prize Money for PONY SECTIONS

Regional Qualifiers (€1,300 per venue)

	Show Jumping Foal	Eventing Foal
1st (Qualifies for Final)	€400	€400
2nd	€250	€250

Final (€4,600)

	Show Jumping Foal	Eventing Foal
1st	€1,000	€1,000
2nd	€800	€800
3rd	€400	€400
4th	€100	€100

*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 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 horse foals and 100 for showjumping horse foals and will be based on the following traits:

Trait	Showjumping Section Qualifier/Final	Eventing Section Qualifier/Final
Functional conformation	20	20
Handling & Presentation	5	5
Temperament	5	5
Walk	10	15
Trot	10	20
Canter/Gallop	20	15
Overall suitability & potential	20	20
Pedigree Bonus Points	10	10
TOTAL	100	110

Scoring will be judged out of 100 for eventing pony foals and 90 for showjumping pony foals and will be based on the following traits:

Trait	Showjumping Section Qualifier/Final	Eventing Section Qualifier/Final
Functional conformation	20	20
Handling & Presentation	5	5
Temperament	5	5
Walk	10	15
Trot	10	20
Canter/Gallop	20	15
Overall suitability & potential	20	20
TOTAL	90	100



APPENDIX 1. Pedigree Bonus Points Breakdown

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

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.