Procedures and Guidelines

Applications

Application forms for stallion selections are available online only, via the HSI website.

Applicants are required to have their stallion undergo the veterinary examination prior to the selection at a HSI Designated Clinic. This allows applicants to have the stallion prepared for selection with the knowledge that the stallion has met the veterinary requirements in advance of the selection.

Applications for selection must be returned before the closing date and must contain the following:

- Completed and signed application form and accompanying documentation if necessary
- Relevant Selection Fee

The following documents must be submitted before the veterinary deadline:

- 'Pre-Selection Veterinary Examination of Stallions' completed in full and signed and stamped on each page by a Veterinary Surgeon
- FFS, EVA, EIA and CEM certificates
- X-rays taken by a veterinary surgeon listed on the Horse Sport Ireland Radiography Panel as per the specification in the Veterinary Report Form

Late or incomplete entries will not be accepted.

Following the receipt of completed applications HSI will contact stallion owners with the details of the selection and a schedule of events.

Duration of Selections

Selections will be carried out at one venue over a 2-to-3- day period. Overnight stabling may be required and will be available at the selection venue. All bedding, feed and hay must be supplied by the stallion owner.

Check In

All owners must report to a HSI representative upon arrival at the centre to check in. At this time, all owners must present the stallion(s) passport and collect bridle numbers and handler numbers for each stallion.

Bridle numbers provided by HSI must be attached to both sides of each stallion's bridle at all times when the animal is out of the stable.

Entrants must ensure that they reach the selection site in plenty of time to check in and locate stabling for their stallion(s).

Please note stallions that have not been checked in cannot be presented at the first stage of the selection.

Familiarisation with the Jumping Pen

The jumping pen will be available to stallion owners between the hours of 8:30-9:00am each morning to allow their stallion to receive a 5-minute familiarisation period in the jumping pen. The pen will be set up completely except for the jumping poles. Only one handler may enter the jumping pen with the stallion. This will be strictly monitored and will be available on a first come first served basis. This facility must be pre-booked.

Presentation

All stallions are expected to be presented at show standard and must be sufficiently trained and fit to take part in all aspects of the selection. The stallion should be in good condition, be well groomed and have well maintained hooves. Preferably stallions' manes should be plaited or at least be pulled and neat.



Each stallion must be presented in a correctly fitted bridle. Handlers are required to wear appropriate presentation attire. Riders are required to wear appropriate competition attire during the ridden stage. Appropriate footwear must be worn to present the animal correctly. In cases where an owner has more than one horse on the premises, sufficient handlers must be on site to cater for each animal. All handlers must be dressed appropriately.

Selection Panel

The selection panel will consist of four trained and experienced inspectors (including a Chairperson) who will produce a linear profile sheet and a set of overall scores for each stallion from their collective deliberations.

Stage 1 Stallion Selections

There are 5 fundamental elements to the Stage 1 stallion selections which all stallions must complete:

1. Veterinary Examination
2. Conformation Assessment
3. In Hand Gait Assessment on a hard surface and in the indoor arena
4. Free Gait Assessment in jumping pen
5. Free Athleticism/Jumping Assessment in jumping pen

1. Veterinary Examination

On arrival to the veterinary examination the identification

of the stallion will be checked by comparing the stallion's markings to the markings on its passport. The stallion will also be scanned to confirm its microchip number.

Measurement (height, bone and girth) will be taken during the veterinary examination and will be considered to be the official measurements of the stallion for classification and studbook purposes.

Stallions that are entered for the HSI Stallion selections are subject to the HSI National Anti-Doping and Equine Controlled Medication rules. Blood and urine samples may be taken from your stallion for this purpose. See www.horsesportireland.ie

Stallions will undergo a soundness trot-up. Any stallion presented with an obvious veterinary condition may be subject to further examination by HSI appointed veterinary surgeons on the day of selection.

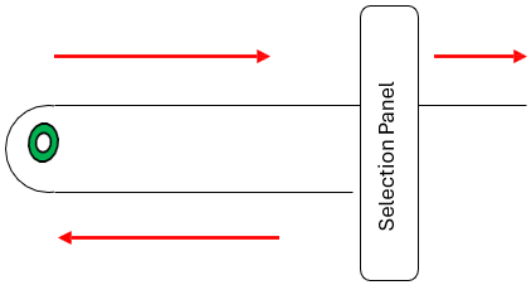
2. Conformation Assessment

Handlers must present stallions to the inspectors in the indoor arena for their conformation assessment using linear scoring. Stallions must be able to stand correctly and quietly in order for the inspectors to make their assessment. No boots or leg wraps of any description are permitted at this stage of selection.

The linear score sheet for Irish Draught Horse selections contains 45 characteristics, covering conformation, movement and athleticism traits (see attached 'Sample Linear Scoring Sheet').

3. In Hand Gait Assessment on a hard surface and in the indoor arena

The stallion will be required to stand for a visual selection on a hard surface. When requested, the handler will walk the horse away from the selection panel, around the marker (as shown below) and return to the panel. The handler will then repeat the process in trot, however, in trot the stallion should continue to trot past the selection panel.



In the indoor arena stallions will be required to stand for a visual selection. When requested the handler will move the stallion in walk and then in trot in a triangle as shown. The animal must then be stood up in front of the judges with the right side facing the inspectors so they can complete the visual assessment without having to walk around the stallion.

The handler must always lead from the left side of the horse. Overuse of the whip is not permitted, the animal should be trained to show correctly.

4. Free Gait Assessment in jumping pen

Handlers must lead the stallion in walk in a figure of eight around the two diamond shaped markers in the indoor arena. The handlers must then safely release the stallion and stand in one of the diamond shaped markers. A trained arena crew will be on hand to direct the stallion through its free gait, athleticism and jumping assessment. Stallions will be shown loose on both reins in trot and canter.

If you have chosen loose jumping on the application the jumping lane will be opened once the stallion's free gaits have been assessed and the stallion will be guided down the lane by the arena crew for the free athleticism/jumping assessment. All owners/handlers are given the option of catching and releasing their stallion between each jumping effort during the loose jumping element of the inspection.

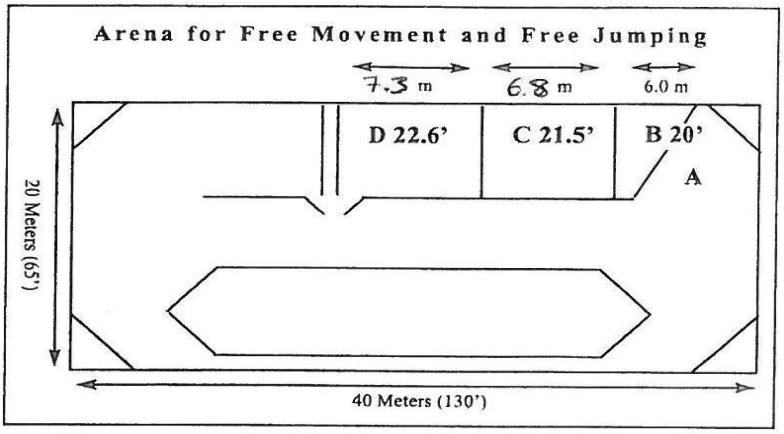
If you have chosen that the stallion will present under saddle on the application form you will leave the jumping pen once the stallion's free gaits have been assessed.



5. (a) Free Athleticism/Jumping Assessment in jumping pen

Each stallion will be required to jump through the jumping lane at least six times. The jumping lane consists of three fences. The selection panel may use their discretion as to the number of attempts they wish to assess each horse over the obstacles and the height of the fences, however the maximum height of the fences for 3-year-old stallions will be 1.00m.

If in the opinion of the selection panel a horse is jumping in an unnatural manner, the selection panel reserves the right to award zero points for their assessment of the stallion's athleticism/jumping ability.





5. (b) Athleticism/Jumping Assessment under saddle

The owners of stallions that are 4 years or older that have selected to do this element under saddle on their application form will have their stallion's athleticism assessed by jumping the stallion over a course of fences at 1.00m level under saddle.

Note: Stallions are permitted to wear front tendon boots for the free gait assessment or the free athleticism/jumping assessment. If, in the opinion of the selection panel, the movement of the horse is affected in any way, the selection panel reserve the right to request the removal of the front boots. The use of boots/bandages on the hind legs is not permitted



Photographs

Photographs of each stallion will be taken during the selection process by a photographer appointed by HSI. These photographs will be published in Irish Sport Horse/HSI publications. Stallions that are not photographed at the selection may be deemed not to have completed the selection process and HSI reserves the right not to classify these stallions. Video footage of the selection may also be recorded and used by Horse Sport Ireland.

Results of the Selection

The provisional results of the selection will be announced publicly on the day of selection along with a brief synopsis explaining the decision of the selection panel. The final results will be posted to the stallion owner following the selection and will be made available for public access on the Horse Sport Ireland website and may be published in subsequent Horse Sport Ireland publications.

Optional Athleticism Assessment for Additional Bronze Merit in Showjumping

The owners of stallions that are 4 years or older and meet the requirements to be classified as 'Class 1' can opt to have their stallion's athleticism assessed by re – presenting their stallion, whereby, they jump the stallion over a course of fences including one double at 1.00m level under saddle. Stallion owners must indicate on the application form if they wish their stallion to be assessed for a bronze merit for their own performance in showjumping. Stallions that achieve the required minimum in the athleticism assessment will be awarded a bronze merit for their own performance in the discipline of showjumping.

Note: Irish Draught stallions that are classified as 'Class 1' can also obtain a bronze merit for their own performance in the discipline of showjumping by achieving two double clear rounds at 1.00m level at national competitions.

Sample Linear Profile

INSPECTOR SIGNATURE:

1: _____

2: _____

3: _____

IRISH DRAUGHT HORSE INSPECTION SHEET

Min. Req. Score	Conformation:	Type:	Movement:	Athleticism:
Conf. 70 Type 65 Mov. 70 Athl. 65 Bronze - 70			Walk: Trot:	Canter: Reflexes: Technique: Scope:
Total Score				

a b c d e f g h i

Conformation/Trait		Obvious	Average	Obvious		Comments
1. Body shape	rectangular				square	
2. Head: appearance, forehead, ears, eyes, jawbones & gullet	fine				plain	roman nose long
3. Head neck connection	light				heavy	
4. Length of neck	long				short	Deep out of chest
5. Muscling of neck	heavy				poor	ewe-neck
6. Position of neck	vertical				horizontal	
7. Height of withers	high				flat	
8. Position of shoulder	sloping				straight	narrow chest
9. Barrel	deep				shallow	
10. Line of back	strong				weak	
11. Line of loins	strong				weak	
12. Shape of croup	sloping				flat	
13. Length of croup	long				short	
14. Forearm	strong				weak	tied in elbow
15. Cannon bone length	short				long	
16. Substance of legs	heavy				light	tied in knee
17. Quality of legs	lean				blurred	
18. Stance of forelegs	over at knee				back at knee	standing under
19. Stance of pastern	sloping				upright	
20. Heels	high				low	
21. Stance of hind legs	sickle				straight	camped out abnormal hock abnormal stifle

a b c d e f g h i

Conformation/Trait		Obvious	Average	Obvious		Comments
22. Shape of feet	wide				narrow	different
23. Knees (front view)	big				small	abnormal
24. Stance of forelegs	toed in				toed out	offset knees
25. Hindquarters and gaskins	strong				weak	
26. Stance of hind legs	cow-hocked				bow-hocked	base narrow
27. Type	breed standard				not breed standard	excessive white markings

Movement/Trait		Obvious	Average	Obvious		Comments
28. Walk: length of stride	long				short	irregular
29. Walk: correctness	toed in				toed out	uncoordinated
30. Trot: length of stride	long				short	
31. Trot: correctness	correct				incorrect	dishing (F / R) plaiting (F / R)
32. Trot: elasticity	elastic				stiff	irregular
33. Trot: impulsion	powerful				weak	uncoordinated
34. Trot: balance	carrying				pushing	
35. Canter: length of stride	long				short	
36. Canter: impulsion	powerful				weak	
37. Canter: balance	carrying				pushing	

Athleticism/Trait		Obvious	Average	Obvious		Comments
38. Reflexes:	quick				slow	forwards
39. Technique: forelegs	bent				stretched	under the body
40. Technique: back	rounded				hollow	
41. Technique: haunches	open				tight	
42. Scope	much				little	
43. Elasticity	supple				stiff	
44. Care	careful				not careful	
45. Attitude	much				little	