# Irish Draught Horse Society (GB)

Registered Charity No. 1080522

## Irish Draught mare inspections: Terms and Conditions 2026

Owners are asked to sign to confirm that they have read this document before applying for inspection. This document contains the general rules for inspection laid down by our parent body in Ireland. If you have any questions which are not answered below or in our inspection guidance document, please email inspections@idhsgb.org.uk

1. The owner must be a full, current member of the Irish Draught Horse Society (GB).
2. Horses must normally be either registered with the IDHS (GB) or with Horse Sport Ireland. If registered with any other passport-issuing organisation, they must have their passports overstamped (endorsed) by the IDHS (GB) before the closing date for the inspection.
3. The horse must be formally 'named' and in the correct ownership. If the horse was bred in Ireland, this process can only be done by sending the passport back to Ireland with the appropriate form and fee.
4. If the passport has been held up for naming purposes in Ireland, the owner must inform the inspection management team at least one week before the inspection date so that they can advise on appropriate action. The owners will be asked to supply a photocopy. A temporary passport document will be required from our office in order to travel the animal.
5. Owners are advised to photocopy the passport before it is sent to Ireland, in case there is any delay in its return.
6. Vaccinations must comply with current FEI/Showing Council guidelines and they must be recorded in the passport.
7. The application must be complete and the fee paid, preferably using our secure online facility.
8. Mares must be adequately trained and fit to take part in all aspects of the inspection, including the athleticism phase (where applicable).
9. Mares must be fit to be handled at the inspection, including handling by veterinary surgeons appointed by the Society.
10. Handlers must be fit enough and suitably dressed to handle the horse safely.
11. Handlers, owners and any other persons in their party who engage in behaviour that is deemed by the inspection management team to be abusive or discriminatory will have their horse's inspection terminated with immediate effect.
12. The Society and its veterinary advisors reserve the right to refuse to carry out an inspection of any mare which is not in a suitable condition for inspection, or in instances where it may be unsafe to proceed with the inspection.
13. Mares should be clean, tidy and fitted with a bridle. Most applicants plait or braid their mares, but this is not essential.
14. Dressing the mare's feet or limbs with oil, or any form of staining or whitening agent is not allowed.
15. All horses will be measured by the examining veterinary surgeon immediately before the inspection. These measurements shall be regarded as official measurements for the purpose of classification in the Irish Draught Horse studbook and the IDHS (GB) Breed Register.
16. Mare owners must bring the mare's **passport** and all the necessary equipment to the inspection. The passport must be handed in before the vetting commences.
17. If owners accidentally forget the passport and live too far from the venue to retrieve it, the inspection management team will carry out a risk assessment to decide whether or not to go ahead with the inspection:
    a. In making this decision, the inspection manager on the day will take into account whether the microchip in the mare matches the database;

b. the owner will be reminded that they have signed an undertaking on the application form that the animal's vaccinations are up to date;
c. the owner may be asked to seek email confirmation from their vet's practice that the vaccinations are current;
d. after the inspection, the passport MUST be posted to the inspection manager for stamping within one week of the inspection. The inspection classification will not be updated and the animal will not be listed in the results until this has been done.

18. The administration team will photograph horses at the inspection. These photographs may be used in the Society's publications or website. The Society reserves the right to video-record inspections.
19. For safety reasons, foals MUST be led during the in-hand elements of the inspection.
20. The Society-appointed vet reserves the right to take blood and urine samples on the day of inspection and these may be subject to screening for substances listed on the FEI 'Equine Prohibited Substances' list (see www.feicleansport.org).
21. Failure to satisfy the above conditions may result in the animal being disqualified from inspection/classification.

Please note that incomplete applications may be returned.

The relevant IDHS (GB) application and guidance documents and payment facilities are on our website at **www.idhsgb.org.uk**

**Eligibility for Class 1 inspection:**

Irish Draught Horse mares must be registered in the Main Section of the Irish Draught Horse Studbook in Ireland or in the IDHS (GB) Breed Register.

In most years, when an Inspection Amnesty is not running, mares must be sired by a stallion that is classified as 'Class 1, RID (GB), Class 2, Grade 2 GB, RID (Canada) or RID (USA), or (for the period of the Amnesty only) Class 4.

They must be out of a dam that is classified as RID, Class 1, Class 2, AID or Grade-Up, or (for the period of the Amnesty only) Class 4/Uninspected in the Irish Draught Horse Studbook or the IDHS (GB) Breed Register.

The progeny of Irish Draught Horse stallions or mares which are Class 3 in the Irish Draught Studbook in Ireland) are **not** eligible for inspection under any circumstances.

**The progeny of Class 4/Uninspected mares and stallions: Amnesty clause**

There is currently an Irish Draught Inspection Amnesty in place. This ran from 2017 to 2021 and was re-introduced in March 2024. Please see section (5.1.4) of the Irish Draught Studbook Rules. The Amnesty clause allows **stallions and mares** that are by a Class 4 Irish Draught stallion or are out of a Class 4 Irish Draught mare to come forward for inspection for classification in the Irish Draught Horse Studbook for a three-year period.

HSI-Breeding-Programme-for-the-Irish-Draught-Horse-Studbook-App_Feb24.pdf (horsesportireland.ie)

As far as we can determine, the amnesty will be in place from 2024 to 2026 only. It is for animals coming forward for inspection during that time, **not** for animals born or conceived during that time. The triennial Amnesty period will expire on the **31st December 2026.** HSI's Head of Breeding, Innovation and Development will review the amnesty on a triennial basis (every three years). The next review will take place in advance of the 2027 breeding season.

**Kinship classification rules for Irish-bred Irish Draught mares**

The parent studbook has introduced a kinship classification method for targeting rare breed mares within the Irish Draught Studbook in Ireland (see section 5.1.2.1 of the Main Studbook Rules).

Where the mare meets the kinship percentage for the year in question, she will be classified as 'Class 1'. Mares which meet the kinship percentage will still have to be vetted and come forward for linear profiling. The inspectors will inspect and assign upper beam scores in the usual way, but the mares will be deemed to be Class 1 regardless of the outcome of the inspectors' deliberations.

The IDHS (GB) cannot carry out these assessments because we do not yet have the necessary data to do so. If your Irish-bred mare has been assessed by the geneticist at Horse Sport Ireland as meeting the kinship threshold, please ask HSI to confirm this in writing to inspections@idhsgb.org.uk well before the inspection.

**Eligibility for Grade-Up Register Inspection**:

To be eligible for classification in the Supplementary Grade-Up Register Section of the Irish Draught Studbook, mares must be classified in the main section of the Irish Sport Horse Studbook or the IDHS (GB) Sport Horse Register.

One parent (either the dam or the sire) must be classified as CLASS 1, RID or 'RID GB'. The other parent will probably be a sport horse, although older part-bred mares eligible for AID or SID may well be classified as 'F' in the Breed Register because at the time of their registration, this was appropriate.

Mares for Supplementary Grade-Up must have:

(1) three grandparents classified as CLASS 1, RID or 'RID GB', in other words she will be three quarters Irish Draught.
(2) Her fourth grandparent must have **documented pedigree** and can be:

- a Thoroughbred registered in Weatherby's General Stud Book
- a registered Connemara Pony
- a registered Irish Sport Horse with a recorded pedigree of Thoroughbred/Irish Draught/Connemara pony descent ONLY.

If the owner believes that their mare is eligible, they should email the inspection management team in good time to ask for confirmation.

Horses that are eligible for classification in the Main Section of the Irish Draught Studbook or the IDHS (GB) Breed Register cannot be classified in the Supplementary Section (Grade Up Register) of the Register.

Mares that are classified in the Supplementary Section (Grade-Up Register) will retain their original classification in the Irish Sport Horse Studbook or the TSR (traditionally-bred) section of the IDHS (GB) Sport Horse Register. Their passports will reflect that they are also classified in the Supplementary Section (Grade Up Register) of the Irish Draught Horse Studbook or our Breed Register.

These mares are very important to the breed. They can potentially produce a Class 1 stallion or mare, if put to a Class 1, RID or Class 2 Irish Draught stallion. They are eligible for Merit awards. They can also come forward for a Hornby Premium inspection with a foal at foot, provided that the foal is by a Class 1 or RID stallion.

**CLASSIFICATION OF IRISH DRAUGHT HORSE MARES FOLLOWING INSPECTIONS**

1. Classification of all horses will be completed after the inspection, unless there is a veterinary referral or a query over the animal's identity, for example if the microchip cannot be located (rare, but it does happen, and DNA then has to be taken). In the vast majority of cases, passports are stamped on the day.

2. Classification is confirmed once any query, appeal or specialist veterinary referral has been completed. The inspection management team will issue the bar chart and inspection report to the owner. We try to do this as quickly as possible but this process may take up to four weeks. Results do not usually appear on the website until this work is complete and any veterinary referrals are resolved.

3. Horses that meet the pedigree and veterinary requirements and achieve minimum required scores in conformation, type and movement will be classified as Class 1 in the Irish Horse Register and in the Irish Draught Horse Society GB breed register.

4. Class 1 mares and geldings that achieve average scores of 80 or higher for both movement and conformation will be awarded a Bronze Merit in conformation and movement. This does not apply to stallions.

5. Horses that meet the pedigree and veterinary requirements, but which do not meet the inspection requirements for Class 1, will be classified as Class 2 in the Irish Draught Horse Society GB Breed Register.

6. Horses that do not meet the veterinary requirements (usually through subsequent investigations, rarely on the day) will be classified as Class 3 in the parent studbook in Ireland and in the Irish Draught Horse Society (GB) Breed Register.

7. 'Class 4' or 'Uninspected' are terms used for animals registered in Great Britain from 2014 onwards, for uninspected Irish Draught horses. In Great Britain, we use the term 'Uninspected', abbreviated to 'UI' in the database code.

8. Passports issued since January 2016 (including duplicate passports for older horses) are riveted and cannot be dismantled to change information, including the terminology used for Class 4 horses.

9. As inspection grades are not a regulatory issue, Defra have indicated that a sticker may be issued by our passport providers to amend inspection grades on the pedigree pages of passports. Owners must never amend passports themselves, because it will invalidate them.

10. The inspection classification awarded on the day will be stamped into the mare's passport by the inspection manager. The grade will be signed off by a trustee or a member of staff at our administration office.

11. The exceptions to this will be animals referred for further follow-up veterinary examination due to a condition detected on the day, where the final classification will not be known until that examination is complete and a report has been received.

12. Temporary passport documents will be issued only when there is no alternative but to retain the passport. This cannot be done for horses brought over from Ireland who are returning there immediately after the inspection, because these documents are not valid for international travel.

## CLASSIFICATION OF RID AND AID MARES FOLLOWING LINEAR PROFILING

1. Mares that are classified as 'RID' in the Irish Draught Studbook in Ireland or in the IDHS (GB) Breed Register can come forward to be linear profiled at their owners' discretion. They will automatically be classified as 'Class 1' following the linear profiling process, *unless* they fail the modified vetting (see below).

2. Mares that are classified as 'AID' in the Irish Draught Studbook in Ireland or the IDHS (GB) Breed Register will be classified as 'Grade Up' following the linear profiling process, unless they are of full Irish Draught pedigree and were given AID because they did not meet the inspection requirements for RID when they were first inspected (there was no Class 2 option for inspectors to use prior to 2010).

3. 'RID' or 'AID' mares that are presented for linear profiling with an obvious (heritable) veterinary condition will be disqualified.

## CLASSIFICATION OF EXISTING CLASS 1 AND GRADE-UP REGISTER IRISH DRAUGHT HORSE MARES FOLLOWING SUBSEQUENT PRESENTATION FOR JUMPING MERITS

1. Class 1 and Grade-Up mares that participate in the loose jumping phase of the inspection and achieve a score of 70 or higher will be awarded a Bronze Merit in showjumping.

2. Class 1 and Grade-Up mares that participate in the loose jumping phase of the inspection and do not achieve a score of 70 or higher will remain classified as 'Class 1' or 'Grade-Up Register'.

3. Class 1 mares that are required to undergo a veterinary inspection after being presented for jumping merits with an obvious veterinary condition will be classified as 'Class 3' if they fail to meet the veterinary requirements.

4. Grade-Up register mares that are required to undergo a veterinary inspection after being presented for jumping merits with an obvious veterinary condition will retain their original classification in the Irish Sport Horse Studbook or IDHS (GB) Sport Horse Register if they fail to meet the veterinary requirements.

   **Note:** Class 1 Irish Draught mares or Grade-Up register mares will not be required to undergo a veterinary examination unless the mare is presented at inspection for jumping merits with an obvious veterinary condition. Mares that are presented with an obvious veterinary condition will be required to undergo a complete veterinary examination.

## INSPECTION APPEALS

### Inspection result appeal

Owners who are not satisfied with the results of the inspection will be given the opportunity to represent the horse for one repeat inspection, under a different inspection team, at a future date. The mare or gelding will have to be vetted again. The full inspection fee is payable.

In addition to the single opportunity for re-inspection described above, the owner may appeal in writing **within 28 days of the inspection.**

The IDHS (GB) charges an additional substantial fee for an appeal inspection outside the normal inspection programme.

**Mares which do not meet veterinary standards on the day of inspection**

The vast majority of mares which do not meet veterinary requirements on the day of inspection are referred on to the Society's Veterinary Advisor, who will decide, with the examining vet and in consultation with the owner, whether to seek a further examination by a mutually-agreed specialist for a second opinion.

The Inspection Team manager oversees and manages this process and ensures that there are no delays. For this reason, the Inspection Team manager (if not present at the inspection centre) must be informed **at the earliest practical opportunity** if a mare fails to meet veterinary requirements on the day of the inspection. It is up to the inspection administrators on the day to ensure that this happens.

To save time and expense, owners must NOT make their own arrangements for a second veterinary opinion without consulting the Society first. The second examination will only be carried out in respect of the condition for which the horse was failed at the initial inspection. The cost of the examination must be borne by the owner of the horse.

**Veterinary Examination Appeal**

Owners of horses that do not meet the requirements of the veterinary examination can appeal the results of the examination, providing that they apply to the Society **within 28 days of the veterinary examination.**

**The decision of the appeal vet is final.**

Please note that the relevant IDHS (GB) application and guidance documents and payment facilities are on our website at **www.idhsgb.org.uk**

*Last updated: 19 December 2025*
*Heather Chaplin, Chair, Inspection Management Team*