



Minutes of the 7th BREEDING & PRODUCTION ADVISORY FORUM
of HORSE SPORT IRELAND
held online via MS TEAMS
Thursday 23RD JULY 2026 AT 2.33PM -2.47PM

Present: Hannah Richardson, IHRA (HR)
Liz Murphy, MRBG (LM)
Brigid Devine, ICA (BD) (joined 14:47)
Kevin Noone (TIHA)
Sean McGuirk, IDHS (SM)

In attendance: Jenny Gaffney – Breeding Grant Manager (JG)
Holly Nolan- Breeding Policy Executive (HN) (Minutes)

Apologies : Pat Cunningham (PC)
Tomás Rosengrave (TR)
Henk Minderman, Breeders Elite (HM)
Amanda Fahy, IDHBA (AF)
Barbara Hatton, RSOS (BH)
Christopher Bogle, NIHB (CB)
Allison Mercer, NIHB (AM)
Cait Hennessy, CPBS (CH)
Daragh O'Tuairsig, CPBS (DO)

Abbreviations: Horse Sport Ireland (HSI); Chief Executive Officer (CEO); Microsoft (MS); Traditional Irish Horse Association (TIHA); Irish Draught Horse Breeders Association (IDHBA); Irish Draught Horse Society (IDHS); Irish Cob Association (ICA); Irish Trotter Studbook & Irish Pacer Studbook (IHRA); Kerry Bog Pony Society (KBPS); Mayo Roscommon Breeders Group (MRBG); Irish Equine Veterinary Association (IEVA); Registered Stallion Owners Society (RSOS); Connemara Pony Breeders Society (CPBS);

Northern Ireland Horse Board (NIHB); Irish Shows Association (ISA); Department of Food, Agriculture and the Marine (DAFM); General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR); Equine Premises Number (EPN);

Quorum: Not Reached

Meeting opens 2:33pm

Updates for National Breeding Services 2026

- Presentation provided on approved schemes and initiatives for the 2026 National Breeding Services.
- Updates provided on scheme status, and initiatives ongoing or due to launch.
 - **Competitions**
 - Studbook series: six legs complete. Final upcoming in Mullingar end of July.
 - Pony Series: final two legs in September/October
 - Eventing Series: League ongoing
 - Development series: Eventing & Dressage halfway through series
 - Breeding Grant: 32 shows complete, 38 upcoming
- Young Breeders program: Reserve world champions
- Lanaken EOI remains open; Le Lion EOI closed.
- Foal Championship and Loose Jumping Championship launch imminent; Loose Jumping will facilitate 3YO only for horse, ponies will remain 3 & 4YO. This is based on engagement and will be reviewed.

Feedback for 2027

- Query regarding Colt Retention Scheme- not in place for 2026 due to low uptake, however all schemes are reviewed on an annual basis.
- Query on Treo Eile scheme- advised this is supported by HSI, however not under National Breeding Services and is entirely managed by Treo Eile.
- Suggestion on running a practical information day for helping breeders to prepare horses for inspections- previously noted.

AOB

Suggestion for information sessions to be held for grants for 2027; provincial or in a central location. A Discussion night for schemes/initiatives would be beneficial to breeders.

Commendations and congratulations were offered by the forum to the Clarecastle Show for their Breeders Championship and having taken this on in the absence of the RDS Breeders Championship.

Meeting close: 14:47