



Irish Draught Sport Horse Stallion Inspections Guidance notes for 2024

There are two dates planned for the 2024 Stallion Inspections:

10 April 2024 at Onley Grounds, Willoughby, Rugby, Warwickshire CV23 8AJ

Closing date: 10 February 2024

6 September 2024 at Onley Grounds, Willoughby, Rugby, Warwickshire CV23 8AJ

Closing date: 15 May 2024

The fee for sport horse stallion inspection in 2024 is £450 inc. VAT. This must be paid with your application.

If you should withdraw after your inspection application has been processed, the Society reserves the right to charge £150 for administration costs.

Stabling costs will be confirmed when applications have been received.

Before you apply:

Make sure that your membership of the Society has been renewed, or if a new member, that you have paid your membership subscription and received a welcome pack.

If your horse's passport needs updating with your name, or needs to be overstamped because it was issued by another Passport-Issuing Organisation, please see our website for the relevant form to complete. You will need to send your passport to:

IDHS (GB) PASSPORTS: Holme House, The Dale, Ainstable, Carlisle CA4 9RH

Email passports@idhsgb.org.uk Tel 01768 870523 (Available 9-00am to 5-00pm Monday – Friday)

This office will also help you with your membership or general enquiries, as well as DNA-processing.

Once all this is done, please complete and send in your application form and fee, with the veterinary certificate and health certificates.

Eligibility for Sport Horse stallion inspection

- Stallions must have a minimum of 25% fully documented or otherwise proven; Irish Draught breeding and be registered or overstamped by the IDHS (GB)
- All stallions must be 15hh and over (under review)
- All stallions must be four years old or over at the time of the inspection; i.e. for 2023, they must have been born in or before 2019;
- All stallions must be under saddle and be well prepared to perform the ridden tasks which form part of this inspection;
- Owners must be fully-paid up members of the IDHS (GB).

Pre-inspection veterinary requirements for Sport Horse stallions

Please do not use this list for Irish Draught stallions, for which the requirements are different.

To be submitted with the application:

- Every Sport Horse stallion must have a 5-stage vetting, including endoscopy, prior to application. The vetting must be done by a recognised equine practice. A satisfactory veterinary report must be submitted with your application.
- In addition, any practice that has previously seen the stallion is to submit a report of consultations relating to that animal, and any clinical treatments given.
- The stallion will have a brief trot-up on the day with the vet to ensure that he is sound enough to go through the inspection process.

Vets may contact our veterinary advisor, Mr Liam Kearns MRCVS, for any further information required:

Three Counties Equine Hospital, Tel. 07803888273 or 01684592099 Email: liam.kearns@tceh.co.uk

- DNA testing is required for all stallions, if not already done at registration. Sample kits are available from and should be returned to our administration office with the appropriate fee of £55 for members, £60 for non-members, which you can pay online.

Before the inspection:

- All Sport horse stallion applicants must be swabbed (after 1 January 2024) for CEM and tested for EVA and EIA. Valid health certificates must be submitted to the office before the inspection.
- Please note that in addition to the usual health certificates, all owners are required to provide evidence of genetic testing for Warmblood Fragile Foal Syndrome (WFFS). This is a one-off exercise which can be done with a hair sample. The choice of laboratory is up to the owner, but Animal Genetics in Cornwall offer this service:
Animal Genetics | Genetic Testing Services
- All stallions presented at the inspection centre must be vaccinated to current FEI requirements and the vaccinations must be recorded in the stallion's passport. If they are not recorded, the stallion may not be admitted to the College facilities. (Please see below).

The following is voluntary for Sport Horse stallions:

- X-rays for Sport Horse stallions: if the owner chooses to do so, stallions can be x-rayed (using the same list of 16 radiographs as for Irish Draught stallions) after the inspection. Positive x-ray outcomes will be publicised.

To recap: your application is not complete until your horse is:

- Named (if not done at registration)
- overstamped with the Society (if not registered with us)
- in the correct ownership
- your membership has been paid
- 5-Stage veterinary and all health certificates are submitted
- DNA has been taken (if not already done at registration)
- Warmblood Fragile Foal Syndrome genetic test has been completed
- the inspection fee has been paid in full.

How to apply:

Please apply by the closing dates at the top of this guidance. Late applications will not be accepted.

You can email your form (scanned but not photographed). Please also POST all inspection applications by normal mail (NOT Special Delivery please) to:

Inspection Management Team
Middle Muntty Farm, Churchstanton, Taunton, Somerset TA3 7RH.
Tel. 01823 601625. Email: inspections@idhsqb.org.uk

The fees for inspection, membership and stabling can be paid securely online at www.idhsqb.org.uk.

Payment options: online at www.idhsqb.org.uk (preferred)

BACS: Barclays Bank: Sort Code: 20-03-18, Account: 00700487. Please use your surname plus 'SH Stallion' as the reference – e.g. 'Bloggs SH Stallion'.

Please ensure that your stallion complies with the F.E.I. EQUINE INFLUENZA rules:

Equine Influenza and Tetanus vaccinations are a compulsory requirement for all horses registered with the Irish Draught Horse Society (GB), in order to bring your horse forward for inspection or to show him/her at our affiliated shows.

Inspection venues will NOT admit unvaccinated horses, unless an agreement is made that all the horses attending a given venue will be unvaccinated. If your vaccines are not recorded on the passport, there is no evidence that the horse has received them.

Please check your passport and ask your vet to update it if the vaccines are not recorded there.

The requirement for the first three vaccinations is as follows:

- The first two vaccinations must be 21 – 92 days apart, with a third booster between 150-215 days after the second dose.
- Thereafter, there should normally be an annual booster vaccination within 365 days. The FEI ruling up to September 2022 for certain competition horses was for a six-monthly booster as opposed to an annual booster. This was reviewed in September and a temporary accommodation to 1 April 2023 was made to reflect the shortage of vaccines at that time.

This rule may therefore be subject to change, in line with further anticipated guidance from the FEI/BEF. Any changes affecting our affiliated shows and inspections will be notified via the Society's web site at www.idhsgb.org.uk

Newly-vaccinated horses:

Your horse must, as a minimum:

- Have had the first two initial doses of equine influenza vaccine
- The administration of these doses must be recorded on her passport before you bring your horse to the venue.
- The second dose must be given not less than seven days before travel to the inspection.

Booster vaccinations:

- Must be within date
- There must be seven clear days before the booster is due, and if just given to the horse, seven days clear before travel.
- The annual or 6-month vaccine can be done at any time. No clear days are required, other than the annual stipulation.
- Any equine companion animals travelling with the horse must also be vaccinated.

If your horse develops a cough, snotty nose or seems unwell, do not travel him or her and stay at home. Contact your vet for advice.

Vaccination records on passports will be checked on arrival. Horses must not be unloaded before this has been done.

Animals with no passport, unvaccinated or obviously unwell horses will not be permitted to enter the premises.

Preparation for the inspection

All horses must be fit enough to take part in the inspection and be sufficiently prepared. They should not be over or underweight and should be well-handled. Feet should be carefully trimmed and shoes, if fitted, should be in good condition. Stallions may be presented barefoot, as all ridden work is on an arena surface.

Tack and equipment

As there is a ridden assessment, the bit chosen must be appropriate to the horse's level of training and development.

Handlers should also bring lungeing equipment and tendon boots with them. Although lungeing is not a part of the veterinary check on the day, it may be required if there is a query. All handlers and riders must be correctly attired, including British Standard protective headgear and appropriate footwear.

Stallions may wear foreleg boots, but not hind boots in the loose jumping phase. They may wear boots all round in the ridden phase.

The inspection team for Sport Horse stallions

There will be a minimum of two inspectors for sport horse stallions. At least one inspector must be from the IDHS (GB) panel. The other inspector(s) will be selected for their expertise and knowledge of the sport horse disciplines.

The inspection management team ensures that all participants and inspectors are aware of the inspection rules prior to the day.

Inspectors and volunteers who have contact with the horses and scoring system will be asked to complete conflict of interest/code of conduct forms in line with our Conflict of Interest policy.

The inspection management team is responsible for ensuring that the correct protocol is followed, that the inspection team keeps to time, and that the score sheets are completed efficiently and accurately.

The score sheet used for sport horse stallions is not the linear profile form that we use for Irish Draughts. The numerical score sheet is similar to that used by Sport Horse Breeding of Great Britain.

Summary of the inspection procedure:

On arrival:

- Checking in: please submit your passport to the administration team on arrival at the venue. You will be asked to sign a disclaimer.
- Many people choose to arrive on the evening prior to the inspection. Please ensure that you have requested a stable and any additional bedding on your stable booking form.
- You can book a stable to stand in for the day if you don't wish to stay overnight.
- If you would like to lead your stallion through the jumping lane (poles down) and around the arena on the night before the inspection, please let us know in advance, as this facility is likely to be in high demand.
- Only one stallion to be in the arena at any one time. There is a strict one-way protocol in place.

Inspection day:

- Photographs will be taken of your stallion: both sides, front view and rear view. These may be taken by one of the inspection administration team and form part of the record of your stallion's inspection.
- A private photographer will be available to take professional photographs, which you can purchase direct from them.
- The stallion must be stood up correctly with all four limbs fully engaged (i.e. not resting a foot) and should show the horse to his best advantage. The stance should be open, so that three or four legs can be seen from the side.
- If you wish to use photographs for publicity purposes, please ask the photographer's permission and always credit each use.

Veterinary check:

- The time for your veterinary check is on your timetable. This is a brief check to ensure that your stallion is sound enough to undertake the inspection tasks. The vet will have your own vet's 5-Stage veterinary report and vaccination record available to him/her for reference. A stallion that fails the pre-inspection vetting or the inspection day veterinary check will not be allowed to come forward for inspection.

Mares

Please be aware that there will be mare inspections at the same venue. This is essential in order to make up numbers and keep our inspections viable. Onley is currently the only option which mare owners have to have their mare's athleticism assessed for a possible Bronze Merit Award.

The mares will be inspected after the stallions and are stabled in a separate block. There are clear rules regarding movement around the site and a one-way system is in operation at all times, to avoid stallions coming into contact with other horses.

During the inspection

1. The steward or stable manager will advise you when to bring your stallion out for his inspection and will make sure that your route to the outside of the stallion barn is clear of people and other stallions.
2. The handler will be asked to stand the stallion up for a few minutes to enable the inspectors to view his conformation on a hard surface. For this purpose he will need to be taught to stand correctly.
3. The stallion will be walked away from the inspectors, and back again on the concrete outside the indoor school. This is then repeated in trot.
4. The stallion will be taken into the indoor school and fitted with any boots required (front limbs only). The stallion will then be let loose. The handler will not be assisting the arena party, but must stand in the diamond-shaped area in the arena away from the inspection team.
5. The arena party will then work the stallion in walk, trot and canter on both reins. Stallions will then be guided towards the entrance to the jumping lane for the first jump effort.
6. The increasing heights and spreads for each effort are listed on the diagram within this guidance.
7. Each stallion will make a minimum of five jumping efforts and may be asked to complete the lane six or seven times to give him sufficient opportunity to show himself to his best advantage.
8. Inspectors may stop a stallion completing the jumping phase if they feel it is in the best interests of the stallion to do so; for example, if he is insufficiently fit or prepared to complete the task safely.
9. After the stallion has jumped, the handler will be asked to catch his or her stallion. S/he will hold the horse or walk around quietly in the arena, as directed by the inspection team. The inspection team members will complete the score sheets for that part of the inspection.
10. All stallions will return to the stable to be tacked up for their ridden assessment with their own rider. The time for the second phase of their inspection will be on your timetable.
11. Stallions are required to show three correct and balanced paces under saddle, and will also be assessed on obedience and rideability.
12. There will be three fences to jump under saddle. The layout of the fences will be the decision of the inspection team, but stallion owners/riders can determine the fence order and direction for jumping. The fence heights will be agreed by the owner and the inspectors, according to the stallion's level of training.
13. Sport Horse stallions will be scored using a score and comment sheet designed for the purpose. Scores are the only way to evaluate data objectively and determine pass or fail, to evaluate progress and conduct statistical analyses (e.g. compare results of different animals and inspections at a later date).
14. If any animal shows signs of aggression or becomes too difficult to handle safely during their inspection, the handler will be asked to return to the stallion to the stables to settle and return to the arena at the conclusion of the day. If they remain aggressive or difficult to manage safely, the inspection team may decide to terminate the inspection to protect the horse, owner and officials on the day. In such circumstances, no refund of fees will be allowed.

15. At the conclusion of the inspection, the inspection team will then speak with the owner or handler for a few minutes to explain the decision made. Brief feedback may be given to the audience on the day, but specific scores will not be read out. This is because the decision is subject to further cross checking of all the inspection paperwork.
16. The results will be confirmed by letter within four weeks of the inspection. The owner will be sent a photocopy of the score sheets. The score sheet and inspection team comments will be made public if the stallion passes his inspection.

Classification of Sport Horse stallions after inspection

(a) 'Passed'

If the stallions pass vetting and inspection, they are accepted as 'Passed IDHS (GB) inspection criteria for Irish Draught Sport Horse Breeding' and their passports stamped accordingly.

(b) 'Performance'

A stallion achieving a certain level in open competition will be deemed to be an IDHS (GB) Performance Sport Horse Stallion.

(c) 'Elite'.

A stallion achieving a certain level in open competition will be deemed to be an IDHS (GB) Elite Sport Horse Stallion.

The required levels in each of the disciplines are listed in the table below.

Points	Passed Performance	Passed Elite
British Showjumping	350	750
British Eventing	15	45
British Dressage	140	250

A stallion that passes the vet on the day but does not achieve the standard required for the inspection will be identified as 'Does not meet IDHS (GB) inspection criteria for Irish Draught Sport Horse Breeding'.

Over-stamping/endorsement

Stallions from other registers can, as at present, be over-stamped on to the IDHS (GB) Sport Horse Register, provided that the owner submits an application with the relevant over-stamping fee and the stallion meets documented breeding requirements. Please contact our passport office (details in Appendix below). We can now update Horse Sport Ireland passports with names and changes of ownership.

Stallions with high levels of performance or success in other organisations' inspections

Exceptional sport horse stallions that meet our pedigree requirements of at least 25% documented Irish Draught breeding, and which are registered with or have been over-stamped by the Society, can, if they have already completed an equivalent or more advanced inspection process with another organisation, or if they have exceptional performance in open competition, be considered for acceptance on our stallion lists without further inspection.

The owner can submit an application to the inspection management team to have the stallion's performance assessed. Please email inspections@idhsgb.org.uk for further information and an application form.

There is no charge for this service, but if accepted by the Council, the stallion must be over-stamped and the owner must become a member of our Society before their stallion can be listed or advertised in our publications and on our web site.

Covering certificates

Covering certificates can be purchased online or from our administration office at the cost of £4 each inc. VAT. It is the stallion owners' responsibility to buy certificates in good time and to give them to the mare owner, because the registration cannot take place without one.

Issuing a covering certificate does not imply that the Society supports the use of an individual stallion. Covering certificates will state clearly if the stallion has not been inspected, or if he has been inspected and does not meet IDHS (GB) inspection and/or veterinary requirements.

Inspection appeal procedures

Owners who are not satisfied with the results of the inspection will be given the opportunity to represent the stallion for one repeat inspection, under a different inspection team, at a future date.

Sport Horse stallions do not have to repeat the pre-inspection vetting (so long as they passed the vetting the first time), but they must be examined on the day to ensure that they are sound enough to inspect.

In addition to the single opportunity for re-inspection, the owner may appeal in writing within 28 days of their last inspection date.

The IDHS (GB) will charge a fee for an appeal inspection which is held outside the normal inspection programme.

Veterinary Examination Appeal

Owners of stallions that do not meet the requirements of the veterinary examination on the day can appeal the results of the examination, providing that they apply in writing to the Inspection Administration Manager or Chief Inspector within 28 days of the veterinary examination. The stallion may be re-examined by a mutually agreed specialist for a second opinion.

The examination will only be carried out in respect of the condition for which the stallion was failed at the initial inspection. The cost of the examination must be borne by the owner of the stallion.

The decision of the appeal vet is final.

Health and Safety

This event is supported by a full and detailed risk assessment. Health and safety is the responsibility of all of us. Anything to do with stallions is inherently hazardous and we cannot eliminate all risk. If you see any particularly risky situations developing, please report them to one of the administrators, stewards or the stable manager.

If anyone needs first aid, please report to any official on site on the day, or to a member of college staff. We do have access to trained first aiders on the day, but for any significant medical incident, we will be requesting external medical support. Please ask for assistance if you become unwell or need help in any way.

Veterinary emergencies

We will have at least one vet on site during the inspection (08.30-17.00). At other times, you will need to call the emergency veterinary service.

INFORMATION ABOUT THE ARENA AND JUMPING LANE

Please ensure that you prepare your stallion according to the jumping lane dimensions in the diagram below.

The heights of the jumps in the table below are for sport horse stallions only. Please do not use this information for Main Studbook stallions.

The size of the indoor arena is 60m x 23m. The three inspectors and one or two administrators will be in the arena, as will the arena party and their team leader.

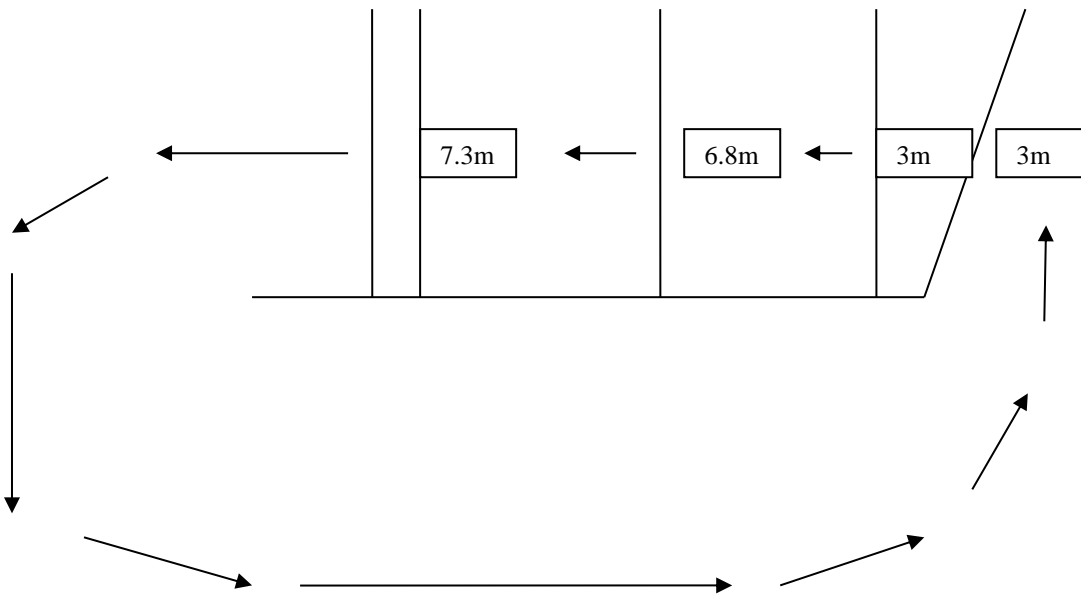
Stallions will all be asked to show walk, trot and canter on both reins and will be asked to negotiate the jumping lane a minimum of five times. Heights and spreads for the first five attempts are below.

A diagram of the lane is below. This is not to scale. Stallions jump anticlockwise. There is a placing pole on the ground 3m from the end wall of the school, angled at 45 degrees. It is important to practice with this pole in place, as

it does make a difference to how stallions approach the lane. Coloured jump poles are used. The sides of the lane will comprise jump stands and poles.

Fences are placed as follows: fence A is 6m from the end wall and 3m from the centre of the placing pole; fence B is 6.8m from (A) and fence C 7.3m from fence B.

PLEASE NOTE THAT WE USE BUILDER'S SITE PLASTIC TAPE AROUND THE LANE. PLEASE MAKE SURE YOUR HORSE IS USED TO THIS.



	Height of 1st fence	Height of 2nd fence	Height of 3rd fence (oxer)
Jumping effort 1	0.75m	0.75m	0.95m
Jumping effort 2	0.75m	0.75m	1.0m
Jumping effort 3	0.75m	0.75m	0.95m 0.95 width
Jumping effort 4	0.75m	0.75m	0.9m front pole 1.0m back pole 1.05m width
Jumping effort 5	0.75m	0.75m	1.0m front pole 1.10m back pole 1.10m width

FAMILIARISATION WITH THE ARENA AND JUMPING LANE

Stallions which are going to jump will have the opportunity to spend a few minutes walking in hand around the arena and down the lane, with the jumps in place but down on the ground. This will normally take place on the day prior to the inspection from 17.00 to 17.30 and on inspection day from 07.30 to 08.00. It will be limited to five minutes per animal. Only one animal is to be in the arena at any one time and there must be an official present.

Please contact our team if you wish to do this.

Refreshments

There is a café and a farm shop on site.

Use of public photos and video taken at the inspections

The IDHS (GB) has authorised certain individuals to photograph horses and film the event for official purposes.

In the interests of confidentiality, public videoing from within the arenas, administration or veterinary areas is not permitted. If you want to video your horse, please do this from the public gallery.

You are advised not to film other people's horses unless you have the owner's permission beforehand. The Society cannot be held responsible for the actions of spectators if they film and publicise other people's horses without consent.

Final results will not be placed on our website until they have been fully checked and confirmed.

Contact details for the inspection management team: inspections@idhsqb.org.uk

Heather Chaplin (Inspector and Trustee)

Contact point for all queries relating to inspection applications; timetabling, veterinary issues and the profile recording and checking process. Tel. 01823 601625 – 07392 299912.

Mary Wilson (Inspector and Trustee)

Liaises with the stallion inspection venue and coordinates the volunteer helpers on the day.
Tel. 01672 520869 Mobile: 07729 516465

Ellen Walton (Inspector and Trustee)

Ellen is part of our Inspection Management Team.

Non-trustee members of the team:

- Sue Benson
- Graham Chaplin
- Carol Rudd

Society Administration office : admin@idhsqb.org.uk (general enquiries)

Postal address: IDHS (GB), Holme House, The Dale, Ainstable, Carlisle CA4 9RH

Passport-related enquiries: passports@idhsqb.org.uk

Telephone: 01768 870523 (available 9-00am to 5-00pm Monday – Friday).