

Horse Sport Ireland Foal Championship 2019 Information Note

Horse Sport Ireland is pleased to announce the details of the Horse Sport Ireland Foal Championship 2019. The Championship has a prize fund of almost €24,000. The aim is to identify, evaluate and reward breeders who have bred a foal that has the potential to be competitive at the highest level in the disciplines of showjumping or eventing.

Horse Sport Ireland will video each of the qualifiers and owners can purchase their promotional video following the qualifiers at a nominal fee of €15.

There will be 6 regional 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 and September where 8 foals will be selected for the final at each regional qualifier. The best show jumping type foal and the reserve foal, and the best eventing type foal and the reserve foal from both categories. There will also be a prize at each of the qualifiers for the best traditionally-bred foal in the horse sections.

At the final where Champions will be named in both horse and pony sections a pot of €6,900 will be on offer for horses and ponies. There will be a Champion Show Jumping Foal for both horses and ponies as well as a Champion Eventing Foal foal in both categories. There will also be a special prize for the overall best traditionally-bred foal in the horse section.

Criteria for entry

- For the horse section, foals must be registered in a studbook that is a member of the WBFSH or DAFM approved (pending DNA where this can be verified by the studbook is acceptable) and should be shown with their dams where possible.
- For the pony section, foals must be registered originally in a EU approved studbook and should be shown with their dams where possible.
- For the pony section foals are permitted to enter more than one regional qualifier but once qualified for the final cannot compete again.
- Foals in the horse section are only permitted to enter one regional qualifier but **will not be** limited to competing in the region in which the competitor resides.
- Foals must be entered in either the Showjumping Section **or** the Eventing Section. They **cannot** compete in both sections.
- The dam's passport should be available on the day for inspection. For the pony section the dam may be measured.
- All foals must be a minimum of 6 weeks old to compete at the Final.
- All foals must be named in order to compete in the Final.
- A covering certificate is required to be submitted by the stallion owner to complete the foal registration in advance of the final.

Classes

- All classes must run on a pre-entry basis. Entries will be taken by the show/venue and will be **required 2 weeks prior to the event**.
- All classes must be held in a prominent arena at the show with a suitable surface to cope with adverse conditions and a suitable loose movement pen (20x40m) or an indoor arena which should be fenced off 20m by 40 m.
- Shows cannot schedule or hold other foal classes as part of the show;
- Entry fees should not exceed €40.

Please note foals need to be kept on their lead at the venues except when being shown loose in the arena.

Competitors

- Foals must be lead to and from the arena, and only turned loose when requested to do so by the judges.
- The judge's decision as announced for the qualifiers and Championship is final, the only exception is where the pedigree of the foal is not subsequently confirmed by DNA.
- Prize money will only be provided after pedigree confirmed by DNA and passport details are verified.
- Foals must be registered & microchipped for the qualifiers and must provide their passport for the final. Prize money will only be provided after pedigree confirmed by DNA and passport details are verified.

Prize Money for HORSE SECTIONS

Regional Qualifiers (€1,950 per venue)

	Show Jumping Foal	Eventing Foal	Traditional Foal
1st (Qualifies for Final)	€450	€450	€450
2nd	€200	€200	€200

Final (€5,400)

	Show Jumping Foal	Eventing Foal	Traditional Foal
1st	€1,500	€1,500	€1,000
2nd	€500	€500	€400

In addition €1,000 will be awarded towards prizes in kind, sashes etc.

Prize Money for PONY SECTIONS

Regional Qualifiers (€700 per venue)

	Show Jumping Foal	Eventing Foal
1st (Qualifies for Final)	€250	€250
2nd	€100	€100

Final (€1,500)

	Show Jumping Foal	Eventing Foal
1st	€500	€500
2nd	€250	€250

*In addition €200 towards prizes in kind, sashes etc.

Preparation

It is important for the foals to be well prepared for the classes. To practice for the championship it is wise that the foal has been familiarised with the headcollar and leading at a young age. During the events the foals may not have lost all of their foal hairs. The judges will only examine the quality of the foal and does not pay attention to colour or coat. During the classes a foal's health is more important than show condition coat. Completely shaving the foals is not recommended, because shaved foals are more likely to get a cold when they are outside in bad weather.

These classes are not traditional show foal classes, they are for potential performance animals. 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 be penalised.

Evaluation

Foals will be presented to the judges accompanied by their dam where possible. All foals must be paraded as a group at the start of each class before the individual evaluation of each foal.

During the individual presentation the foal is positioned in front of the judges with a halter, in order to evaluate its posture and conformation. The mare will be kept at hand during the foals movement evaluation. The foal can then be judged freely on walk, trot and canter as indicated by the judges. When all the foals are evaluated, the judges will announce the Regional Champion and the Reserve. The judges will describe the positive attributes of the foals to the audience and provide an assessment as to whether they think the foal is Eventer type or Showjumper type.

Judging Criteria:

There will be two judges for each category of Show jumping and Eventing.

Foals will be judged according to the following criteria.

1. Functional conformation
2. Walk
3. Trot
4. Canter
5. Overall athleticism and balance
6. Pedigree

The judges will be provided with pedigree and performance information for each of the foals that the owner has submitted with the application.

Scoring will be judged out of 100 for horses and will be based on the following traits:

	Showjumping Section Qualifier/Final	Eventing Section Qualifier/Final
Functional conformation	20	25
Walk	5	10
Trot	5	20
Canter	25	10
Overall athleticism and balance	25	20
Pedigree	20	15

Scoring will be judged out of 100 for ponies and will be based on the following traits:
(No pedigree points available for the pony foals)

	Showjumping Section Qualifier/Final	Eventing Section Qualifier/Final
Functional conformation	20	25
Walk	10	15
Trot	15	25
Canter	25	15
Overall athleticism and balance	30	20

System for Evaluating Damline Pedigree for horses only

Please note: Only pedigree and performance information supplied by the entrant will be included in assessment of the damline pedigree score. The onus is on the entrant to supply full performance details for the damline (dam, maternal granddam or maternal great granddam) to HSI. Only the information when verified will be included in the calculations of the pedigree score for the qualifiers.

Performance damline pedigree of horses will be assessed by the studbook prior to the class based on the information provided in the application received. The points for pedigree will be based on the ISH Star Rating system, for 3 generations on the dam line.

In this regard, supporting documentation from the relevant national (or international) sporting body verifying the performance claimed, must be provided to ensure that appropriate points are awarded to your entry. HSI will not be responsible in instances where supporting documentation is not supplied.

Maximum Points for:	Showjumping Damline Pedigree Points	Eventing Damline Pedigree Points
Dam	10	5
maternal granddam or maternal great granddam	10 (maternal granddam) <i>Or</i> 5 (maternal great granddam)	5 (maternal granddam) <i>Or</i> 2.5 (maternal great granddam)
Thoroughbred percentage min. 60% (Zero decimal place) (NEW for EV category)	Not Applicable	5
Maximum Points Available	20	15

The points awarded for each of these ancestors will be based on the individual's ancestor's own performance or its progeny's performance component of the star rating criteria, whichever is highest.

For example a foal whose dam is eligible for a 4 star rating for her own showjumping performance and a 3 star rating for her progeny's showjumping performance will be considered to be a 4 star mare out of an available 5 stars. Her foal will receive 4 points for this dam.

Where 5 pedigree points are available for an ancestor they will be awarded as follows:

Star Rating	No Points Awarded for SJ Sect	No Points Awarded for EV Sect
5	10	5
4	8	4
3	6	3
2	4	2
1	2	1



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Where 5 (SJ) or 2.5 (EV) pedigree points are available for an ancestor (i.e. the maternal great granddam) they will be awarded as follows:

Star Rating	No Points Awarded for SJ Sect	No Points Awarded for EV Sect
5	5	2.5
4	4	2
3	3	1.5
2	2	1
1	1	0.5

ENDS.