



Balmoral Show 2026

Performance Horse Qualifiers



Aim

To identify high-class horses bred in Ireland with the potential to become top-class performance horses, to provide a platform for breeders, producers and trainers to showcase quality young stock, and to encourage the production and presentation of the correct type of horse most likely to succeed in top-level performance sport.

Eligibility

Restricted to Irish Bred horses only. Only animals with named passports identifying sire, dam, dam sire, microchip and breeder may compete.
Horses must be 153cms or over.

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

Competition Format

On entering the arena, each competitor will present to the judge where conformation will be assessed whilst mounted before riding away to demonstrate their horses walk and trot paces on the flat. Competitors will then proceed straight to the jumping phase which will comprise of a course of show jumps immediately followed by natural cross country type fences. There will be no more than 16 jumping efforts in total.
At the end of the jumping phase, the competitor will demonstrate the ability of their horse to gallop.

The judge will assess each horse's performance and marks will be awarded based on conformation & type, paces, way of going throughout the jumping phase and star potential.

In the event of equality of marks, the potential & star quality mark will take precedence.

Judges' marks out of 100 to be awarded as follows

| | |
|-----------------------------|----------|
| Conformation & Type | 10 marks |
| Paces – Walk & Trot | 10 marks |
| Jumping – Scope & Technique | 30 marks |
| Way of Going | 20 marks |
| Gallop | 10 marks |
| Potential & Star Quality | 20 marks |

Class

5 year old Performance Horse – maximum height of fences 1m

6 & 7 year old Performance Horse - maximum height of fences 1.10m

3 horse/rider combinations in each class may qualify at each qualifying venue. If any of the top 3 horses have already qualified, placings may go down the line providing a minimum mark of 55 has been obtained.

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.

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 24th April 2026 will not be replaced.

Once qualified entries must be made online at www.balmoralshow.co.uk within 48 hours.