

Regulations Specific to Equine Exhibitors

All exhibitors must ensure they are familiar with the procedures for the movement of equine animals, as detailed on the DAERA website under Show Guidance for exhibitors.

E1. CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

- a) Equines may only be entered in one section, either horse, pony or donkey.
- b) All equines must be entered under the owner's name as listed in their passport.
- c) The ages of all equines competing to be calculated from 1st January. Yearlings must provide date of birth on entry form.
- d) Passport numbers must be supplied with the entry, otherwise entry will be null and void.
- e) Passports must accompany all equines and be available for inspection. Equines without passports will not be permitted entry to the showgrounds.
- f) No exhibitor may enter and show a horse, pony or donkey under a Judge whom they know or should have known to have: bred, sold, produced, or received financial gain from that horse. (Stud fees and keep for mares at stud are exempt from financial gain.) Or, any owner or their immediate family taking advice on:
the purchase, schooling, exhibiting, or having at livery any horse from someone during the current or previous year.

Please note should the above conflict of interest arise it is the responsibility of the exhibitor to withdraw from the class.

E2. ARRIVAL TIMES & DEPARTURE ARRANGEMENTS

- a) Upon arrival equines will be subject to inspection by the RUAS veterinary team. Passports with up-to-date vaccinations and height certificates (where applicable) must be available for inspection.
- b) Any animal without a passport or up-to-date vaccinations will be refused entry.
- c) Exhibitors must arrive within the hours listed below. Arrival outside these times will result in refusal of entry.

Tuesday 12 May 9.00am–9.00pm

Wednesday 13–Friday 15 May 6.00am–8.00am

6.00pm–9.30pm

Saturday 16 May 6.00am–8.00am

- d) Provided exhibitors are not required to participate in any of the parades they may leave once their class has finished, however if an animal leaves the show grounds they will not be admitted again unless they are presented at the vetting area within the allocated times.

E3. ELIGIBILITY OF RIDERS

- a) In order to establish that riders of horses and ponies are of the correct age for the class entered, it will be the responsibility of the exhibitor to ensure that the passport or birth certificate of the rider is available for inspection by the stewards if requested. Riders to be correct age for the height of the pony.
- b) Ponies are only allowed to be ridden on the Show Grounds by riders of the appropriate age, in accordance with the class specification for which it is entered.

E4. NUMBERS

Back numbers, corresponding with the catalogue number of the animal will be provided, and **must be worn by the grooms or riders**, at all times, or in the case of harness horses, on the back of the carriages. Bridle numbers are also provided, and these must be worn on the bridle or head collar when the exhibits are out of the stables. If these numbers are not clearly displayed, you will not be allowed to enter the warm up area.

E5. DRESS

Each rider and groom must be correctly dressed, and protective headgear conforming to the current safety standards should be worn at all times whilst mounted.

All exhibitors are encouraged to wear recommended protective headgear to BSI standard with chin strap but in the working hunter horse classes and in the ridden and working hunter children's pony classes, exhibitors must wear a riding hat complying with the current safety standards at all times whilst mounted. All exhibitors under 18 years in the Private Driving and Light Trade section should wear protective headgear complying with the current safety standards.

All riders should be correctly dressed when walking the course (no denims should be worn).

No earrings, piercings, or visible jewellery should be worn.

E6: HEALTH DECLARATION & VACCINATIONS

Compulsory Vaccination against Equine Influenza – All equine animals wishing to compete at Balmoral Show must be vaccinated against equine influenza – no equine will be admitted to the show ground unless they have the following;

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- A minimum of the Primary course consisting of 2 vaccinations, not less than 21 days and not more than 92 days apart (not within 7 days of the show).
- A booster must then be given 150–215 days after the 2nd primary vaccination (not within 7 days of the show).
- An annual booster must be given within 12 months of the previous vaccination (not within 7 days of the show).

All vaccinations must be properly documented in the animal's passport and signed by a veterinary surgeon and stamped with their official practice stamp to authenticate each vaccination.

Please note: Foals should be vaccinated from 5 months.

If there is a current outbreak of Equine Influenza in Ireland, G.B. USA and other European countries – please ensure that all Persons Responsible (Owners/Athletes) keep up to date with FEI, HSI and SJI requirements regarding vaccinations, and bio-security best hygiene practices, as they may have to be amended should further outbreaks continue. Updates will be found on the appropriate websites. All passports must be up to date, or entry to the Showgrounds will not be allowed.

Control: The influenza virus is easily destroyed outside the body. Cleanliness is required to control it. The greatest risk spread appears to be by nasal discharge and by attendant's hands. Horses may harbor the virus for approx. nine to ten days after coughing ceases. The virus will survive in wet, humid conditions in horse boxes, stables etc., but in dry or warm dry conditions it soon dies.

E6: RANDOM DOPE TESTING

Equines entered at Balmoral Show may be subject to sampling for illegal substances.

Tests will be carried out by the Society's appointed veterinary surgeon, and a steward will accompany the veterinary surgeon when tests are being taken.

Should the sample taken prove positive, on analysis, for a prohibited substance, the exhibit will be disqualified.

E7: GROOMS

If any groom is absent from his horse at the time of judging, the horse will be liable to be excluded from competition. Grooms in charge of horses remaining in the Showground overnight must be in attendance at 7am each morning to clean out the stables.

E8: STABLING

a) Stabling is not included within your entry fee and **must** be booked separately through the Online Exhibitor Portal. Stables booked before close of entries are charged at £35 per night and stables booked after entries close will be charged at £50 per night. Exhibitors in classes 1–38 and 60–84, are not permitted to work from their horse box or lorries and **must** book at stable.

Please note that stables booked will not be refunded after entries close.

All stables must be vacated by 5.30pm (providing your class has finished). Stables that are not vacated will be charged an additional night.

When booking your stable, please select the day your class is on. This allows you to arrive either the evening before your class (from 6:00pm to 9:30pm) or on the morning of your class (from 6:00am to 8:00am). If booking a Wednesday stable, arrival is available between 9.00am & 9.00pm on Tuesday.

No equine may stable in a stable other than that allocated to it by Society officials. **STABLE SWAPPING IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED.** Any owner/exhibitor found in breach of this rule will be removed from the showgrounds with immediate effect and forfeit any entry fees paid, and prize money won.

b) Stables will include some shavings which have been kindly provided by Bluefrog. A limited supply of shavings will be available to purchase from the stable manager.

Equestrian Farms feeds can deliver additional bedding if ordered in advance. It is advisable to use rubber mats in stables due to ground conditions.

c) Any Horse in isolation will not be allowed out of the isolation box, except by order of one of the stewards or a senior member of staff.

E9: PARKING

Limited parking is available on-site and must be pre-booked via the online portal. Parking is available for cars, horse boxes, and lorries, with daily or weekly passes available.

Daily passes allow access to the car park from 6.00pm on the evening prior to the booked day and weekly passes allow access from 9.00am on Tuesday of Show week.

Exhibitors may stay on-site if they have purchased a **weekly residential parking pass** in either the **Pink Residential Lorry Park** or the **Brown Residential Area**. These passes must be pre-purchased, are limited in number, and **only one residential pass is permitted per exhibitor**.

E10: EXERCISING

Ridden horses and led horses will be allowed to exercise in the warm up areas providing they have their catalogue number visible. Exercising in the judging rings or main arena is strictly prohibited. All arenas and the lunging pen will be closed between **10.30pm & 5.00am (Tuesday–Saturday)**. All equines must be stabled during these times except in the case of an emergency. Any exhibitor seen violating this rule will have all entries cancelled and/or any prizes/placings already gained made null and void. (Also see rule 10 of the General Rules and Regulations)

Lunging in the Horse Rings practice arena is only permitted on: Tuesday 12th May from 9.00am–10.30pm and Wednesday 13th May from 5.00am–12 noon. Those wishing to lunge outside of these times must use the lunge pen.

The exercising or examination of horses on the paths or roadways is strictly forbidden.

E11: PARADES

A parade of prizewinning young stock horses will take place in P&O Arena on Wednesday 13 May. The Champion, Reserve Champion and 1st–3rd prize winners in each class will be required to participate.

A parade of prizewinning horses will take place in the Main Arena on Thursday 14 May. The Champions, Reserve Champions and 1st–3rd prize winners in the following classes are required to participate; Ridden Hunter, Coloured Horses, Ladies Hunters Astride, Ladies Side Saddle – Balmoral Classic Competition, Riding Horses, Ridden Irish Draught, Performance Irish Draught and Ridden Connemara Ponies.

A parade of prizewinning Heavy horses will take place on Friday 16 May in the P&O Arena. The Champion, reserve champion and 1st–3rd prize winners in each class are required to participate. Exhibitors will be advised of the collection arrangements for parades at the time of the presentation of class prizes.

If an animal is absent from a parade without good reason, the exhibitor is liable to forfeit the prize or prizes won by the animal.

E12: HEIGHT CERTIFICATES

Horses and ponies entered in classes with a height restriction must be in possession of a current height or final measurement certificate appropriate to their class. This certificate should be issued by a society or scheme approved by the FEI or issued by a National Federation affiliated to the FEI or a certificate issued by a society or scheme approved by such National Federation, and must be presented with their passport at arrivals.

E13: TACK

For other specific tack information please see the appropriate class rules.

E14: SHOETING

For horses and ponies that are shod, only normal shoes that do not cover the frog are permissible. Normal shaped open heeled plastic stick-on shoes are permissible. No bar shoes, pads or gel pads are allowed.

E15: FALL OF RIDER

In the case of a fall of a rider at any time in the competition or practice arenas, the rider must be checked by the paramedic service, prior to any further participation in competition or schooling.

E16: UNACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOUR

Forms of cruel, inhumane, or abusive treatment of horses or ponies, including, but not limited to, the various forms of rapping, are strictly forbidden in all areas of the Showgrounds.

E17: REFUNDS

50% of entry fees will be refunded for all equine classes if cancelled before **5.00pm on Wednesday 25 March 2026**. Withdrawals and refunds are made through the exhibitor's online account and any refund due will be available to claim after the show. No refunds will be issued after this date.

HORSE SPORT IRELAND AND DAFM ADDITIONAL PRIZE FUND RULES:

To be eligible for the additional prize money supplied by the Breeding Grant Initiative, funded by the Department of Agriculture, Food, and the Marine under National Breeding Services, and delivered by Horse Sport Ireland, exhibitors must meet the following criteria:

- All horses entering classes/in receipt of funds must be studbook registered with a specific breed documented within their studbook passport.
- Horses must be registered in the correct ownership, with the PIO, to be in receipt of prize funds.
- All entrants must ensure all information provided is accurate and up to date.
- Breeder's prizes will only be paid to breeders residing on the Island of Ireland.
- Prize winners must submit full payment details via the QR code on the winner's letter within 7 days of the competition or they will not receive prize money.
- Equine welfare is paramount for all activities including equines; equines should not have their whiskers trimmed or be inappropriately produced for or handled during any of the events. Shows must indicate the welfare/inspection and other relevant provisions they have in place.
- Horse Sport Ireland reserve the right to amend and update these terms and conditions at any time.
- HSI are not responsible for prize moneys due to ineligibility.