Balmoral Show 2027 - Connemara Qualifier

Qualifiers are open to Registered Connemara Ponies (excluding stallions)

Ridden Classes:

To be judged on ride, good temperament, conformation, soundness, breed type and suitability for child or adult.

Ponies will be stripped for conformation assessment.

- Mare or Gelding, **4 and 5 years** old suitable for and to be ridden by riders who have attained their 12th birthday on the 1st January of the current year.

- Mare or Gelding, **4 years old or over** suitable for and to be ridden by riders who have attained their 10th birthday but not their 16th birthday on 1st January of the current year.

- Mare or Gelding, **6 years old or over** suitable for and to be ridden by riders 10 years old and over on the 1st January of the current year.

Rules:

- Competitors cannot share a pony.
- Ponies may only be entered in one class.
- Any suitable snaffle bridle may be worn. Bits must be used in their manufactured condition without any addition or modification to, or on, any part and conform to the requirements of the class. The bit must never be used to reprimand the pony. Judges will take into consideration the effectiveness and severity of the bit and bridle and their decision is final.

Qualification:

Top 5 pony/rider combinations in each class will qualify at each qualifying venue, if any of the top 5 have already qualified placings will go down the line.

2 reserves will also be selected in each class and should any qualified pony withdraw from this class; a reserve pony from the same qualifying venue will be invited to compete at Balmoral Show in the relevant section. Any pony withdrawn from a class after **14th April** will not be replaced.

A change of rider will **not be permitted** under any circumstances.

Qualified entries must be made online at www.balmoralshow.co.uk by **31st March 2027**.

Balmoral Show 2027 - Connemara Qualifier

Qualifiers are open to Registered Connemara Ponies (excluding stallions)

Working Hunter Classes:

On entering the arena, each competitor will present to the judge where conformation will be assessed whilst mounted before riding away to demonstrate their pony's walk and trot paces on the flat. Competitors will then proceed straight to the jumping phase which will be a course of eight to ten fences, which have a natural appearance. The style of jumping and way of going will be marked by the judge and refusals will be penalised.

Classes

- Mare or Gelding, **4 years old or over**, suitable for and to be ridden by riders who have attained their 10th birthday but not their 16th birthday on 1st January in the current year.
  Fence height, 70cm – 85cm, max spread 85cm.

- Mare or Gelding**, 4 years old or over**, suitable for and to be ridden by riders who have attained their 16th birthday on 1st January in the current year.
  Fence height, 90cm – 1m, max spread 1m.

Marks will be awarded as follows:

Jumping	50 Marks
Manner & Performance	20 Marks
Conformation & Movement	15 Marks
Type	15 Marks
Total	100 Marks

Rules:

- Competitors cannot share a pony.
- Ponies may only be entered in one class.
- Exhibitors under 16 years must wear a body protector conforming current safety standards. If a rider chooses to wear an airbag style body protector, it must be worn over a recommended body protector.
- Any suitable snaffle bridle may be worn. Bits must be used in their manufactured condition without any addition or modification to, or on, any part and conform to the requirements of the class. The bit must never be used to reprimand the pony. Judges will take into consideration the effectiveness and severity of the bit and bridle and their decision is final.
- Martingales **are** permitted. Standing Martingales are **not** permitted.
- Spurs are not permitted.

- No hind boots or bandages permitted.
- No change of tack is allowed during the competition.
- No item of tack excluded from competition is allowed in the practice arena.
- If for any reason a competitor goes through the start with incorrect tack, the judge will have no option but to eliminate that competitor.

Qualification:

The top 6 pony/rider combinations in each of the working hunter classes are eligible to compete in the final at Balmoral Show on Thursday 20th May, if any of the top 6 have already qualified placings will go down the line.

2 reserves will also be selected in each class and should any qualified pony withdraw from this class; a reserve pony from the same qualifying venue will be invited to compete at Balmoral Show in the relevant section. Any pony withdrawn from a class after **14th April** will not be replaced.

Riders can only ride one pony in the final and this will be the first pony qualified.

A change of rider will **not be permitted** under any circumstances.

Qualified entries must be made online at www.balmoralshow.co.uk by **31st March 2027**.