Irish Draught Horse Studbook
Stallion Selections
Procedures and Guidelines

Applications

Application forms for stallion selections are available from the HSI website and office. Applicants have two options with regard to veterinary procedures:

Option 1: Applicants can undergo the same veterinary process as in previous years i.e. submitting a pre-selection veterinary form, WFFS, EVA, EIA, CEM certificates and X-Rays from a veterinary surgeon listed on the 'HSI Radiography Panel' and will undergo the clinical veterinary examination on the day of selection by HSI appointed veterinary surgeons.

Option 2: Applicants can opt to have their stallion undergo the veterinary examination prior to the selection at one of the HSI Designated centres (i.e. see application form). This option 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
- For applicants that chose to undergo the 'Option 1' veterinary process the following documents must be submitted with the application form:
  - 'Pre Selection Veterinary Examination of Stallions' completed in full and signed and stamped on each page by a Veterinary Surgeon
  - WFFS, 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 in order 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 stallions 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 in order 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 8:00-9:00am each morning to allow their stallion to receive a 5 minutes 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 dark trousers and a white shirt. Riders are required to wear appropriate competition attire during the ridden stage. Comfortable footwear must be worn in order 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.

Please see the informational video at www.horsesportireland.ie/breeding/stallions

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Selection Panel

The selection panel will consist of inspectors (including a Chairman) with sufficient knowledge, training and experience to produce a linear profile sheet and a set of overall scores for each stallion from their collective deliberations.

Irish Draught Stallion Selection Process

Irish Draught stallions must be a minimum of 3 years of age to be presented for selection.

The selection will include the following elements:

1. Veterinary Examination
2. Conformation Assessment
3. In hand Gait Assessment on a hard surface and in an indoor arena
4. Free Gait Assessment in jumping pen
5. Free Athleticism/Jumping Assessment in jumping pen (OPTIONAL)

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

For Applicants undergoing Option 1 Only:

At the selection stallions will undergo a full five stage veterinary examination by Veterinary Surgeons appointed by Horse Sport Ireland. The examination will consist of the following:

Stage 1. Preliminary examination:

The Preliminary Examination involves overall visual and palpable observations of the animal presented. The heart and lungs are auscultated at rest.

Stage 2. Gait assessment & Trotting up:

This includes co-ordination testing such as tight circling and reversing, trotting on loosened rein both before and after flexion of the individual limbs.

Stage 3. Strenuous exercise:

Lungeing on lead at a working canter to assess wind and heart function. Heart & lungs auscultated on pull-up.

Stage 4: A period of rest:

Recovery and management of stress associated with stage 3 can facilitate eye examination as pupillary dilation has occurred during exercise. Final heart auscultation.

Stage 5. The second trot and foot examination: Assessing maintenance of soundness as follow-on from the previous stages.

Note: Stages 3-5 of the veterinary examination will take place after the free/under saddle athleticism assessment.

For Applicants undergoing Option 2 Only:

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.

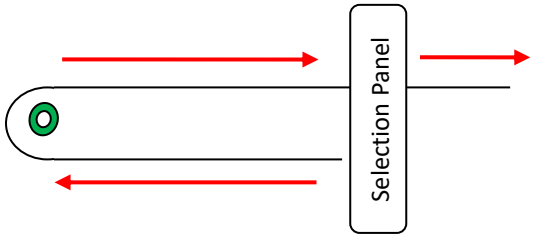
2. Conformation Assessment

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.



Please see the informational video at www.horsesportireland.ie/breeding/stallions

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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 Assessment in Jumping Pen

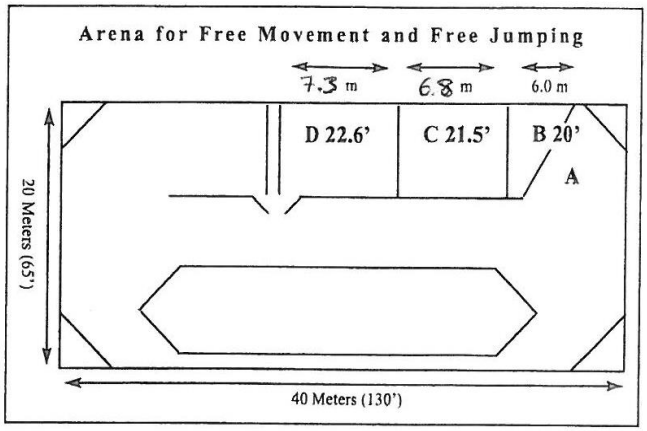
Each stallion will be required to jump through the jumping lane at least six times. The jumping lane consists of three fences. The selection panel may use their discretion as to the number of attempts they wish to assess each horse over the obstacles and the height of the fences, however the maximum 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 Assessment under Saddle

The owners of stallions that are 4 years or older that have chosen 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.



Note: The elements of the selection may not necessarily be carried out in the same order as they are outlined above.

Horse Sport Ireland reserves the right to terminate any selection for heath and safely reasons.

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.

Please see the informational video at www.horsesportireland.ie/breeding/stallions

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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.

Please see the informational video at www.horsesportireland.ie/breeding/stallions

Sample ID Linear Score Sheet for Studbook Classification

Location:	**Date**:	**Judge**:
Horsename:	**Horse number**: **Sire**:	**Entry no**:
Date of birth:	**Gender**:	
	Studbook classification:	**Paid: Yes / No**
Owner 1:	**Owner 2**:	**Passport: Yes / No**
Name:	**Name**:	
Address:	**Address**:	
Place:	**Place**:	
Height:	**Bone:**	**Girth**:
Colour:	**Markings**:	
Comments:		

Pedigree:	Conformation:	Movement:	Athleticism:
	Conformation:	Walk:	Canter:
Temperament:	Type:	Trot:	Reflexes: Technique: Scope:

a b c d e f g h i

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

a b c d e f g h i

Conformation/Trait		Obvious	Average	Obvious		Comments
21. Knees (front view)	big	[a][b][c]	[d][e][f]	[g][h][i]	small	[o] abnormal
22. Stance of forelegs	toed in	[a][b][c]	[d][e][f]	[g][h][i]	toed out	[o] offset knees
23. Shape of feet	wide	[a][b][c]	[d][e][f]	[g][h][i]	narrow	[o] different
24. Quality of legs	lean	[a][b][c]	[d][e][f]	[g][h][i]	blurred	
25. Hindquarters and gaskins	strong	[a][b][c]	[d][e][f]	[g][h][i]	weak	
26. Stance of hind legs	cow-hocked	[a][b][c]	[d][e][f]	[g][h][i]	bow-hocked	[o] base narrow
27. Type	breed standard	[a][b][c]	[d][e][f]	[g][h][i]	not breed standard	[o] excessive white markings

Movement/Trait		Obvious	Average	Obvious		Comments
28. Walk: length of stride	long	[a][b][c]	[d][e][f]	[g][h][i]	short	[o] irregular
29. Walk: correctness	toed in	[a][b][c]	[d][e][f]	[g][h][i]	toed out	[o] uncoordinated
30. Trot: length of stride	long	[a][b][c]	[d][e][f]	[g][h][i]	short	
31. Trot: correctness	dishing	[a][b][c]	[d][e][f]	[g][h][i]	plaiting	
32. Trot: elasticity	elastic	[a][b][c]	[d][e][f]	[g][h][i]	stiff	[o] irregular
33. Trot: impulsion	powerful	[a][b][c]	[d][e][f]	[g][h][i]	weak	[o] uncoordinated
34. Trot: balance	carrying	[a][b][c]	[d][e][f]	[g][h][i]	pushing	
35. Canter: length of stride	long	[a][b][c]	[d][e][f]	[g][h][i]	short	
36. Canter: impulsion	powerful	[a][b][c]	[d][e][f]	[g][h][i]	weak	
37. Canter: balance	carrying	[a][b][c]	[d][e][f]	[g][h][i]	pushing	
Athleticism/Trait		Obvious	Average	Obvious		Comments
38. Reflexes:	quick	[a][b][c]	[d][e][f]	[g][h][i]	slow	[o] forwards
39. Technique: forelegs	bent	[a][b][c]	[d][e][f]	[g][h][i]	stretched	[o] under the body
40. Technique: back	rounded	[a][b][c]	[d][e][f]	[g][h][i]	hollow	
41. Technique: haunches	open	[a][b][c]	[d][e][f]	[g][h][i]	tight	
42. Scope	much	[a][b][c]	[d][e][f]	[g][h][i]	little	
43. Elasticity	supple	[a][b][c]	[d][e][f]	[g][h][i]	stiff	
44. Care	careful	[a][b][c]	[d][e][f]	[g][h][i]	not careful	
45. Attitude	much	[a][b][c]	[d][e][f]	[g][h][i]	little	