



BALMORAL SHOW 2026

National Show Jumping Qualifier Rules



5 Year Old Championship – 4 horse/athlete combinations to qualify.

Table A. Article 238.2.2. One jump off against the clock. Height maximum 1.20m.

6&7 Year Old Championship – 4 horse/athlete combinations to qualify.

Table A. Article 238.2.2. One jump off against the clock. Handicap 1.30m / 1.35m.

1.35m Championship – 4 horse/athlete combinations to qualify.

Table A. Article 238.2.2. One jump off against the clock. Height maximum 1.35m.

Amateur Championship – 5 horse/athlete combinations to qualify.

Table A. Article 238.2.2 & 254N.C (special rules pertaining to Amateur athletes).

One jump off against the clock. Handicap 1.10 / 1.15m.

128-85cm Under 10's Championship - 4 pony/athlete combinations to qualify.

Table A. Article 238.2.2. One jump off against the clock. Height maximum 85cm.

1. Qualifier venues will be selected by the RUAS.
2. Animals must be registered with, and athletes must be members of Showjumping Ireland (SJI) for the current season prior to the qualifying competition.
3. All qualifying competitions should be judges under Article 238.2.2, however, and only if time is an issue, a qualifier may be run as a Two Phase competition, under Article 274.5.3. Special Two Phase rules must NOT be used.
4. Once qualified, entries (non-refundable) must be made online via the Balmoral Show website. If the owner / athlete has not entered the animal by the closing date of entries for the Balmoral Show; the 14th April, it will automatically be assumed that the owner / athlete does not wish to take up the qualifying place, and the next eligible animal in line from the applicable qualifier will be contacted. Qualification of an animal at a qualifier will not mean that it is automatically entered with the Show.
Please note that the Balmoral Show closing date of the **14th April** for show jumping entries will be strictly adhered to, and late entries will not be accepted. Should a qualified combination not have entered by the 14th April or for some reason is unable to take their place in the championship, the next in line will be notified on or before the 24th April. No changes to the qualified combinations will be made after the 24th April.
5. An athlete may only qualify **one** horse / pony for any championship class at the Balmoral Show.
6. A horse cannot start in more than one qualifier category for the Balmoral Show. It is the responsibility of the owner / athlete to ensure that all animals and athletes are eligible to

compete in the relevant qualifying competition and to make sure the correct animal / rider combination has qualified.

7. The animal / athlete must have completed the course to be eligible for a qualifying place.
8. A horse's first qualification will secure its qualification, regardless of further placings at later qualifiers.
9. Should an athlete qualify more than the quota for a category, where the athlete first qualifies in the highest place in the competition on a particular day will determine the qualifying place.
10. Qualifying places will go down the line if those placed above are already qualified. Where this is exhausted the next eligible combination will be taken from the highest placed, not already qualified combination from the 1st qualifier, and where this is exhausted to the 2nd qualifier and so on.
11. All animals that qualify for Balmoral Show may be scanned for microchips at the qualifiers to verify identity, passports must also be available for inspection.
12. Horses competing in the young horse classes will not be permitted to wear hind boots or bandages. These rules will also extend to the championships at the Balmoral Show. Each athlete / owner wishing to avail of the use of hind boots on their horse / pony must ensure that the boots are those permitted under Article 257N Saddlery of the SJI rules. Under no circumstances will non-specified hind boots, or bandages of any kind except for those outlined under Article 257N Saddlery. SJI stewards may attend each qualifier to carry out spot checks.
13. The RUAS and Showjumping Ireland reserve the right to refuse entry to any person who engages in conduct which brings the sport into disrepute, demonstrates aggressive or disrespectful behaviour towards staff, officials, volunteers, or other competitors.