Balmoral Show 2027
Performance Irish Draught Qualifier

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 16th birthday by the 1st January in the current year.

Aim

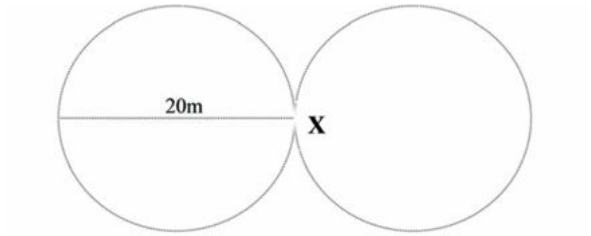
To demonstrate the ability, temperament and suitability of the Irish Draught horse for the amateur riding market. The Irish Draught is the foundation of the Irish sport horse, It should have good movement, rideability, bravery and be capable of participating competently in all equestrian activities. 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.

Competition Format

Phase 1 – Flatwork & Conformation

Arena Size 20x40

On entering the arena competitors will present to the judge for conformation assessment (horses will not be stripped) Riders will then complete the ridden test. On completion of this phase competitors should go directly to the jumping phase.



Marker	Movement
At E	Enter in Working Trot At X half circle to C
Between C & H	Medium Walk H to F Medium Walk
Between F & A	Working Trot At A half circle 20m to X
Between X & M	Working Canter 20m circle
through X	2-3 Trot strides Canter half 20m circle
Between A&K	Working Trot
At X	Halt and Salute

Phase 2 – Jumping

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 natural / derby style fences including a double. 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.

Marks for Phase 1 & 2 will be awarded as follows:

Phase	**Points**	**Total**
Walk	10	
Trot	10	
Canter	10	
General Impression	10	
Total Flat Work		40
Conformation		10
Jumping Phase:		
9 Fences @ 10 points each (points for each part of double)	100	
Way of Going	10	
Total Jumping Phase		110
Total Marks		**160**

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.

Rules

- 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** permitted. Standing 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.
- 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.

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 rider can qualify a maximum of two horses in each class for the final, with places awarded to the first two horses qualified. A change of rider will not be permitted under any circumstances.

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.

In the event that a qualified horse/rider combination withdraws, the next highest-placed eligible horse/rider combination shall be invited to compete. Any horse withdrawn from a class after 14th April will not be replaced.

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