



SHOWING GUIDELINES FOR OWNERS AND EXHIBITORS

INTRODUCTION

This information has been compiled by the Irish Draught Horse Society (GB) to provide advice and guidelines for owners and exhibitors on showing their horses.

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INFORMATION FOR OWNERS AND EXHIBITORS

1. REGISTRATION/ELIGIBILITY

- a) All horses (with the exception of foals up to 6 months of age) exhibited at Affiliated Shows must be identified with the Society and entered in classes using their registered name, age and details.
- b) Changes of a horse's registered name are not allowed.
- c) The Society is affiliated to the Central Prefix Register and all prefixes must be registered through the Society.
- d) It is the responsibility of exhibitors to ensure that the information given on show entry forms is accurate and that horses compete in their correct classes.
- e) It is a requirement of the Society that owners of Pure Bred Irish Draught horses shown in the In Hand Breeding classes must be Members of the Society. By contrast, Irish Draught Sport Horses may be owned and shown by Non-Members.
- f) Horses must be in the correct ownership. If a horse changes ownership after the

closing date for entries, it must be transferred into the name of the new owner (who must become a Member of the Society if the horse is entered in the Pure Bred In Hand Breeding classes) before the date of the Show in order for the horse to be eligible to be shown.

g) All stock entered in the Irish Draught In Hand Breeding classes MUST be the progeny of a Graded Mare (ID Class 1, ID Class 2, RID, AID, or Supplementary Grade Up Register) and be by an ID Class 1, ID Class 2 or RID (GB) Stallion on the Irish Draught Breed Register.

h) All competing stallions must be the progeny of a Graded Mare (ID Class 1, ID Class 2, RID, AID, or Supplementary Grade Up Register) by an ID Class 1, ID Class 2 or RID (GB) Stallion and be inspected or overstamped by the IDHS (GB) and classified as ID Class 1, ID Class 2 or RID (GB) or be a Registered Irish Draught Sport Horse Stallion and must wear a red, white and blue ribbon in their tail.

i) All Stallions, Yearling, Two and Three year old COLTS must be bitted and shown by an experienced handler of 18 years of age or over. All Three year old COLTS must be un-inspected.

j) Horses must be four years old and over to enter Ridden Classes. The age should be calculated from 1st January in the year of birth.

2. JUDGES' INTEREST

The onus of a horse being exhibited in a class must be on the exhibitor. A Judge must not judge a horse which he/she has bred, owned, sold or had any financial interest, at any time. The practice of any owner or their immediate family taking advice on the purchase, schooling, exhibiting or having at livery any horse from someone during the current or previous year is prohibited by the Society (service fees for stallions and keep for mares whilst at stud are excluded). The exhibitor will know who is judging from the schedule, whereas the judge will not know which animals are coming before him until he arrives in the ring. If there is an unforeseen change of judge then the exhibitor should stand down from the class. Judges must not knowingly judge a horse produced by a producer, owner or their immediate families for whom they have shown any horse or who has shown any horse for them during the current or previous year. The onus is on the Exhibitor not to exhibit animals under a judge who is or has been in their employ or vice versa during the current or previous year. The practice of a Judge advising on the purchase of, or exhibiting or schooling or having at livery any horses for someone or their immediate family and then judging any horses for the same owner during the current or previous year is prohibited by this Society (service fees for stallions and keep for mares whilst at stud are excluded). The only exception to the above rule is, in a championship, if an exhibitor has more than one horse qualified, they may ask any member of the Society whether a judge or not to ride their exhibits for the championship only. This will allow the judges to have their full complement of horses in the championship

3. CONDUCT

If an owner or exhibitor acts in an inappropriate or un-sportsmanlike manner at an Affiliated Show, such person may be subject to disciplinary action.

4. COMPLAINTS

- a) Complaints regarding the conduct and /or performance of any person officiating or acting in any capacity on behalf of the Society at any event or show must be made in writing to the Society's Complaints Officer. Details of the Complaints Procedure can be found on the Society's web site.
- b) Any other objection or complaint relating to shows should be made in accordance with the procedure set out in that show's rules.

5. PUBLIC LIABILITY INSURANCE

All exhibitors and riders/handlers are strongly advised to carry their own accident and third party liability insurance cover.

6. DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY

The Society, its officials and judges, accept no liability in respect of any horse or its owner, exhibitor, or any other person responsible for it, howsoever arising at a show or other event organized by the Society.

7. EXHIBITOR RING ETIQUETTE

- a) Exhibitors should arrive in the collecting ring in good time for their class.
- b) Exhibitors should listen to instructions provided by the Ring Steward or Judge and watch other exhibitors in front of them. When asked to walk/trot a horse out in hand, they should ensure that the horse travels alongside them, not behind. When turning, the horse should always be turned away from and not towards the exhibitor.
- c) Exhibitors should at all times be polite to Stewards and Judges, but must never speak to the Judge using his/her name.
- d) At no time should the exhibitor try to influence the Steward or Judge by offering information about their exhibit.
- e) In Ridden Classes, exhibitors are not usually allowed to enter the ring after the horses have commenced trotting as a class, unless they have the Judge's permission, which will only be given in exceptional circumstances.
- f) Once a Judge has commenced judging a class, a horse should not leave the ring without the permission of the Judge.
- g) In In-Hand Classes, the handler who enters the ring with the horse should remain throughout the class. Exhibitors are not usually allowed to enter the ring after the horses have commenced trotting up unless they have the Judge's permission.
- h) Only in exceptional circumstances, and with the permission of the Judge, may a person other than the handler/rider who entered the ring with the horse be permitted to trot the horse up.
- i) In Ridden Classes, exhibitors must have due regard to the size of ring and number of entries forward. They must ensure that health and safety is observed at all times, and maintain a sensible distance between horses.
- j) In Ridden Classes, Judges will view unfavourably: -

- i) exhibitors who purposefully place their horse between the Judge and another exhibitor at any pace, so as to obscure the Judge's view of that horse.
- ii) exhibitors who continually circle in front of the Judge to keep their horse in the Judge's eye.
- k) In Ridden Classes, there shall be no change of rider or tack, unless a horse is ridden side saddle. In this case, the saddle may be changed in order to allow the Judge to ride.
- l) Only in a Championship, when a competitor finds he/she has more than one eligible exhibit, is it permitted to have a change of rider or leader.
- m) Exhibitors must ensure that all grooms wait until the whole class has been lined up before entering the ring. Health and safety is of paramount importance and the minimum amount of equipment should be taken into the ring.
- n) Exhibitors should at all times have regard for others, particularly if they have a badly behaved animal. If the animal becomes so unruly that the Judge asks for it to be removed, the exhibitor must accept the decision with good grace.

8. DRESS AND TURNOUT – General

- a) Headwear. **It is strongly recommended that competitors aged 18 or over wear correctly secured Skull Caps/Riding Hats that meet the current Safety Standards.** Riders should make themselves aware of the show's rules regarding the type of headwear that must be worn. **In the jumping phase of working hunter classes skull caps/riding hats must be worn. Hats should have a plain cover, and may be black, navy blue or grey. Velvet covers are encouraged. It is mandatory for competitors under the age of 18 to wear such skull caps or hats.**
- b) Any rugs, clothing or items of tack that reveal the identity of the horse, owner or sponsor should not be worn in the ring.
- c) It is the responsibility of exhibitors to ensure that grooms entering the show ring for the conformation judging of a ridden class are smartly and correctly dressed.
- d) Exhibitors must not display any rosette or award won previously whilst competing in other classes.

Exhibitors: Breeding and In-Hand Classes

- a) Men should wear a suit or coat and trousers, collar and tie. It is strongly recommended that protective headgear should be worn.
- b) Women may wear a coat, skirt or trousers with a collar and tie. It is strongly recommended that protective headgear should be worn.
- c) Earrings and visible jewellery must not be worn

Exhibitors: Ridden Classes

- a) It is strongly recommended that competitors aged 18 or over wear correctly secured Skull Caps/Riding Hats that meet the current Safety Standards. It is mandatory for

competitors under the age of 18 to wear such skull caps or hats. In the jumping phase of working hunter classes skull caps/riding hats must be worn.

- b) Tweed coat for men. Tweed coat or plain blue or black coat for women.
- c) Plain fawn or buff coloured breeches, not white.
- d) Plain black or brown boots.
- e) Garter straps. Points must face outwards and the buckle be against and between buttons on breeches.
- f) Spurs should be worn by exhibitors. Spurs at all times must be of smooth metal. There must be a shank, pointing only towards the rear, which must be no more than 3.5cm long and without rowels. The end must be blunt and incapable of wounding a horse. If the shank is curved, the spurs must be worn only with the shank directed downwards. Roller ball spurs are allowed. Judges do not wear spurs.
- g) Any form of leather or string glove.
- h) Plain malacca or leather cane.
- i) Collar and ordinary tie. Tie must be pinned down.
- j) Ordinary shirt.
- k) Earrings and visible jewellery must not be worn.

Horses: Breeding and In-Hand Classes

- a) Manes should be plaited.
- b) Tails pulled or plaited.
- c) Foals manes should be natural and tails may be natural or plaited.
- d) Heels are normally left natural for pure-breds, but trimmed for sport horses.
- e) Bridles or head collars to be plain leather.
- f) Yearling colts and all two and three-year-olds must have bits.
- g) The Society discourages the showing of over fat horses and Judges will take this into consideration when making their awards

Horses: Ridden Classes

- a) Manes should be plaited or may be hogged.
- b) Tails pulled or plaited.
- c) Heels left natural for pure-breds, or may be trimmed.
- d) 4-year-olds are encouraged to be shown in snaffles. Swales, Sam Marsh bits and Gags with double bridles are actively discouraged. Bitless bridles are not allowed.
- e) Martingales and front boots, of a plain colour may only be used in the jumping phase in Working Hunters classes.
- f) No hind boots or bandages of any description are allowed in the collecting ring, warm up or in the actual class in Working Hunter and Ridden Sport Horse classes.
- g) Saddles should be reasonably straight cut.
- h) The complete bridle must be plain leather.
- i) All horses must be shod.
- j) Cosmetics of any kind are discouraged.

j) The Society discourages the showing of over fat horses and Judges will take this into consideration when making their awards

9. WELFARE

If in the opinion of the Judge, a horse is lame or otherwise abnormal, he/she may give the exhibitor at the earliest opportunity the option of withdrawing the horse from the class, or being placed at the bottom of the line. If this option is not accepted a Veterinary Surgeon may be called but, if not immediately available, then the Judge's decision is final. If the Judge considers that the horse's welfare is being compromised the Judge has a right to ask the exhibitor to leave the ring and may, if deemed appropriate, refer the matter to the Council of the IDHS (GB).

10. VACCINATIONS

Show schedules should be checked to see if a current vaccination certificate is required.

11. CHAMPIONSHIPS

Where an Irish Draught is eligible to go forward to a Supreme Championship involving other Breeds, every effort should be made to attend. This should be considered an honour and an opportunity to promote and bring the Irish Draught breed to the attention of spectators and other exhibitors.

12. FORMAT FOR IRISH DRAUGHT CLASSES

a) The In-Hand Classes

In-Hand Irish Draught horses enter the ring at the walk on the right rein. The Judge will see the horses walk around and will then instruct the Steward to stop the horses in one corner before a long side of the ring, and ask the exhibitors to trot their horses round individually. The Steward will then ask the class to resume walking whilst the Judge selects his/her initial line up. Each horse will in turn stand up in front of the Judge, who will look all around the horse and then ask each exhibitor to walk the horse away and trot back towards him. On completion of this stage the Steward may ask the class to circle at the walk so that the Judge can make the final selection and ask the Steward to line them up in that order. The Judge (s) may in some circumstances vary this procedure.

b) The Ridden Classes

Ridden Irish Draught horses enter the ring at walk on the right rein and walk, trot, canter and gallop when signalled by the Steward on instruction from the Judge. The Judge may then request a change of rein and ask to see all paces again. The Steward will then ask the exhibitors to walk whilst the Judge makes his/her initial selection for the line-up. The Ride Judge will then ride each horse in turn. On completion of the rides, the horses are stripped and shown in front of the Conformation Judge for conformation assessment as for In-Hand Classes. When all horses have been ridden and assessed for conformation, they will be remounted and the Steward will ask the exhibitors to walk in a circle whilst

the Judge or Judges call them into their final order. The Judge(s) may in some circumstances vary this procedure.

c) Working Hunter Classes

Rules as per SHB (GB) with the exception of height of fences.