



Irish Draught Stallion Inspections: Guidance notes 2024

Irish Draught Horse Society (GB) Stallion Inspections on 10 April and 6 September 2024
at Onley Grounds, Willoughby, Rugby, Warwickshire CV23 8AJ

Closing date for completed applications, x-rays and fees:

10 April: 10 February 2024

6 September: 15 May 2024

PLEASE NOTE: Both inspections depend on **sufficient applications being received by the closing date to be viable**. If an inspection is not viable, your fee will be returned, minus the cost of reading the x-rays. The x-rays can be carried forward, either here or in Ireland.

Please email inspections@idhs.gb.org.uk as soon as you decide to bring your stallion forward, to let the inspection administration team know which date you require. This will help us with forward planning.

Before you apply, please make sure that:

- You are a **member** of the Society (membership application forms and payment facility online)
- Your horse's **passport** is up to date; i.e. the horse must be named and in the correct ownership. Irish-bred horses which require naming must have their passports sent to Horse Sport Ireland.
- Transfer of ownership forms are on our website, you may pay online for this service. This can be done by our passport office, or by Horse Sport Ireland.
- The passport must be overstamped by us if issued by another passport organisation. Form and payment facility is available online.
- You have downloaded the application form, guidance notes and pre-inspection veterinary report form from our website and have read them.
- You have emailed the inspection management team on inspections@idhs.gb.org.uk to advise us of your intention to apply, giving your contact details and the horse's registered name. If you have difficulty locating any of the downloadable documents, please let us know and we will help you.

For overstamping, please send the passport to:

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

Email passports@idhs.gb.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: admin@idhs.gb.org.uk

Please also ensure that:

- You have asked a vet who normally sees equines as part of their practice to carry out the pre-inspection veterinary examination, endoscopy and x-rays, as per the list of requirements on the form (please see page 3 onwards for details of veterinary requirements)
- You have submitted a one-off sample for genetic testing for Warmblood Fragile Foal Syndrome
- Your horse has had samples taken for CEM, EVA and EIA
- Your horse is vaccinated to FEI guidelines and his vaccinations are recorded in his passport (please see below for details of vaccination requirements as at 12 December 2022).



Please note: your stallion cannot come forward for inspection unless this work has been done!

Once you have read the guidance notes, if you have any remaining questions, please email inspections@idhsqb.org.uk or ring one of the inspection management team on the numbers below. Then, please complete and send in your application form and fee (please see the 'How to Apply' box on page 2 below for details), with the veterinary certificate and health certificates.

Our Administration office should not be used for inspection applications, as they will have to forward the application to the inspection management team. This generates extra work and postage.

Fees

In 2023, it was necessary to increase our inspection fees by a substantial amount to cover rising costs of veterinary services and other variables. We are very mindful of the financial pressures on our members. We have not increased the fees again for 2024.

Inspection fees – rates include VAT @ 20%

Description	New fee	Notes
Irish Draught Colts and Stallions – assessment for classification (Class 1 or Class 2)	£600	The fee includes inspection, vetting on the day and evaluation of x-rays, plus updating the passport with the outcome. <i>It does not include the pre-inspection veterinary examination, x-rays, WFFS genetic test or CEM, EVA and EIA tests.</i>
Re-assessment of Class 2 stallions (one reassessment permitted, plus rights of appeal) - new X-rays are not required.	£450	The fee includes inspection, vetting on the day and updating the passport with the outcome. <i>Does not include the pre-inspection veterinary examination, endoscope, WFFS genetic test (if not previously done) or CEM, EVA and EIA tests.</i>
Non-refundable fee to be retained by the Society if the stallion fails his x-rays or withdraws on other grounds	£150	This is the cost to the Society of having the x-rays read, or for administration costs if a stallion withdraws from inspection once his application has been processed.
Inspection Appeal fee	£1500	Only applicable if the horse has previously been inspected on two occasions.

Please note that 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.

How to apply:

All applications for inspection must be returned to the **Inspection Management Team** before the closing dates, which are:

10 February 2024 for inspection on 10 April 2024
15 May 2024 for inspection on 6 September 2024

Late applications will not be accepted.

You can email your form (scanned but not photographed, as they are hard to read). Please also POST all inspection applications by 1st Class mail (not Special Delivery) to:

IDHS GB Inspections, Middle Munty Farm, Churchstanton, Taunton, Somerset TA3 7RH.
Tel. 01823 601625. Email: inspections@idhsqb.org.uk

Your vet should be asked to email the pre-inspection veterinary report and the radiographs direct to inspections@idhsqb.org.uk

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

Or you may pay by BACS: Barclays Bank: Sort Code: 20-03-18, Account: 00700487.
If paying by BACS, your surname plus 'ID Stallion' is the reference – e.g. 'Bloggs IDStallion'.

Travelling to another country for inspection – import/export veterinary requirements

Over the years, we have welcomed a number of stallions who have been sent over from Ireland for inspection in Great Britain. There is no reason why our stallions cannot be inspected in Ireland, as our inspection rules are the same in principle, with small differences in detail due to the situation regarding veterinary regulation in our two countries (please see below).

Since 2011, animals inspected in Great Britain and Ireland have been accepted in each other's countries.

Due to subsidies, the inspection fee in Ireland is considerably cheaper. Any owners in Great Britain who wish to pursue the option to travel to Ireland are advised to check out the regulations and costs associated with importing and re-exporting a horse into and back from an EU country. The rules are changing regularly and the inspection management team does not have any expertise in this specialised area, so we will not be able to advise you. Please see the GOV.UK and the DAFM websites for details.

If you are bringing an Irish stallion into Great Britain for inspection and plan to take him back to Ireland to stand at stud, please contact Towcester Equine Vets, who are based at Onley Grounds, to arrange for the export paperwork to be completed for his return journey.

Applicants coming from Ireland have **two options** with regard to veterinary procedures, but we can only offer one option in Great Britain. As mentioned above, this is due to differences in the two countries' rules regarding the regulation of veterinary surgeons and is outside our control.

Inspection-related veterinary requirements:

Option 1: (British or Irish stallions).

The horse is examined by a vet who is listed on the 'HSI Radiography Panel' in Ireland or, in Great Britain, is a vet who sees equines as part of their normal practice.

The vet should be asked to carry out the pre-inspection vetting, complete the report form (this forms part of your application) and x-rays. The vet also takes samples for WFFS, EVA, EIA and CEM testing. The resulting health certificates also form part of the application.

The stallion will undergo a full clinical veterinary examination on the day of inspection.

Option 2: (Stallions normally resident in Ireland only)

Applicants from Ireland can opt to have their stallion undergo the veterinary examination prior to the inspection at one of HSI's Designated centres (i.e. see HSI's application form on their web site at www.horsesportireland.ie, which gives details of the designated practices).

This option allows Irish applicants to have the stallion prepared for inspection with the knowledge that he has met the majority of the veterinary requirements in advance.

All stallions:

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 involving a hair sample. This also applies to Class 2 stallions that did not have this test done when they came forward for their first inspection.

The choice of laboratory is up to the owner, but Animal Genetics in Cornwall offer this service:

[Animal Genetics | Genetic Testing Services](#)

Radiographs

If applying for a three year old colt's inspection, please do not have your horse x-rayed before 1 January 2024 for the 10 April 2024 inspection date. This is because he cannot be x-rayed before he is officially three years old.

If applying for the 6 September date, we recommend that you have your horse x-rayed between March and April, in time to send in your application by 15 May. X-rays must be submitted promptly please, so that they can be read by our Panel within six months of being taken. Sometimes there is an issue with the images themselves, so you need to allow enough time for them to be repeated if necessary.

Class 2 stallions being re-presented for inspection can carry their x-rays forward. Class 2 stallions will, however, need to have their pre-inspection vetting and endoscopy repeated.

Other stallions whose x-rays were taken and read in a previous year but which are currently uninspected because their inspections could not be completed, for example the stallion or owner was unwell on the day, do not need to have their x-rays repeated, so long as they were read within six months of being taken.

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) if you want to bring your horse forward for inspection or to show him/her at our affiliated shows.

Inspection venues, including Moreton Morrell, will often NOT admit unvaccinated horses, unless an agreement is made that all the horses attending a given venue will be unvaccinated.

If vaccines are not recorded on the passport, there is no evidence that the horse has received them. Please check your horse's passport and ask your vet to update it if the vaccines are not recorded there. Every year, we find horses forward for inspection with incomplete vaccination records. Please don't let your horse be one of them!

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

What happens after I submit my application?

Please email or post all applications to Heather Chaplin, who coordinates the entries. Details are on the form. Please do not post application forms to the office.

Your application will be acknowledged by email. We will then keep in touch with email updates and we may need to ring you to check that you have carried out the basic passport –related tasks needed before your stallion's inspection.

Your stallion's x-rays will be sent to our radiograph panel with basic information about him (owner, stallion age, name, breed). The panel of three eminent radiograph specialists will reply to the inspection administration team and we will pass the information to the owner as soon as it is received.

We will contact you by phone or email when the outcome of your stallion's x-rays is known. Generally, if it is good news, we will email you. If there is an issue with the x-rays, we will phone to discuss the implications with you.

If you have any questions at this stage, please contact the inspection management team on inspections@idhsgb.org.uk

Preparation for your stallion's inspection

Some stallions are prepared at home, and others are sent to professional producers for preparation. Please allow adequate time for your stallion's preparation.

The details of what your stallion will be asked to do on the day are in the green text below and are in line with Horse Sport Ireland rules.

About a month before the inspection, you will receive a timetable with your vetting and inspection times. We try to ask you in advance what time of day (approximately) you would prefer, as some people travel hundreds of miles to the inspection. If we are not told otherwise, we will assign times based on applicants' distance from the inspection centre, with those the furthest distance being allocated the earliest times. Please let us know as soon as possible if there is a problem with your allocated times.

Stabling

Overnight stabling and stand-in stabling for the inspection day will be available direct from Onley. Please book and pay online for your stable. Representatives from Onley Grounds will meet you and unlock your stable once the deposit has been paid.

Please let the inspection management team know roughly what time of day you intend to arrive and what time (morning or afternoon) you would prefer for your stallion's inspection. We cannot guarantee any specific time, but we try to accommodate your requests. Please email inspections@idhsgb.org.uk

Owners may bring shavings with them (not straw) and/or purchase extra shavings on site. All feed and hay must be supplied by the stallion owner. Stallion stable doors have anti-weave grilles.

Check In

All owners must report to one of the inspection administrators upon arrival at the centre in order to check in. You must check in not later than two hours before your scheduled veterinary time.

At this time, all owners must present the stallion's passport and sign the disclaimer forms, retaining one copy. We retain the passport for the duration of the inspection. The passport is stamped with the inspection grade and returned to you before you leave.

Please note stallions that have not been checked in **cannot** be presented at the first stage of the vetting and inspection, even if they are late.

Photographs:

- 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.
- **1st Class Images** will be available to take professional photographs, which you can purchase direct from them. The steward will ask you to attend for your stallion to be photographed at the appropriate time.
- 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.

Familiarisation with the Jumping Pen

The jumping pen will be available to stallion owners between the hours of 17.00 – 18.00 on the evening before the stallion inspection s.

Stallions will be allowed to receive a five-minute familiarisation period to walk down the jumping lane. The lane will be fully set up, but with the poles on the ground. Jumping is not permitted during the familiarisation period.

Only one handler and stallion may enter the indoor school at a time. This will be strictly monitored and will be available on a first come, first served basis. This facility must be pre-booked with the administration team on inspections@idhsgb.org.uk

If you choose not to come the night before the inspection, there will be a second opportunity to access the lane between 07.30 and 08.00 on the day of the inspection under the same terms as above. Again, must be pre booked and an official must be present at the time.

Please note that we use plastic building site tape to mark out the jumping lane, so it would be a good idea to get your stallion used to this before the inspection.

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. For any significant medical incident, we request external medical support.

Stallion handlers and riders

Stallion handlers and riders must be aged 18 years or over.

We do not discriminate against anyone on the grounds of disability or temporary incapacity. However, our event risk assessment states that **stallion handlers must be physically fit and strong enough to handle the stallion safely in public**. This is for the protection of the handler, the inspection officials and all the horses and people present at the inspection centre.

Stallion owners and handlers must have all the necessary equipment (i.e. tack, lunge whips, lunge lines, etc.) at the inspection. Handlers are required to wear clothing appropriate to showing. Comfortable footwear must be worn in order to present the animal correctly. In cases where an owner has more than one horse on the premises, sufficient handlers must be on site to cater for each animal. If there are very few stallion entries it may not be logistically possible to separate stallion vetting times by more than one horse. If you have two stallions forward, we will do our

best with the timetabling, but you may need an additional person to hold one animal for the vet while the other is being inspected.

For any ridden elements of these inspections, riders must wear 'appropriate competition riding attire'. This includes protective headgear which complies with current British Showjumping or British Eventing standards. This is compulsory for riders, whether jumping under saddle or warming up. Protective headgear is strongly encouraged for those handling stallions on the ground.

Babies and children under 16 years

Please note that babies and children under 16 years are not allowed in the stable area under any circumstances. This is for child safeguarding/health and safety reasons. If you are bringing a child to the inspection, please also bring an adult who can help you take care of them if you need to be involved with the stallion.

Mares

Please be aware that there may be mare inspections at the same venue later on the same day. This is necessary in order to make up numbers and keep our inspections viable for all. There are also mares on site for other purposes outside our control, e.g. Polo, competition and liveries.

The mares will be inspected after the stallions and will be stabled separately. 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.

Irish Draught Stallion Inspection process

The following advice (in green text) is informed by the Horse Sport Ireland inspection Terms and Conditions:

Presentation

All stallions are expected to be presented at show standard and must be sufficiently trained and fit to take part in all aspects of the selection. The stallion should be in good (not fat) bodily condition, be well groomed and have well-maintained hooves.

Inspection Panel

The inspection panel will consist of three senior inspectors (including the Chairperson) with sufficient knowledge, training and experience to produce a linear profile sheet and a set of overall scores for each stallion from their collective deliberations.

At least one of the stallion inspectors will be a representative from Horse Sport Ireland. The other two inspectors will also have completed Horse Sport Ireland training and will have substantial experience of mare and stallion inspections.

The inspection team will be supported by experienced administrators, who ensure that the day runs on time, record the outcome of the veterinary examination and the linear profile. All paperwork is completed and then checked.

The inspection will include the following elements:

1. Veterinary examination
2. Conformation assessment
3. In-hand gait assessment on a hard surface and in an indoor arena
4. Free gait assessment in jumping pen
5. Athleticism/jumping assessment in jumping pen (required for all three year olds) and under saddle (optional – Class 1 only, four years and upwards).

1. Veterinary Examination

On arrival at the veterinary examination the identification of the stallion will be checked by comparing the stallion's markings to the markings on its passport. The stallion will also be scanned to confirm its microchip number.

Measurements (height, bone and girth) will be taken during the veterinary examination and will be considered to be the official measurements of the stallion for classification and studbook purposes.

Stallions that are entered for the Stallion Inspections are subject to the FEI Anti-Doping and Equine Controlled Medication rules. Blood and urine samples may be taken from your stallion for this purpose.

For Applicants undergoing Veterinary option 1 Only:

At the inspection, stallions will undergo a full five-stage veterinary examination by a veterinary surgeon appointed by IDHS (GB). The examination will consist of the following:

Stage 1. Preliminary examination: The preliminary examination involves overall visual and palpable observations of the animal presented. The heart and lungs are auscultated at rest.

Stage 2. Gait assessment & Trotting up: This includes co-ordination testing such as tight circling and reversing, trotting on loosened rein both before and after flexion of the individual limbs.

Stage 3. Strenuous exercise: Lungeing on lead at a working canter to assess wind and heart function. Heart & lungs auscultated on pull-up.

Stage 4: A period of rest: Recovery and management of stress associated with stage 3 can facilitate eye examination as pupillary dilation has occurred during exercise. Final heart auscultation.

Stage 5. The second trot and foot examination: Assessing maintenance of soundness as follow-on from the previous stages.

For Applicants undergoing Veterinary option 2 only:

Stallions will undergo a soundness trot-up. Any stallion presented with an obvious veterinary condition may be subject to further examination by the appointed veterinary surgeon on the day of inspection.

2. Conformation Assessment

Handlers must present stallions to the inspectors in the indoor arena for their conformation assessment using linear scoring. Stallions must be able to stand correctly and quietly in order for the inspectors to make their assessment. No boots or leg wraps of any description are permitted at this stage of selection.

The linear score sheet for Irish Draught Horse inspection contains 45 characteristics, covering conformation, movement and athleticism traits.

3. In-hand gait assessment on a hard surface and in the indoor arena

The stallion will be required to stand for a visual inspection on a hard surface. When requested, the handler will walk the horse away from the inspection panel, around the marker and return to the panel. The handler will then repeat the process in trot, however, in trot the stallion should continue to trot past the inspection panel.

4. Free gait assessment in jumping

Handlers must lead the stallion in walk in a figure of eight around the two diamond shaped markers in the indoor arena. The handlers must then safely release the stallion and stand in one of the diamond shaped markers.

A trained arena team will be on hand to direct the stallion through its free gait, athleticism and jumping assessment.

Stallions will be shown loose on both reins in trot and canter. If you have chosen loose jumping on the application the jumping lane will be opened once the stallion's free gaits have been assessed. The stallion will be guided down the lane by the arena team for the free athleticism/jumping assessment.

All owners/handlers are given the option of catching and releasing their stallion between each jumping effort during the loose jumping element of the inspection.

If you have chosen that the stallion will present under saddle on the application form, he will leave the jumping pen once his free gaits have been assessed. This applies only to four year olds and over.

5. a) Free athleticism assessment in jumping lane

Each stallion will normally be required to jump through the jumping lane at least six times. The jumping lane consists of three fences. The inspection panel may use their discretion as to the number of attempts they wish to assess each horse over the obstacles and the height of the fences; however, the maximum height of the fences for 3 year old stallions will be 1.00m.

If in the opinion of the inspection panel a horse is jumping in an unnatural manner, the inspection panel reserves the right to award zero points for their assessment of the stallion's athleticism/jumping ability.

5. b) Athleticism assessment under saddle

The owners of stallions that are 4 years or older that have chosen to do this element under saddle on their application form will have their stallion's athleticism assessed by jumping the stallion over a course of fences at 1.00m level under saddle.

Note: Stallions are permitted to wear front tendon boots for the free gait assessment or the free athleticism/jumping assessment. If, in the opinion of the inspection panel, the movement of the horse is affected in any way, the selection panel reserve the right to request the removal of the front boots.

The use of boots/bandages on the hind legs is not permitted.

The elements of the inspection may not necessarily be carried out in the same order as they are outlined above.

The IDHS (GB) reserves the right to terminate any inspection for health and safety reasons. For example, stallions that are unfit or insufficiently prepared for jumping may not (at the inspectors' discretion) be allowed to continue on welfare grounds.

Optional athleticism assessment for additional bronze merit in showjumping

The owners of stallions that are 4 years or older and meet the requirements to be classified as 'Class 1' can opt to have their stallion's athleticism assessed by jumping the stallion over a course of fences, including one double, at 1.00m level under saddle.

Stallion owners must indicate on the application form if they wish their stallion to be assessed under saddle for athleticism and, if they attain Class 1, for a bronze merit for their own performance in showjumping. Please note that if there are no sport horse stallions forward (they have to jump under saddle, so the jumps will already be set up), we have to hire show jumps to enable an Irish Draught applicant to jump under saddle. This costs the Society money, so it may result in an additional charge to owners.

Class 1 stallions that achieve the required minimum in the athleticism assessment (70) will be awarded a bronze merit for their own performance in the discipline of showjumping.

Note: Irish Draught stallions that are classified as 'Class 1' can also obtain a bronze merit for their own performance in the discipline of showjumping by achieving two double clear rounds at 1.00m level at national competitions.

Inspection results

The provisional results of the inspection will be announced publicly on the day along with a brief synopsis explaining the inspection panel's decision.

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 current fee for which is £450 inc VAT), the owner may appeal in writing within 28 days of their inspection date.

If you are not satisfied with the outcome of the re-inspection, there is provision for an appeal. This will be held at the next available suitable inspection venue and will involve another new inspection team. To reflect the significant cost of making these arrangements, the fee for an appeal is currently £1500 inc VAT.

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.

After the inspection

Your stallion's passport will be stamped and signed by a trustee member of the inspection management team. If you are present at the time, it will be handed to you straight away. If you are not in the vicinity, it will be placed in the stallion's file in the administration area to await your return.

While every care is taken to return your horse's passport to you, **it is the owner or handler's responsibility** to ensure that they do not travel without the passport.

We prepare bar charts and reports on all the animals forward for inspection. This can take between one and four weeks to complete, depending on numbers forward at this inspection and any other inspections taking place around the same time. The reports and inspection letters are sent by email to the owner. The inspection report includes a bar chart, the veterinary report and the inspection team's comments. Owners can use the bar chart and comments to inform their future breeding decisions.

If there is anything you do not understand about the inspection report and linear profile, please ask the inspection administration team lead, Heather Chaplin, who will explain it to you.

Publicity on the web site

All **Class 1** Irish Draught stallions standing at public stud in Great Britain will be listed in the IDHS (GB) Yearbook stallion listings and on the Stallions at Stud page on the website. This is optional for owners of Class 2 stallions. If you are thinking of bringing your stallion back for re-inspection, it is suggested that it might be better not to publicise his profile on the website until after the second inspection.

In addition to the stallion listings on the web site and in the Yearbook, the inspection management team produces more detailed information on the web site about **every Class 1 Irish Draught stallion** standing at public stud in Great Britain. This is to ensure that mare owners can access details the stallion's pedigree, colour, age, measurements, owner's contact details and a summary of the inspection outcomes.

Please note that stallion owners sign a statement on their application forms to agree that this information will be made public if they choose to stand their stallion at stud.

Owners must inform the inspection management team by 1 October in any given year whether or not they intend to stand their stallion at stud, so that he can be listed in the Yearbook. The Yearbook deadline is 31 October.

Publicity in the IDHS (GB) Yearbook

The stallion's name, colour, measurements and his grade will also be published with the owner's details in our Yearbook. The Yearbook is usually issued during December or January, so stallions inspected in April will not appear in the Yearbook until the end of that year. They will, however, be placed in the stallion lists on the website.

Horse Sport Ireland, as our parent body, receives our stallion inspection results every year. They may choose to publish stallion inspection outcomes for Great Britain in their publications.

Owners and producers: accommodation

The inspection management team cannot become involved in booking accommodation for owners and other connections. Try the following price comparison sites:

<https://www.booking.com/>
<https://www.expedia.co.uk/>
<https://www.trivago.co.uk/>

Refreshments

There is a café, bar and a farm shop on site. It is best if you pre-order food as soon as possible after the café and farm shop open, as the lunchtime rush in the café can lead to delays.

The inspection management team members sometimes bring light refreshments for sharing with owners and connections, but this is limited to cake and biscuits, or what we can transport without refrigeration.

Use of public photos and video taken at the inspections

The IDHS (GB) has authorised 1st Class Images photograph horses, and they may also film the event.

In the interests of confidentiality, owners are asked not to video or audio-record in the entrance to the arena or in the veterinary area. We understand that you want to video your own horse, but please do this from the public gallery.

You are asked not to film other people's horses unless you have the owner's permission beforehand. The Society cannot stop you from doing this but cannot be held responsible for the actions of spectators.

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

The public gallery

Visitors and spectators are respectfully requested not to lean over the balcony overlooking the long side of the gallery when the horses are loose in the arena below. This is because you will be visible to the horses.

APPENDIX 1: ARENA AND JUMPING LANE

Note: Horses are permitted to wear front tendon boots for the free gait assessment or the free athleticism/jumping assessment. If, in the opinion of the panel, the movement of the horse is affected in any way, the panel reserve the right to request the removal of the front boots.

The use of boots/bandages on the hind legs is not permitted.

Please ensure that you prepare your horse according to the jumping lane dimensions in this document.

The size of the indoor arena at Onley is 60m x 20m. The inspectors and administrator will be in the arena, as will the arena team comprising five or six people.

Each stallion or mare (only if she is undertaking the athleticism assessment) will be required to jump through the jumping lane. The jumping lane consists of three fences and a placing pole in front of the first fence.

The selection panel may use their discretion as to the number of attempts they wish to assess each horse over the obstacles and the height of the fences. The maximum height of the fences for 3-year-olds will be 1.00 metre.

If in the opinion of the selection panel a horse is jumping in an unnatural manner, the selection panel reserves the right to award zero points for their assessment of the horse's athleticism/jumping ability.

The panel reserves the right to terminate the athleticism assessment on welfare grounds if the horse is insufficiently prepared for the task.

A diagram of the lane is below. This is not to scale. The heights of the jumps are as in the table below, and horses jump anticlockwise.

Coloured jump poles are used. The sides of the lane will be jump stands, poles and plastic tape. We do not use Heras panels around the lane in Great Britain.

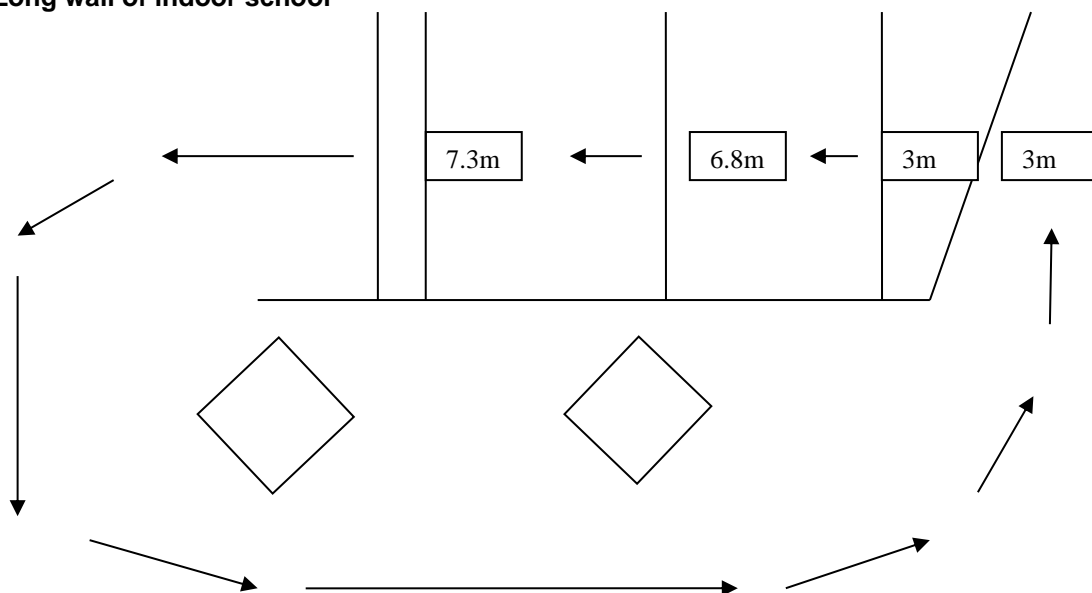
Fences are placed as follows: fence A is 6m from the end wall and 3m from the centre of the placing pole; fence B is 6.8m from (A) and fence C is 7.3m from fence B.

The owner or handler stands in the left hand diamond and the inspection team in the right hand diamond on the diagram below.

Athleticism Assessment under Saddle

The owners of stallions and mares that are four years or older that have chosen to do this element under saddle on their application form will have their horse's athleticism assessed by jumping over a course of fences.

If there are no Sport Horse stallions entered, there may be a substantial additional charge made to cover the cost of hiring additional poles and stands for Irish Draught stallions and mares whose owners wish to demonstrate athleticism over a course.

Long wall of indoor school

	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

APPENDIX 2: Contact details for the inspection management team: inspections@idhsgb.org.uk

Team members set up and manage all inspection events throughout the year around the country.

Team members for inspections involving stallions may include:

Sue Benson (Trustee from 1 April 2024)
Graham Chaplin
Helena Davies (Trustee)
Lucinda Starling (Trustee, Inspector)
Ellen Walton (Trustee, Inspector)

Heather Chaplin (Trustee, Inspector).
Carol Rudd
Mark Mortimer (Inspector)
Mary Tearney
Mary Wilson (Trustee, Inspector).

Arena Team:

Andrew Gardiner (Team leader), plus five skilled and experienced team members according to availability.

Society Administration Office : admin@idhsgb.org.uk (general enquiries, membership)

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

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

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

Appendix 3: The Breed Objective and Description

Breeding Objective

The breeding objective of the Irish Draught studbook is to breed sound Irish Draught horses with correct conformation, type, movement and action, calm and willing temperaments and sufficient athleticism that conforms to the Irish Draught breed standard. These animals will serve one or more of the following three functions by:

- Participating in preservation and ongoing breed improvement programmes;
- Performing as pleasure, leisure or performance horses;
- Contributing to cross breeding programmes with other breeds.

Breed Summary Description

The Irish Draught Horse is a versatile, powerful and athletic animal with substance and quality. It has a pleasant head, good bone and a short shin, good spring of rib, strong loins and hindquarters and an active powerful stride. Known for its good temperament, docility and willing nature, it has a robust constitution and is inherently sound. The Irish Draught Horse is a foundation breed that, when crossed with other breeds, will produce all types of leisure and performance horses.

Type of horse: detailed description

Height: Ideally Irish Draughts should stand between 158cms (15.2hh) and a maximum of 170cms (16.3hh) at maturity.

Bone: Approximately 23cms (9 inches) of strong, clean, flat bone.

Head: Should be pleasant, not coarse or hatchet like, with plenty of room between the jaw bones. Wide forehead and kind eyes, set well apart, and with large quality ears.

Neck: Good length of rein with head well set on, neck should be correctly muscled and well shaped.

Front legs: Long muscular forearms, short cannon bones with plenty of strong clean, flat bone, not back at the knee or tied in below the knee. Pasterns should be in proportion with good hoof pastern axis. Hooves should be of equal size, hard and sound with plenty of room at the heel. They should not be boxy, over large or flat.

Shoulders: A sloping shoulder neither loaded, nor too heavy, nor too short, with well-defined withers, well set back.

Body, back and hindquarters: Deep girth with a good spring of rib, strong back, loins and quarters. The croup and buttocks should be long and gently sloping. Hips should not be too wide.

Hind legs: Strong gaskins, well shaped clean hocks set into short shins. Should not be cow-hocked or wide apart at the hocks.

Action: Should be straight and free, not heavy or ponderous.

Movement: Should be active and strong, with sufficient athleticism showing good flexion of joints and freedom of the shoulders.

Colour: Any strong whole colour including bay, grey, chestnut, black, brown and dun. Excessive white markings are not desirable.

Inspection guidance last updated: November 2023