



# Balmoral Show 2026

## Performance Irish Draught Qualifiers



Qualifiers are open to Irish Draught Mares & Geldings, registered in the Irish Draught section of the Irish Horse Register or harmonised Irish Draught Studbooks and to Stallions that are classified as Class 1 or Class 2.

To be ridden by riders who have attained their 16<sup>th</sup> birthday by the 1<sup>st</sup> January in the current year.

### Aim

To demonstrate the ability, temperament and suitability of the Irish Draught horse for the amateur riding market. The Irish Draught is the foundation of the Irish sport horse. It should have good movement, rideability, bravery and be capable of participating competently in all equestrian activities. It should be strong, intelligent, willing, sensible and have a kind disposition. A performance element has been included in these classes to demonstrate and showcase the performance potential of the Irish Draught.

### Dress & Tack

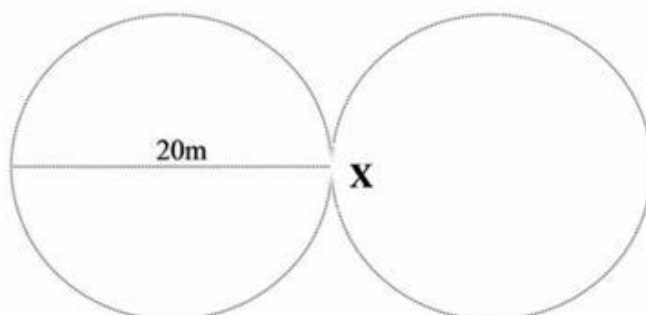
- Correctly secured protective headgear conforming to the current safety standards must be worn and properly secured at all times.
- The wearing of a body protector is recommended.
- Horses can be shown in any bridle with a bit. The judge will take into consideration the effectiveness and severity of the bit and bridle.
- Martingales are not permitted.
- Neckstraps and/or breastplates are permitted.
- No saddle cloths, only saddle contoured numnahs are permitted.
- Only blunt metal spurs or ones with rubber rowels < 2.5cms facing downwards are permitted.
- Front boots of a plain colour may be worn during the flatwork and jumping phase.
- No hind boots or bandages permitted.

The same tack must be used in each phase. No tack etc. may be worn that conceals the conformation of the horse.

**Flatwork/Conformation Phase:**

20x40 arena. On completion of this phase competitors should go directly to the jumping phase.

A mark out of 10 for Conformation will be awarded directly after the Ridden Flat Work Phase. The judge will observe the horses for obvious conformation defects.

**Performance Irish Draught Phase 1 Flatwork**

Marker	Movement	Requirements	Marks
from X	Approach the Judge in Working Trot. From X 20m Circle Left	2-time rhythm in correct bend, showing active hind leg engagement	10
from X	Working Trot 20m Circle Right	2-time rhythm in correct bend, showing active hind leg engagement	10
at X	Working Canter 20m Circle Left	Smooth transition and correct strike off on left lead. 3-time rhythm with correct bend and balance	10
at X	Working Canter 20m Circle Right	Smooth transition and correct strike off on right lead. 3-time rhythm with correct bend and balance	10
at X	Working Trot 20m Circle Right	Smooth transition. Well defined trot, maintained contact and balance	10
at X	2nd ½ 20m Circle transition to walk. At X Halt	Smooth transition. Well defined walk. Halt straight, square, immobile - for 3 seconds	10
	General impression of harmony and horsemanship		20
	Proceed directly to the first fence on the jumping track		80
		Total	
	Score out of 40	80 x 0.5	

**Jumping Phase:**

4 and 5 Year olds- < 85cm in height

6 Year old and over - < 1m in height

Exhibits will be required to jump a course of 9 fences including a double, with natural and derby style fences. Exhibitors are encouraged to show extended canter / gallop at the end of their jumping round. Exhibitors are advised to ensure that their entry is presented by a competent rider.

The rhythm and fluency along with jumping technique and the balance and harmony of the rider will be taken into consideration when judging the jumping phase.

Phase	Points	Total
Flat Work		40
Conformation		10
Jumping Phase:		
9 Fences @ 10 points each	100	
Way of Going	10	
Total Jumping Phase		110
<b>Total Marks</b>		<b>160</b>

In the event of a tie, the horse with the highest mark for the jumping phase will be the winner. If there is still a tie the horse with the highest mark in the Flatwork phase will be the winner. If there is still a tie the winner will be at the judge's discretion.

**Classes:**

IRISH DRAUGHT MARE or GELDING, **4 and 5 years old**, registered in the Irish Draught section of the Irish Horse Register or harmonised Irish Draught studbooks and to STALLION classified as Class 1 and Class 2.

IRISH DRAUGHT MARE or GELDING, **6 years old and over**, registered in the Irish Draught section of the Irish Horse Register or harmonised Irish Draught studbooks and to STALLION classified as Class 1 and Class 2.

## **QUALIFICATION**

**Top 4 horse/rider combinations in each class will qualify at each qualifying venue, if any of the top 4 have already qualified placings will go down the line.**

**A maximum of 3 Stallions may compete in each class in the final and these places will be awarded to the first 3 Stallions that qualify.**

**2 reserves will also be selected in each class and should any qualified horse withdraw from this class; a reserve horse from the same qualifying venue will be invited to compete at Balmoral Show in the relevant section. Any horse withdrawn from a class after 24<sup>th</sup> April 2026 will not be replaced.**

**Riders may ride a maximum of two horses per class in the final. A change of rider will not be permitted under any circumstances. Only the horse/rider combination that qualifies will be allowed to compete at Balmoral Show.**

**Once qualified entries must be made online at [www.balmoralshow.co.uk](http://www.balmoralshow.co.uk) within 48 hours.**