

ISH YOUNG BREEDERS PROGRAMME





What is the ISH Young Breeders Programme?

The ISH Young Breeders Programme is run as a joint programme between Teagasc and Horse Sport Ireland. The programme focuses principally on the assessment of conformation and athleticism traits of both eventing and show jumping horses.

Additional topics which are discussed at training include amongst others:

- Husbandry and breeding
- Production and training
- Marketing
- Career options and advice

The main activities of the young breeders programme involves the provision of training days, national competition, and participation at world championship competition.

Is it for you?

The programme is aimed at those between the ages of 14 to 25 years who are interested in assessing, exhibiting, and breeding performance horses.

They do not have to be breeders themselves or necessarily come from an equestrian background. An avid interest and an eagerness to participate and learn is all that is required.





Competitions

Competition is part of the programme to test skills and knowledge learned and is not compulsory for participants in the programme, though encouraged.

National Competition

Competition is divided into three age groups 14-16 years; 16-19 years; and 20-25 years. Competition takes place as an initial selection process for world championship participation.

World Championship Competition

Competition is divided into two age groups 16-19 years and 20-25 years and takes place every second year.

ISH teams have progressed from strength to strength at this level with the most recent performances in 2013 resulting in an overall combined team result as Reserve World Champions; Junior team world champions within their age class; Individual junior champion; bronze and also fourth individual provided testament to the success of the programme and the value of training provided as well as the commitment of the individuals concerned.

What does it involve?

Competition consists of five different sections

1. Theory (multiple choice questions on stable management; sport/competition; reproduction husbandry; nutrition; health and welfare)
2. Assessment of conformation
3. Assessment of loose movement and loose jumping (athleticism)
4. Presentation of a horse in hand using the triangle system
5. Turnout of horses

More information is available on both the Teagasc and Horse Sport Ireland websites and also on www.young-breeders.com



Industry Involvement

The programme depends greatly on the involvement and support of industry leaders in terms of coaches, riders, producers, breeders and others. Every effort is made to create opportunities for participants to visit some of the best farms/ yards in the country and to interact with those who are experts in their field. Young Breeders are exposed to high quality horses across the country in an effort to train their eye to the benchmarks for quality and to understand the demands in terms of horse power for both sports.

Benefits of the Programme

The skills and knowledge transferred through training serve as a foundation for those with an interest in developing their knowledge of the horse. These skills come into focus for varied uses including purchasing a new horse/pony; deciding about which mares/stallions to use for breeding; assessing offspring of mares/stallions; presenting horses for inspection, sale, show or competition.

The programme also provides a unique opportunity for young people to meet with their peers and make contacts across Ireland and throughout the world who share their interests.

Arena party training for Loose Jumping Mares and Stallions at Horse Sport Ireland Inspections

Open to those aged 19 – 25 years.

Training is provided to members who wish to gain employment with Horse Sport Ireland as a participant in the arena party to loose jump mares and stallions at their inspections



Testimonials

“My time in the ISH Young Breeders programme was something I really enjoyed, from meeting lots of new friends to the access we got to some of the top riders, coaches, horses and farms. The training and experience I gained gave me the confidence to use what I had learned in my own work and business. I am currently in America working as a dressage rider and manager of 20 horses including the owner’s competition horses and a number of the more competitive livery horses.”



Regina Daniels

Senior competitor at the 2011 & 2013 world championships

“My time spent with the ISH young breeders programme instilled a wealth of knowledge in me about all aspects of the equine industry. I gained experience which stands to me now every day as manager at Ballydoyle Racing and also in my role as a regular judge on the showing circuit. The programme has helped me launch a most professional career in the equine industry, training my eye to recognise quality in a horse whether that is a future Derby winner or an RDS Champion.”



Conor Higgins

Junior competitor at the 2009 & 2011 world championships



“The programme provided me fantastic opportunity to learn from some of the top breeders, producers, riders and trainers in Ireland’s equestrian industry. Trainers provided their personal insights on traits they look for in the equine for their specific discipline with discussions also around breeding, management, marketing and more. Other highlights were attending Falsterbo (SWE) CSIO5* and the 2013 Holsteiner Verband stallion inspections. My current role as Horse Sport Ireland- FEI sports administrator, responsible for the administration of professional riders in Intentional events for all disciplines affiliated to the HSI, followed as a natural progression from associations with HSI through arena party work at mare and stallion inspections.”



Rossa Gallagher
Senior competitor at the 2011 & 2013 world championships

“I found the ISH young breeders programme very helpful. I learned how to assess a horse and be more confident in my own opinion and in discussing opinions. I am currently working with Yvette Truesdale following a few years with Bourns Sport Horses. I have found my involvement in the young breeders programme and on the teams at world championships to have helped greatly in applying for jobs, as employers have taken an interest in the experience I gained from it.”



Ruaidhri O’Cianain
Junior competitor at the 2011 & 2013 world championships



Find out more:

www.teagasc.ie/ruraldev/equine

www.horsesportireland.ie/breeding/young-breeders

Find ISH Young Breeders on Facebook

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