



HORSE SPORT IRELAND

Nomination and Selection Policy
FEI WBFSH World Breeding Jumping Championships for Young Horses 2026
CH-M-YH-S Lanaken, BEL
16-20 September 2026

SECTION I TIMELINES

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

May - September 2026	Athletes interested in applying for an FEI Quota place (Wildcard) for the FEI WBFSH World Breeding Jumping Championships for Young Horses in Lanaken, Belgium must submit an expression of interest HERE . Applications must be made by September 3rd 2026
September 2026	The Lanaken Chef D'Equipe will formally select the combinations in the respective age categories - 5, 6, 7-year-olds – subject to FEI quota allocations available.
September 2026	Selected combinations will be required to complete FEI Registration immediately prior to Definite Entries. Where horses and riders are not FEI Registered by this date; they will forfeit their place if selected. More information on FEI registration can be found by clicking HERE
AS per FEI Schedule	Horse Sport Ireland will submit the Definite Entries to the FEI.

SECTION II ELIGIBILITY FOR SELECTION

2.1 The FEI quota is intended for those countries that are not mentioned in the list of WBFSH Quotas because those countries do not have a WBFSH Member Association. Only those “non WBFSH countries” can apply for a FEI Quota place.

****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

However, based on the fact that not all countries utilise their allocations, any unused FEI quotas are redistributed to National Federations. As a result, Ireland is likely to benefit from any unused allocations. However, athletes and producers should be aware that Horse Sport Ireland will not be informed of the unused allocations until mid-August. There is no guarantee that any allocations will be allocated in each of the age categories.

Horse Sport Ireland will be informed about the unused quotas by late-August/early-September based on 2025 timelines and quota, if any is allocated.

FEI Quota / Foreign-Bred Horses

- a. The OC will only accept entries for the FEI Quota made by the concerning NF's invited by the OC.
- b. NF's of countries not included in the above mentioned WBFSH quota, can apply to the OC for a starting place within the FEI Quota.
- c. Horses that wish to be eligible to receive a starting place within the FEI Quota must be registered at a studbook which is member of the WBFSH.
- d. FEI Quota places can be provided to horses which for instance qualified themselves but have not been selected as their native country is not the same as their country of residence. The OC, in accordance with the FEI, has the right to adjust the number of quotas in case too many qualified horses apply for a starting place. This might be the case when in the country they have qualified themselves, the NF does not want to take them in their quota. This is to keep the number of horses from one breeding area in proportion .
- e. NF's who have been given a WBFSH quota, cannot apply for a starting place within the FEI Quota for horses that are registered in the national studbooks of the nation of that NF.
- f. **All applications have to be motivated by the NF's and must be accompanied with show results. These results have to be send by email to the organizer.**
- g. After the closing date for the definite entries all NF's will be advised about the provided starting places.
- h. **The OC, in consultation with the FEI, will decide upon startingplaces; no further appeal is possible .**
- i. Starting places are only provided to specific selected horses. Once these horses are selected, they cannot be substituted by a NF. Only the OC can allow substitutions.

Although the FEI encourages the NFs to cooperate with the WBFSH Breeding organization(s) originally recognized in their country, the selection procedure and entries remain the responsibility of the NF.

Athletes are invited by the Organiser through their National Federation.

On the basis that allocations may be granted to Horse Sport Ireland in its role as the National Federation, the FEI Quota "Wildcard" allocations will be filled with horses campaigned by IRL Registered FEI Athletes.

- 2.2 All horses must be registered in a Studbook, which is a full member of the WBFSH. Only the Studbook in which the horse in question is first registered, is acceptable for participation at the Championships.
- 2.3 According to the published FEI 2026 schedule; NF's who have been given a WBFSH quota, cannot apply for a starting place within the FEI Quota for horses that are registered in the national studbooks of the nation of that NF. **Therefore, it is clear that Irish Studbook WBFSH members horses cannot be entered as part of the FEI horse Quota.**
- 2.4 Applicants can apply for a **maximum of TWO** FEI Quota "Wildcard" applications per age category.

- 2.4.1 Wildcard priority will be given to athletes based in Ireland.
- 2.5 As per previous policies, in 2026 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.
- 2.5.1 Where an athlete based **outside** of Ireland wishes to compete a stallion, they should contact the home studbook of that stallion and obtain a place from their Studbook Quota.

SECTION III VETERINARY

- 3.1 Horse Sport Ireland 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.
- 3.2 Subsequent to selection, 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.
- 3.3 Horse Sport Ireland 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;
- 3.4 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) being considered for selection. In addition, athletes, (at their own expense), shall be responsible for supplying any follow-up diagnostic information requested by the Team Veterinarian for horses being considered for selection. 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.
- 3.5 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 1st July 2026 until the conclusion of the WBFSH World Breeding Jumping Championships for Young Horses.
- 3.6 The Team Veterinarian will be entitled to view this logbook at any time. Athletes are required to submit this log book (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.
- 3.7 In the event that treatments and medications are necessary subsequent to the submission of the logbook, express approval is required from Team Veterinarian and the Chef D'Equipe. This is a mandatory requirement to ensure that selected horses are managed appropriately within the pre-competition window and before departure.

SECTION IV SPECIFIC SELECTION CRITERIA

- 4.1 The primary aim of this criteria is to select athlete and horse combinations who are capable of achieving podium finishes in each of respective age categories at the FEI WBFSH World Breeding Jumping Championships for Young Horses 2026. The Chef D'Equipe will prioritise horses for selection, who are produced and domiciled in Ireland and meet the competition and general measures below.
- 4.2 Subject to IRL receiving FEI quota places: The following criteria shall be used for selection of the age categories:

5 Year Old Category:

- 4.2.1 The FEI quota places will be allocated by the Chef D'Equipe based on the competition and general measures outlined at section 4.4 and 4.5 below.
- 4.2.2 (2) Non-Travelling reserves will be selected in the 5-year-old. Such reserves

will be listed in ranking order and must be available to travel in the event of selected combination unable to travel.

6 Year Old Category:

- 4.2.3 The FEI quota places will be allocated by the Chef D'Equipe based on the competition and general measures outlined at section 4.4 and 4.5 below.
- 4.2.4 (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:

- 4.2.5 The FEI quota places will be allocated by the Chef D'Equipe based on the competition and general measures outlined at section 4.4 and 4.5 below.
- 4.2.6 (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 combination unable to travel.

In assessing the performance of combinations, the Chef D'Equipe will give consideration to the performances in 2026 at the following events:

4.4.1	DAFM Studbook Series (Show Jumping)
4.4.2	Show jumping Ireland national events inclusive of relevant age classes;
4.4.3	FEI designated events in Ireland and abroad inclusive of relevant age classes;
4.4.4	All relevant competitions approved by other National Federations;

- 4.4 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:
 - 4.4.1 An athlete's form on other horses may also be taken into consideration.
 - 4.4.2 the suitability of the Combination with regard to the likely characteristics of the arenas in Lanaken and for the unexpected conditions of the WBFSH World Breeding Jumping Championships for Young Horses (taking into account the objective of the of this Policy)
 - 4.4.3 the ability of the Athlete and his/her support team to operate and perform in a FEI championship environment which is highly regulated & pressurised.
 - 4.4.4 the ability of the Athlete and/or support team to contribute towards an effective team and winning orientated environment;
 - 4.4.5 the overall balance of the Combinations that have been selected;
 - 4.4.6 the ability and experience of the Combination to compete successfully at a high level of international competition;
 - 4.4.7 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;
 - 4.4.8 the ability of the Athlete, and/or their personal management team to prepare their Horse to peak condition for a major campaign, such as the FEI Championship;
 - 4.4.9 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;
 - 4.4.10 consistency of performance and the likelihood of a suitable performance to contribute towards a team medal outcome may be a consideration;

4.5 The Chef D'Equipe will consider section 4.5.7 in the following guise:

- i. Success individually;
- ii. Personal bests at targeted competitions;
- iii. Taking ownership of their performances;
- iv. Being willing to make 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.

4.6 The soundness of the horse to meet the challenges of competing and travelling to the WBFSH World Breeding Jumping Championships for Young Horses will be a significant factor in any selection decision. Athletes must keep the Chef D'Equipe 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 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 advice from the Team Veterinarian is final.

4.7 Prior and subsequent to selection, the Chef D'Equipe 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, where required. However, such evaluations shall be discretionary on the part of the Chef D'Equipe.

4.8 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 HPD considers important, which is not a standard comparable to that exhibited so as to gain selection to represent Ireland at the WBFSH World Breeding Jumping Championships for Young Horses.

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

4.10 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.

4.11 **Sires Of The World:**

- Applicants must provide evidence of which WBFSH-member Studbook has approved the stallion being applied for.
- Horse Sport Ireland **will not** submit any horse for inclusion in the list of entries without evidence of a WBFSH-member Studbook inclusion.

SECTION V FORCE MAJEURE

- 5.1 In considering the performances of athletes at events or other attendances in line with this policy, the Chef D'Equipe may, at his discretion, give weight to extenuating circumstances.
- 5.2 For the purposes of section 5.1 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.
- 5.3 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.
- 5.4 In the case of injury or illness, athletes may be required to undergo a medical examination by a doctor or doctor (s) nominated by Horse Sport Ireland. The findings of the examination 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 his right to remove an athlete where the designated medical officer deems the athlete unfit to compete, at the level which resulted in their selection for CH-EU- S.
- 5.5 A decision in each case of extenuating circumstances will be made by the Chef D'Equipe on a case by case basis.
- 5.6 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.

SECTION VI REMOVAL OF ATHLETES

- 6.1 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;
- 6.2 An athlete may be removed from squad shortlisting & selection (individual or team), 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 Sport or the Country;
- 6.3 Pursuant to Section 7 above, the Chef D'Equipe decision is final and binding.

SECTION VII DISCLAIMERS

- 7.1 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.
- 7.2 As such, this policy can be amended at any time by Horse Sport Ireland. Horse Sport Ireland reserves the right to amend or change the Selection Policy where necessary at any time in order to fulfil the objective of the Selection Policy. 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. Horse Sport Ireland shall not be responsible or liable in any way to anyone as a result of any such amendment.

ENDS.