



## HSI Premium Mare Retention Scheme 2023

Horse Sport Ireland (HSI) are delighted to launch a premium mare retention scheme for breeders of young high merit mares aged 5-7 years old. This scheme is funded by the Department of Agriculture, Food, and the Marine (DAFM) by National Breeding Services. It is vital to encourage breeders to retain and breed from high merit performance mares. A new scheme for 2023, the mare retention scheme focuses on the support for breeders to professionally produce mares which they do not have the capacity to do themselves. This scheme subsidises production costs of young high-performance mares which can be retained for future breeding.

The scheme is open to mares who are registered in a DAFM approved studbook or are listed as bred in Ireland in their passport and registered in the main section of a studbook. Mares must meet the specific requirements outlined below. Successful applicants are eligible to receive up to €6,000 towards the retention costs of the mare over a 3-month period. Please see the table below for relevant deadlines.

Pony mares are also eligible to receive funding under the scheme but must also meet equivalent pony criteria and be registered/endorsed in a DAFM Approved Pony Studbook (Appendix 1.)

*This scheme has two main objectives:*

1. To encourage owners and breeders to retain, produce and breed from mares which are of high genetic merit or descended from rare bloodlines.
2. To identify potential premium mares and enable breeders to produce them, and potentially breed from them, and in doing so add value to the mares and the breeder's breeding herd.

### TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Opening	Closing	Deadline for submission of receipts
19/05/2023	26/06/2023	25/09/2023

- Applicants must submit proof (screenshot) of their 2023 census submission, including the year and the number of horses to be eligible to participate.
- Mares must meet the following eligibility criteria:
  - They must be DAFM approved studbook registered/ studbook registered and Irish bred.
  - The mare's sire must be Preliminary Approved/Approved/recognised in DAFM/WBFSH Approved studbook.
    - In 2024, the mare may be required to be inspected in a DAFM Approved studbook.
  - **5-year-old mares** must have a dam or a sister (dam line) competing up to 3\* (Appendix 3) or an estimated breeding value (EBV) >130  
OR  
2 Double Clears to date in HSI Studbook Series (show jumping), HSI Studbook Series Eventing MER/equivalent based on class articles (Appendix 4).
  - **6/ 7-year-old mares** must have competed in the HSI Studbook Series (show jumping or Eventing/equivalent (equivalent based on the class articles – Appendix 4.) recorded classes in the previous year (2 Showjumping Double Clear/1 Eventing MER)



- The mare must be campaigned in **at least two** of the Show jumping/Eventing HSI Studbook Series or their equivalents (based on class article) over the duration of the funding allocation.
  - Dressage mares will be supported based on their equivalent performance criteria.
- All applications must be completed online.
- Mares that have been funded in the 2023 Schooling II scheme are not eligible to be funded in the Premium Mare Retention scheme, and vice versa.
- Video evidence must be provided via the online portal of the mare in one of these production classes in 2023 and a valid record of their result(s)
- If the mare is injured or unable to be ridden owing to another welfare reason HSI must be advised immediately and the fund will only be paid up to the date of injury. The applicant must provide veterinary proof.
- Applicants must be the registered breeder and owner of the animal at the point of application and must reside on the island of Ireland (inc Northern Ireland).
  - For inclusion of equines registered in dual ownership/breed partnership permission in written or email correspondence must be received by HSI from the non-applicant owner. Scheme approval will not occur in the absence of this written or email permission.
- A hair sample from the mare must be submitted for genotyping, if she has not been genotyped.
- Approved mares must release permission to their genotype (if not existing in HSI) for the purposes of research into traits and breed improvement.
- Receipted expenses for the retention costs of the mare must be submitted to HSI **before the 25<sup>th</sup> of September\* 2023**. This deadline will not be extended, and no late submissions will be accepted.
  - \* Videos of eventing mares participating in the HSI Studbook Series eventing final are permitted for receipt on the 2<sup>nd</sup> October.
- Eligible expenses may include but are not limited to:
  - Professional production livery
  - Feed/supplement costs
  - Dentistry/farrier/veterinary/chiropractor
  - Entry fees/Schooling Fees
- Payment will not be issued until receipt of valid copy of the invoices, receipts and video evidence of the young horse's progress.
- If videos are not submitted and/or the horse is not progressing to a sufficient standard Horse Sport Ireland reserve the right to withhold/refuse payment.
- Applicants may apply for up to two mares and can select a producer of their choosing with experience as per Appendix 2. The nominated producer must produce the mare, not another rider.
- Applicants must be satisfied as to the skills, knowledge, experience and facilities of their selected producer to care for their horse appropriately and to produce it in an appropriate manner.
- The applicant and producer are responsible for all insurance costs and liability for both horse and producer i.e. to cover any personal accident/injury and or horse accident/injury. Horse Sport Ireland will not be liable for any damages or losses incurred by applicants or producers during the training period.
- Horse Sport Ireland will not be party to any contracts or agreements entered or between breeders/owners and producers.



- Horse Sport Ireland will have no role to play in the event of any disputes between breeders/owners and producers arising from participation in this scheme.
- This scheme will operate on a first come first served basis up to the maximum allocation facilitated by the existing budget allocation. Horse Sport Ireland reserves the right to close the scheme ahead of the advertised deadline.
- The producer of the mare cannot be a direct family member/co-owner/employee of the applicant OR be operating from or share the same address.
- Ownership of the animal cannot be changed between family members for the purpose of entering the scheme.
- Horse Sport Ireland reserve the right to change, amend or update scheme terms and conditions. In the event of same, existing applicants will be notified.
- Horse Sport Ireland reserves the right to use performance equivalents and will consider breeding values from other studbooks on a case-by-case basis.
- Horse Sport Ireland reserves the right to reject any application.
- Incomplete applications will not be assessed, the onus is on the applicant to provide HSI with all the required detail and evidence of verified performance/classification & producer expertise.
- Horse Sport Ireland will provide the results of this scheme, where relevant, to the studbook of origin of the equine in question.
- Mares approved in this scheme will have automatic approval under the x-ray and embryo transfer schemes, mares that have not previously been x-rayed must be screened under the HSI screening protocol\*.

\* if x-rays have been previously taken they must be labelled to identify the horse and submitted. Otherwise, the age criteria in the x-ray scheme does not apply to mares approved under this scheme and they gain entry for screening. The x-ray screening would be funded through the x-ray screening scheme allocation.

Mares are not obliged to complete an embryo transfer but are encouraged to do so via the ET scheme. In future, an embryo or foal from the mare may be a requirement of the scheme.

- Applicants must be prepared to provide Horse Sport Ireland with a Tax clearance certificate should the sum of their approvals and or prize money equal €10,000 or more. If a tax clearance cert cannot be furnished on request, grants cannot be provided.  
[CLICK HERE FOR INFORMATION ON HOW TO APPLY.](#)
- I confirm that I have reviewed Horse Sport Ireland's Data Protection and Privacy policies (available at [www.horsesportireland.ie](http://www.horsesportireland.ie) or on request) and I note that HSI only process personal data for legitimate business purposes and/or where required by law. All processing will have due regard to the DPA 2018 and GDPR 2016. I note that this personal data may include sensitive personal data, as defined within the DPA and GDPR, the processing of which requires my explicit consent. I note that HSI and selected/approved veterinary clinics will honour the rights and freedoms of the data subjects at all times, as long as there is no other overriding law which limits those privileges.



**By signing this form, I declare that:**

- I understand and agree to the terms and conditions of this scheme in their totality
- I provide my informed consent to participate in this scheme
- I understand HSI retain ownership of all data accrued under this scheme
- I understand and provide consent for my equines' anonymised data to be used for research purposes, including but not limited to scientific publication
- I understand that HSI will publish a list of awardees (forename, surname, county and mare name) on the HSI website
- I understand that drawdown of funding is subject to the completion of scheme feedback.

### **Appendix 1. Pony Performance equivalents**

Equivalent pony performance criteria including but not limited to:

- Two own DC/top 10% performance in at an officially recorded class/event as follows:
  - 128A - 1- 1.10m  
138A – 1.10m - 1.20m  
148A – 1.20m - 1.30m
  - CCIP
  - CCI1\*
- Four DC/top 10% performance of the dam/sister (dam line) in at an officially recorded class/event as follows:
  - 128A - 1- 1.10m  
138A – 1.10m - 1.20m  
148A – 1.20m - 1.30m
  - CCIP
  - CCI1\*

### **Appendix 2. Professional Producer Criteria**

**Nominated Producing professionals' option must meet one of the following criteria:**

- Riders that have qualified a horse for the final in RDS SJ 5-, 6- or 7-year-olds in the last 3 years;
- Riders that have qualified a horse for the final day of any leg in the HSI Studbook Show Jumping Series in the last 3 years;
- Riders that have competed a horse for the final in RDS Young Event Horse class in the last 3 years;
- Riders that have recorded a MER at CCI2\*L in the last 3 years;



- Riders that have qualified a horse for the World Breeding Championships for Young horses in Lanaken or Lion d'Angers;

- Producer and underage rider combinations that have qualified a pony for the RDS in the last 3 years.
- Have ridden in a nations cup/Olympic qualifier/Olympic class/event.
- Other international experience will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

**The onus is on the applicant to provide validated proof of the producer's capacity.**

### Appendix 3. Mare star rating performance classifications

Irish Sport Horse Mares				
Minimum Performances Required for each Rating Level				
Rating Type	5*	4*	3*	2*
Mare performance – Showjumping	2 double clear rounds at CSI/CSIO 4* level (Grand Prix or Nations' Cup class or equivalent <sup>2</sup> ) or higher	2 of the following: Double clear rounds at CSI/CSIO3* level <sup>6</sup> or Double clear rounds in FEI competitions at a fence height of at least 1.45m at CSI/CSIO level or Top 4 placings in FEI speed classes at a fence height of at least 1.45m at CSI/CSIO level or higher	2 double clear rounds at National 1.30m level <sup>5</sup> or higher	Be entered in Select class <b>and</b>  Jump 4 double clear rounds at National 1.20m level <sup>7</sup> or higher
Mare performance – Eventing	2 MERs <sup>15</sup> at:  CCI 3* level <sup>11</sup> up to 2018 or CCI4*-L level from 2019 or higher	2 MERs <sup>15</sup> at:  EI120 level or CIC3* level up to 2018 or CCI4*-S level from 2019 or higher	2 of the following: Top 25% finishes at CCI 1* level <sup>13</sup> up to 2018 or Top 25% finishes at CCI 2* level <sup>13</sup> up to 2018 or Top 25% finishes at CCI2*-L level <sup>13</sup> from 2019 or Top 25% finishes at CCI3*-L level <sup>13</sup> from 2019 or Top 10% finishes at EI115 level or Top 10% finishes at CIC2* level up to 2018 or Top 10% finishes at CCI3*-S level from 2019 or higher	Be entered in Select class <b>and</b> have  2 of the following:  Top 10% finishes at CIC 1* level up to 2018 or Top 10% finishes at CCI2*-S level from 2019 or higher



<b>Irish Sport Horse Mares</b>				
<b>Minimum Performances Required for each Rating Level</b>				
<b>Rating Type</b>	<b>5*</b>	<b>4*</b>	<b>3*</b>	<b>2*</b>
Mare performance – Dressage	2 placings at CDI/CDIO4*level (big tour or equivalent) with a score of 65% or higher	2 placings at CDI/CDIO3*level (big tour or equivalent) with a score of 65% or higher	2 placings at National Advanced level with a score of 65% or higher	Be entered in Select class <b>and</b> have 2 placings at National Medium level with a score of 65% of higher

<b>Irish Sport Horse Mares</b>				
<b>Minimum Performances Required for each Rating Level</b>				
<b>Rating Type</b>	<b>5*</b>	<b>4*</b>	<b>3*</b>	<b>2*</b>
Mare progeny – Showjumping	1 progeny with  2 of the following:  Double clear rounds at CSI/CSIO 3* level <sup>6</sup> or Double clear rounds in FEI competitions at a fence height of at least 1.45m at CSI/CSIO level or Top 4 placings in FEI speed classes at a fence height of at least 1.45m at CSI/CSIO level or higher	2 progeny with  2 of the following:  Double clear rounds at CSI/CSIO 2* level <sup>9</sup> or Double clear rounds in FEI competitions at a fence height of at least 1.40m at CSI/CSIO level or Top 4 placings in FEI speed classes at a fence height of at least 1.40m at CSI/CSIO level or Double clear rounds at National 1.45m level <sup>3</sup> or higher	2 progeny with  2 double clear rounds at National 1.30m level <sup>5</sup> or higher	Be entered in Select class <b>and</b> have  2 progeny with  2 double clear rounds at National 1.20m level <sup>7</sup> or higher
Mare progeny – Eventing	1 progeny with  2 MERs <sup>15</sup> at:  EI120 level or CIC3* level up to 2018 or CCI4*-S level from 2019 or higher	2 progeny each with  2 of the following:  Top 25% finishes at CCI 2* level <sup>12</sup> up to 2018 or Top 25% finishes at CCI3*-L level from 2019 or higher	2 progeny each with  2 of the following:  Top 25% finishes at CCI 1* level <sup>13</sup> up to 2018 or Top 25% finishes at CCI2*-L level from 2019 or Top 10% finishes at EI115 level or Top 10% finishes at CIC2* level up to 2018 or Top 10% finishes at CCI3*-S level from 2019 or higher	Be entered in Select class <b>and</b> have  2 progeny each with  2 of the following:  Top 10% finishes at CIC1* level up to 2018 or Top 10% finishes at CCI2*-S level from 2109 or higher



Mare progeny – Dressage	1 progeny with  2 placings at CDI/CDIO3* level (big tour or equivalent) with a score of 65% or higher	2 progeny each with  2 placings at CDI2*level (big tour or equivalent) with a score of 65% or higher	2 progeny each with  2 placings at National Advanced level with a score of 65% or higher	Be entered in Select class <b>and</b> have  2 progeny each with  2 placings at National Medium level with a score of 65% of higher
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#### Appendix 4. Class articles or equivalents

All classes must be officially recorded, and applicants must provide proof of same.

Age	Discipline	Article (art.)	Height
5 YO	SJ	(Art. 238.1.1)	1m10+
6 YO	SJ	(Art. 238.1.1) OR “ with jump off OR (Art. 274.5.3) If performance in 5YO year, art/height is as per 5YO.	1m25+
7 YO	SJ	(Art. 274/ 5.3) OR (Art. 238/2.2, Table A with one jump-off) If performance in 6YO year, art/height is as per 6YO.	1m30+
5 YO	EV	EI 100 – MER	1m
6 YO	EV	EI 110 - MER If performance in 5YO year, art/height is as per 5YO.	1m10
7 YO	EV	EI 115 – MER If performance in 6YO year, art/height is as per 6YO.	1m15