

RDS DUBLIN HORSE SHOW 2026 - QUALIFIER RULES

IMPORTANT POINTS OF CLARIFICATION

Any reference to 'horse' also implies pony, if applicable.

Any reference to the male gender is for clarity and includes the female gender.

Horses ages are calculated from the 1 January of the year following foaling.

1. Qualifier venues will be selected by the RDS.
2. An entry fee of €35 for Horses and €30 for Ponies, Children on Horses, Young Riders and Amateurs will apply. Animals must be registered with, and athletes must be members of Showjumping Ireland (SJI) for the current season prior to the qualifying competition.
3. All entries must be made via the SJI online declaration system (www.sjilive.ie) by the close of entries. **Late entries will not be accepted, under any circumstances.** A full entry fee will apply. Bookings for stabling at the qualifiers, if applicable, must be made directly with the qualifier venues.
4. The onus is on the owner / athlete to make sure the correct animal / rider combination has qualified.
5. All qualifying competitions should be judged under Article 238.2.3, with the exception of the 4 year old class which will run under special rules, and the 7 & 8 year old class which will be run under Article 238.2.2. However, the Ground Jury has the option to change this article, in the event of inclement weather conditions or other unforeseen circumstances. Any changes must be notified to competitors immediately.
6. In all cases the qualified animal will be declared to the RDS in the name of the owner registered with SJI, whose name will appear on all start lists and programmes at the Show.
7. The animal / athlete must complete the course in the first round **clear** to be eligible for a qualifying place.
8. In all matters of interpretation or circumstance unforeseen, the decision of the Chairman of Showjumping Ireland in agreement with the RDS shall be final and binding. In addition, SJI reserves the right in agreement with the RDS to clarify or amend the regulations for such qualifiers, and any such changes will come into effect on publication by SJI.
9. The appointment and duties of officials must be in accordance with Article 259N.
10. Should an athlete qualify more than the quota for a category, where the athlete first qualifies in the highest place in the competition on a particular day will determine the qualifying place. An exception to this rule may be permitted in the case of exceptional circumstances and will only be allowed on written request, with the approval of the DHS Show Director and the Chairman of SJI, who will consult with the Chairperson of the relevant sub-committee.
11. All animals that complete clear rounds may be scanned for microchips at the DHS qualifiers to verify identity, passports must also be available for inspection.
12. It is an RDS requirement that the Organising Committee make the following provisions at the qualifying show: medical assistance and a treating veterinary surgeon present or on-call for the duration of the competitions; a minimum of one ambulance; screens and a horse ambulance / suitable mode of transport available for an injured animal. The SJI Veterinary Committee may appoint a testing veterinary surgeon to attend all shows holding DHS qualifiers.
13. If the owner has not entered his animal by the closing date of entries for the DHS; the 6th of July, it will automatically be assumed that the owner does not wish to take up the qualifying place, and the next animal in line from the applicable qualifier will be contacted. (It is strongly advised that the owner/s of the next animal in line should ensure to enter online, as a 'reserve', with the RDS before the close of entries). Qualification of an animal at a qualifier will not mean that it is automatically entered with the RDS. Please note that the DHS closing date of the **6th of July** will be strictly adhered to, and late entries will not be accepted (except in the case of qualifiers after this date). Should a qualified combination not have entered by the 6th of July or for some reason is unable to take their place at the Final, the next in line will be notified on or before the 14th of July. No changes to the qualified combinations will be made after the 13th of July.
14. A change of rider is permitted in the DHS 'Horse' category only. The change of rider must be notified in writing to the RDS Equestrian Department and the SJI Executive by the close of entries on the 6th of July. If a qualified horse / pony is sold and a bonafide change of ownership made with SJI, it will be possible to compete that horse / pony under a new rider to seek qualification. The original qualification will be deemed null and void as soon as the horse is entered for a qualifier under a new rider.
15. A horse cannot start in more than one qualifier category for the Dublin Horse Show. It is the responsibility of the owner / agent / athlete to ensure that all animals and athletes are eligible to compete in the relevant qualifying competition.
16. A horse's first qualification will secure its qualification, regardless of further placings at later qualifiers.
17. Should an animal / athlete be unable to take their place at the Final, their place will be filled by the animal / athlete combination next in line at the particular qualifying venue. The 'next in line' must place his / her entry with the RDS Equestrian Department by the close of entries on the 6th of July and will be notified should a place become available on or before the 13th of July.

18. Should any qualifier fail to provide the number of qualifying places under the rules, such places will be carried forward to the next qualifier within the year. If, at the end of the final qualifier the places have not been filled, the places will revert back to the first qualifier and be awarded in placed order to unqualified combinations that meet the criteria. If places are not filled by the first qualifier, then unfilled places will move to the second qualifier and so on, until all qualifying places have been allocated. In the event there are not enough eligible reserve combinations the quota does not have to be met.
19. A joint placing awarded at a qualifier will not alter the prescribed number of qualifying places to be awarded as outlined under each competition category. Under no circumstances will additional qualification places be awarded in the event of a judging error. These competitions are run under Articles 238.2.2 and 238.2.3, and therefore if, in the first jump-off against the clock there are athletes with equal penalties for first place, there will be a second jump-off against the clock. Other athletes are placed according to their penalties and time in the first jump-off, and if necessary, according to their penalties and time in the first round. (Time penalties in first round – 1 penalty for every 4 seconds commenced; Time penalties in second round / first jump-off – 1 penalty for each second or commenced fraction of a second; Time penalties in third round / second jump-off – 1 penalty for each second or commenced fraction of a second).
20. In the Pony, Children on Horses and Amateur categories, only fully paid-up members of SJI, resident on the island of Ireland for six months of the calendar year, may take up a qualifying place at the Dublin Horse Show. To be eligible to compete in the Dublin Horse Show qualifiers, both athlete and horse / pony must be fully paid-up with SJI and the ponies must fulfil the same criteria for measurement and points applied to Irish registered ponies. In order to be eligible to compete in the Young Rider qualifiers for the Dublin Horse Show, athletes who are resident outside of the island of Ireland for more than six months of the calendar year must be available for selection for Ireland. The athlete and horse must also be registered with SJI for the current year.
21. Horses competing in the 4 year old classes will not be permitted to wear hind boots or bandages. Only non-performance enhancing hind boots may be worn in all other qualifier categories for the Dublin Horse Show. These rules will also extend to the Finals at the Show. Each athlete / owner wishing to avail of the use of hind boots on their horse / pony must ensure that the boots are those permitted under Article 257N Saddlery of the SJI rules. Under no circumstances will non-specified hind boots, or bandages of any kind except for those outlined under Article 257N Saddlery. SJI stewards will attend each qualifier to carry out spot checks.
22. The RDS and Showjumping Ireland reserve the right to refuse entry to any person who engages in conduct which brings the sport into disrepute, demonstrates aggressive or disrespectful behaviour towards staff, officials, volunteers, or other competitors, or those with a criminal record.
23. It is the responsibility of each athlete, and in the case of child athletes, their parent(s) and / or person responsible to ensure they meet the entry and eligibility criteria for the competitions in which they are entered.
24. In the case of an appeal Athletes / Owners / Parents or Persons Responsible will understand that lobbying outside of the published SJI appeals process, via unsolicited contact with SJI or RDS Staff, will result in disqualification. The SJI Code of Conduct will apply at all times.

SPECIFIC RULES FOR DUBLIN HORSE SHOW QUALIFIERS

The following are rules which are specific to each qualifier category.

HORSE RULES

1. 4 year old horses, foaled in 2022.	No. to qualify: 8 x 3 = 24*.	Fence Heights 1.10m Round 1 & Round 2
5 year old horses, foaled in 2021.	No. to qualify: 12 x 3 = 36.	Fence Heights 1.20m
6 year old horses, foaled in 2020.	No. to qualify: 12 x 3 = 36.	Fence Heights 1.30m
7 & 8 year old horses, foaled in 2019 or 2018.	No. to qualify: 9 x 3 = 27.	Fence Heights 1.35m/1.40m (7 year olds) 1.40m/1.45m (8 year olds)

*The 4 year old horses will be awarded points for 'Future Potential', 'Rideability' and 'Jumping Technique / Natural Ability' in the second round of the qualifiers. The 8 highest placed horses at each qualifier, based on their final score will qualify for the Dublin Horse Show. In the event of a tie, the 'Future Potential', 'Rideability' and 'Jumping Technique / Natural Ability' scores in that order will decide.

The 4, 5 & 6 year old classes are restricted to animals registered as being bred on the island of Ireland, and to those entire animals (stallions and mares) bred outside of Ireland, that were registered and approved / preliminary approved or selected for breeding in an Irish Studbook (approved by the Department of Agriculture).

The qualifiers for the 7 & 8 year old horses will be judged under Article 238.2.2. (Please note, as the Finals at the DHS are international competitions with up to 24 additional international athletes competing, all qualified athletes and horses must be registered with the FEI at the time of entry for the Dublin Horse Show. Athletes that are not registered with the FEI will not be permitted to compete and their entry will be withdrawn).

2. A maximum of **2** horses, in any one category may be qualified by the same athlete, subject to an overall limit of **8** horses.
3. A horse cannot qualify in more than one category for the Show.
4. A horse once qualified, or an athlete on reaching the quota cannot compete in further qualifiers.
5. A total of 8 nomination places will be reserved for international athletes representing Ireland at CSIO team events, during the period from the first 'Horse' qualifier to the final 'Horse' qualifier. (While preference will be given to Irish-based athletes, these places will not be exclusively retained for Irish-based athletes). In all cases the nominated horse(s) must not have been competed at the 2026 DHS 'Horse' Qualifiers. Athletes will be subject to the overall limit of 8 horses in national show jumping classes at the Show. Athletes availing of this provision in the rules will only be allowed to nominate horses in the 5 & 6 year old classes and a maximum of two horses per age category. There will be no nominations for the 4 year old class or the 7 & 8 year old class. Athletes must enter their nomination online before the close of entry on the 6th of July. Athletes must be members of, and nominated horses must be registered with, SJI for the current season, prior to the first qualifying competition. Recommendations as to the allocation of such places will be made by Horse Sport Ireland.
6. 5 year old mares having carried a foal to parturition as a four year old, and providing that the foal was subsequently registered in a studbook, will be permitted to compete in the 4 year old qualifiers.

AMATEUR RULES

1. Qualifiers will incorporate A or AA status. Number to qualify: The top 8 athletes regardless of status will qualify from each qualifier.

Grade	Height of fences
A	1.05m - 1.10m
AA	1.10m - 1.15m

2. The qualifiers will be judged under Articles 238.2.3. AM6 and 254N.C (the handicap system as for 'A' and 'AA' athletes)
3. 'A' athletes will compete first at the first and third qualifier and 'AA' athletes will compete first at the second and fourth qualifier.
4. A horse competing in the Amateur category cannot be competed in any other qualifier category for the Dublin Horse Show.
5. Amateur athletes may only compete in one SJI qualifier category for the Dublin Horse Show
6. An athlete substitution is not permitted at the DHS Amateur qualifiers. An athlete may substitute one horse on the day at the DHS qualifiers but must jump first in their relevant category if availing of the substitution provision.
7. An athlete may qualify a maximum of one horse in the Amateur category.
8. An Amateur athlete must have completed the first round in a minimum of six amateur classes (excluding the RUAS Balmoral Final, and the DHS qualifiers and competitions at the DHS) in the twelve months prior to competing in the 2026 DHS Amateur qualifiers, i.e. if a competitor competes in the qualifier on the 4th of May 2026, only eligible classes since 5th of May 2025 may be counted towards the six class quota. The rule will apply across the four qualifiers. In addition, at least three of these classes must be held at stand-a-lone shows and not part of a league held in a centre. (In exceptional circumstances, where an athlete cannot compete for more than a six-month period but has met the 'six class quota' in the previous twenty-four-months, prior to the DHS qualifiers, that athlete may be eligible for an exemption. To apply for an exemption, an application must be sent to the SJI National Amateur Committee before the 17th of April 2026).
9. An Amateur athlete may not participate in national or international show jumping age classes (for five to eight year old horses inclusive) or classes exceeding 1.20m at the DHS, in accordance with SJI Amateur rules.

PONY RULES

1. Height of pony	Class	Number to qualify
128cm	1 st Round: 1.00m – 1.05m 2 nd Round: 1.05m – 1.10m 3 rd Round (Jump Off): 1.10m (only Grade A as dates below)	7x4 = total 28
128cm 6 & 7 Year Old	6 year olds: 85cm 7 year olds: 90cm	3x4 = total 12*
138cm	1.20m (only Grade A as dates below)	7x4 = total 28
138cm 6 & 7 Year Old	6 year olds: 95cm 7 year olds: 1m	3x4 = total 12*
148cm	1.30m (only Grade A as dates below)	7x4 = total 28
148cm 6 & 7 Year Old	6 year olds: 1.10m – 1.15m 7 year olds: 1.15m – 1.20m	6x4 = total 24

'Grade A' Ponies must be 'Grade A' at least five days before competing at the qualifier.

148cm 6 & 7 Year Old Ponies must have a minimum of 70 SJI points at least five days before competing at the qualifier.

Ponies competing in the 128cm 6 & 7 Year Old and 138cm 6 & 7 Year Old competitions must have a minimum of 21 SJI points at least five days before competing at the qualifier.

The 'Grade A' classes are open to 6 year old ponies and over, 5 year old are ineligible for these classes regardless of how many points may have been accumulated.

Competitors are reminded that first category selected must be adhered to through the four qualifiers i.e. a pony may not compete in both the 148cm (Grade A) and 148cm 6 & 7 Year Old category.

*Ponies competing in the 128cm 6 & 7 Year Old and 138cm 6 & 7 Year Old competitions will be awarded points for 'Future Potential', 'Rideability' and 'Jumping Technique / Natural Ability'. The 3 highest placed ponies at each qualifier, based on their final score will qualify for the Dublin Horse Show. In the event of a tie, the 'Future Potential', 'Rideability' and 'Jumping Technique / Natural Ability' scores in that order will decide.

- Athletes in the **128cm competitions** and the **138cm 6 & 7 Year Old Pony competition** must have attained the **Bar 1 of SJI Five Bar Training System** at least **five days** before competing at a qualifier in order to be eligible to compete in the 2026 Dublin Horse Show qualifiers. Athletes in the **138cm, 148cm** and **148cm 6 & 7 Year Old competitions** must have attained **Bar 2 of SJI Five Bar Training System** at least **five days** before competing at a qualifier in order to be eligible to compete in the 2026 Dublin Horse Show qualifiers.
- The 128cm competitions are open to athletes from the year in which they reach their 10th birthday to the year in which they reach their 12th birthday. The 138cm competitions are open to athletes from the year in which they reach their 10th birthday to the year in which they reach their 14th birthday, and the 148cm competitions are open to athletes from the year in which they reach their 12th birthday to the year in which they reach their 16th birthday.
- An athlete may not ride more than **2** ponies in any one qualifying competition.
- An athlete may qualify a maximum of **1** pony in all pony classes for the Dublin Horse Show.
- An athlete may qualify a maximum of **4** ponies overall for the Show, hereinafter referred to as the 'quota'.
- A pony once qualified, or athlete on reaching their quota, may compete in further DHS qualifying competitions. However, they **must** clearly demonstrate that they are qualified by wearing a distinctive arm band. Failure to comply with this rule may result in a fine and / or loss of qualification place for the Dublin Horse Show. This will be the responsibility of the owner or person responsible. If a qualified pony is subsequently sold, the athlete who qualified the pony will not be allowed to qualify another pony in that height category.
- 18 combinations will qualify to compete in the Final of the 128cm (Grade A) competition at the Dublin Horse Show. Up to 10 athletes, from those not qualified to compete in the Final, will be invited to compete in the 128cm / International Riders Pairs Relay at the Show.
- For all ponies whose eligibility is based on foreign competition records, they must be registered with SJI and have their 'foreign points' recorded on the SJI online system at least **five days** before competing at a qualifier in order to be eligible to compete.

CHILDREN ON HORSES & YOUNG RIDER RULES

1. There will be classes for the following, with the qualifying date **at least five days** before competing at the qualifier:

Young Riders (1.35m – 1.40m)	Open to athletes from the year in which they reach their 14 th birthday to the year in which they reach their 21 st birthday. Minimum of 50 SJI grading points
Young Riders (1.25m – 1.30m)	Open to athletes from the year in which they reach their 14 th birthday to the year in which they reach their 21 st birthday. Minimum of 50 SJI grading points.
Young Riders (1.10m – 1.15m)	Open to athletes from the year in which they reach their 14 th birthday to the year in which they reach their 21 st birthday. Minimum of 30 SJI grading points. Restricted to horses 5 – 7 years old on the 1 st of January 2026.
Children on Horses (1.15m)	Open to athletes from the year in which they reach their 12 th birthday to the year in which they reach their 14 th birthday. Restricted to mares and geldings, 6 year old and over on the 1 st of January 2026. Athletes may only qualify 1 horse to compete in the Children on Horses class at the Dublin Horse Show. Only the combination of horse and athlete qualified are eligible to compete at the Dublin Horse Show, a change of athlete will not be permitted. However, if a qualified horse is subsequently sold, the new athlete may seek qualification and the previous athlete may seek qualification on another horse. The first round of the Children on Horses competition at the Dublin Horse Show will be a Team Championship (four teams of four athletes) and the Final will be an Individual Championship. Further details are available at www.dublinhorseshow.com . All horses competing in the Children on Horses classes at the Dublin Horse Show must undergo a Horse Inspection.

Numbers to qualify:	Young Riders (1.35m – 1.40m)	4 x 4 = 16
	Young Riders (1.25m – 1.30m)	5 x 4 = 20
	Young Riders (1.10m – 1.15m)	5 x 4 = 20
	Children on Horses (1.15m)	4 x 4 = 16

2. Athletes in the **Children on Horses** and **Young Rider classes** must have attained **Bar 2 of the SJI Five Bar Training System** at least **five days** before competing at a qualifier in order to be eligible to compete in the Dublin Horse Show qualifiers.
3. A horse may not compete in different height classes within the Children on Horses and Young Rider qualifiers – the first class selected must be adhered to throughout the four qualifiers.
4. An athlete may only qualify one horse per class for the DHS and an overall maximum of two horses across the Children on Horses and Young Rider category.
5. A Young Rider can qualify for the Dublin Horse Show (provided they are riding different animals) in only 2 of the 3 categories: Horses, Ponies, and Children on Horses & Young Riders (to an overall maximum of 8 animals). This does not preclude the athlete from competing in other qualifying competitions, but where they first qualify will, at all times, govern their eligibility under this rule.
6. A horse once qualified in the Children on Horses and Young Rider classes will be allowed to compete in further DHS qualifying competitions for that class. However, the competitor **must** clearly state that the horse is already qualified by wearing a distinctive arm band. Failure to comply with this rule may result in a fine and / or loss of qualification place for the Dublin Horse Show.
7. For all horses whose eligibility is based on foreign competition records, they must be registered with SJI and have their 'foreign points' recorded on the SJI online system at least **five days** before competing at a qualifier in order to be eligible to compete.
8. Horses who have been competed at 1.40m or above in the current year are ineligible to compete in the Children on Horses, Young Rider (1.10m – 1.15m) and Young Rider (1.25m – 1.30m) qualifiers and competitions at the Dublin Horse Show.