

2024 Young Breeders National Championships

The **Young Breeders National Championships** is jointly supported by Teagasc and Horse Sport Ireland, and funded by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine under national breeding services. The 2024 Championships is to be hosted at Kildalton Agricultural College, Piltown, Co. Kilkenny.

The aim is to host an event **merging both competition and education**. Although participants' knowledge and skill is assessed throughout, there is also lots of support provided (*see description of disciplines below*) and therefore equally accessible for those who have previously attended training and for those who may not have.

Highly respected and experienced industry professionals will share their insights and knowledge on the topics of conformation and athleticism assessment, relating to potential for sport, breeding and market.

It is not a requirement to be an active breeder to partake in the championships.

The Young Breeders National Championships takes place at **Kildalton Agricultural College** on **Saturday March 23rd starting from 09.30 am. (Registration open from 08.45am).**

The aims of the Young Breeders Championships are to:

- Encourage young people to become actively involved in assessing and recognising desirable traits in performance horses.
- Improve young people's knowledge of horse breeding and build their knowledge and skill to enable them make informed decisions when developing their own breeding enterprise or investing in stock to produce.
- Opportunity for participants to engage with industry experts and for networking with other young people with similar interests

The results of the 2024 National Championships will be used to select a panel from which two teams of four will be selected to represent the Irish Sport Horse Studbook at the next World Breeding Federation for Sport Horses (WBFSH) Young Breeders World Championships (W.C.) July 4-6 2024 Stutteri Ask, Denmark. It is not a requirement to accept a place for World Championship team selection if earned, though it is very much encouraged.

At the National Championships ten individuals will be selected in the Junior (16 to 20 years of age – born 2004 to 2008) category and a further ten in the Senior (21 to 26 years of age – born 1998 to 2003) category to go forward for further training and selection. A team of four in both age categories will be chosen to travel to the World Championships following the



2024 Young Breeders National Championships subsequent selection training days.

Terms and Conditions of the Young Breeders National Championships March 23rd, 2024

Participants:

Young people interested in the breeding, producing, presentation, and judging of horse conformation and athleticism traits are invited to participate in this Championships.

The Championships are divided in two age groups:

Junior	Persons aged 16-20 years of age	Born 2004 to 2008
Senior	Persons aged 21-26 years of age	Born 1998 to 2003

Entry fee and Booking

The **entry fee** for this competition is **€50** for competition participants (including lunch and supper). Competitor registration must be made in advance at <https://teagasc.clr.events/> .

Closing date for National Championship entries is 23.30 hours on Sunday March 17th 2023. A discount of €10 per ticket is provided per entry where two or more members of the same family are making a booking – PROMO CODE: MULTIPLE BOOKING, contact Wendy if any issues at checkout. *If any abuse is made of this code with a single booking these will be rejected.*

Competitor supporters can purchase food directly at the venue, but must register an expression of interest in advance, also **by Sunday March 17th** to give an indication of numbers attending. (A different person may attend to that registered, but PLEASE indicate total numbers attending). Information on where to make the expression of interest will be included on the competitor booking form.

Venue

The competition venue is Kildalton Agricultural College, Piltown, Co. Kilkenny, Eircode: E32YW08



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Schedule

Time	Activity	Location
08.45 – 09.15	Registration Open <i>Canteen will be available for Tea/ Coffee/ Scone at own expense.</i>	Main Building Reception 
09.15 – 09.30	Transfer to Indoor Arena and Allocated Seating	Guided from Registration Area to Indoor Arena
09.30 – 10.00	Theory Test	Indoor Arena
10.00 – 11.00	Loose Movement & Jumping Assessment (prejudgement and competition horses)	Indoor Arena
11.00-11.15	Short Comfort Break	
11.25– 13.15	Conformation Assessment (prejudgement and competition horses) Overview of three competition horses conformation and athleticism by judges.	Indoor Arena
13.15 – 14.00	Lunch	Canteen <i>Competitors and Judges priority Supporters end of queue PLEASE</i>
14.00 – 14.10	In Hand Demonstration Tips	Outdoor Arena (meet at indoor arena)
14.15 – 17.00 approx	In Hand Presentation on the Triangle	Outdoor Arenas (Warm Up Indoor Arena)
17.00-18.00	Supper	Canteen
18.00	Prize Giving	The Library 



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Competitor Attire

For the discipline 'presenting a horse in hand' participants may wear dark uniform-coloured slacks with a dark block- coloured jumper and tidy shirt. *(Prize winners will be photographed for publication therefore dress appropriately – no jeans, tracksuits or similar casual attire).* Riding hats (standards refer to Appendix One at the end of this document) and gloves must be worn for the In Hand discipline by both the handler and the assistant handler. Jodhpur boots or similar sturdy footwear must be worn. No runners or 'soft' shoes are permissible. Participants may wear suitably clean, tidy coat/jacket. *(Must be able to run during in hand phase).*

Horses

Will be provided at the venue.

Disciplines

The Young Breeders competition will consist of the following four disciplines:

1. Theory test
2. Judging conformation traits
3. Judging athleticism traits (loose movement and loose jumping)
4. Presenting a horse in hand (two elements – handler and assistant handler)

1. Theory Test: Each participant will answer 20 multiple choice questions on breeding, stable management, feeding, health, and sport. The questions will be taken from a prepared bank of questions available in advance on the Teagasc website (<https://www.teagasc.ie/rural-economy/rural-development/equine/ish-young-breeders-programme/training-material/>). Each question carries one point. The final mark will be multiplied by 5 to give the score out of 100. Participants can reach 100 points if all the questions are answered correctly.

2. Judging Conformation Traits

Two horses will be pre-judged by the judges and their scores given to competitors with brief discussion on reasons for allocating scores provided by the judges. Three horses will be judged on their conformation by the judges and participants independently. Conformation Score Sheet can be found on the Teagasc website <https://www.teagasc.ie/rural-economy/rural-development/equine/ish-young-breeders-programme/training-material/>.

In the judging of conformation 100 points are reached when a participant gives exactly the same scores as the judges. Each deviation from the judge's score is subtracted from 100.



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3. Judging horses for loose movement and loose jumping (athleticism traits)

Two horses will be judged as pre-judgement horses and their scores given to competitors with brief discussion on reasons for allocating scores by the judges. Three horses will then be judged by the judges and competitors independently. Score sheet can be found on the Teagasc website <https://www.teagasc.ie/rural-economy/rural-development/equine/ish-young-breeders-programme/training-material/>.

In the judging of gaits of loose horses 100 points are reached when a participant gives exactly the same scores as the judges. Each deviation from the judge's score is subtracted from 100.

4. A demonstration to show participants the way the judges expect a horse to be presented will be provided.

Part of the presentation is the introduction of the young breeder and the horse in the following way:

"My name is (name), my assistant today is (name), I present a (age) years old (breed)(sex) by (sire) out of (dam) by (dams sire)!"

Dimensions of the triangle: short sides at least 15 - 20 meters, long side 25 - 30 meters. A reasonable level of fitness supports performance in this discipline, particularly during the trot phase. It is a very good idea to take time to practice for this discipline before attending the championships.

The overall purpose of the in-hand discipline is to present the horse in a way that makes the horse look and act in the best possible way both standing still and moving. The horse will be shown in a bridle and reins.

The handler must behave discreetly in order to let the attention be concentrated on the horse. An 'assistant handler' will assist in following the horse. Assistant handler persons to accompany each competitor will be chosen by a draw from the other competitors. The assistant handler persons will also be scored out of 10 for their effectiveness in reading the situation and assisting to produce a harmonious presentation and a further 10 marks for being in the right place at the right time. *Please be aware that unnecessary punishment or use of the whip may lead to disqualification in this discipline.*

In the walk as well as in the trot the horse should be given the opportunity to show its movements as freely as possible. On the turns the handler may reduce speed without the horse losing rhythm. In the standing position the horse should be presented in open presentation to the judges. The judges are looking for a harmonious presentation which shows the horse off to its best.

A maximum of 10 marks will be given for each of the six phases described on the score sheets. The total marks are multiplied by two to reflect a total score out of 120 marks. The marking sheet and further information about this discipline can be viewed on the Teagasc



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website <https://www.teagasc.ie/rural-economy/rural-development/equine/ish-young-breeders-programme/training-material/>.

Prizes

Prizes are awarded for the overall first, second and third in all three age groups. Prizes are also provided for first, second and third in the individual discipline areas of assessing conformation; assessing athleticism; and presenting a horse in hand within each age group.

Ten persons in both the junior and senior age categories will be awarded the opportunity to participate in further training activities and potentially be selected to travel to the 2024 WBFSH International Young Breeders World Championships in Denmark July 4-6. See further explanation below.

CODE OF CONDUCT

This code of conduct applies to all young breeders and any other support personnel.

National Rules

Each young breeder, and his or her parent or guardian, where applicable, is responsible for reading the rules of the National Championships and is obligated to comply with and be bound by them.

Co-operation with the Organisers

Each young breeder, and his or her parent or guardian, where applicable, and any other support personnel is required to co-operate with the organisers in carrying out its functions. This includes the requirement to treat all organisers with respect and courtesy and to follow all instructions issued by, and respond in reasonable time to requests from, any Horse Sport Ireland or Teagasc personnel.

Appeals

If a young breeder, and his or her parent or guardian, where applicable, or any support personnel has a complaint to make about any aspect of the competition or selection procedure, including the training regime, he or she must first address the complaint to Team Manager Wendy Conlon. If he or she is unhappy with the response, he or she can raise the matter with acting Breeding Director of Horse Sport Ireland Sonja Egan. Complaints can be made in writing within seven days of the event and posted to Antonette Doran at Horse Sport Ireland; or forwarded by email to wendy.conlon@teagasc.ie or adoran@horsesportireland.ie. Any young breeder, and his or her parent or guardian where applicable, or any support personnel who does not follow this procedure by raising issues with other parties will be in breach of these terms and conditions.



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Cheating

Cheating will not be tolerated. When participating in the various aspects of the competition including theory test, assessment of conformation, and assessment of athleticism traits each participant should keep their eyes on their own answer sheets only. Anybody found to be cheating in any way including accessing phones during any phase of the championships; bringing answers into the theory test; looking at another competitors answer sheets at any time; or conversing with another competitor during active phases of the championships will be given a verbal warning. If the competitor is found to be cheating on a second occasion they will be disqualified from the championships.

QUALIFYING FOR SELECTION FOR WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

Ten individuals will be selected in the 'Junior' (16 to 20 years) age category and a further ten in the 'Senior' (21 to 26 years) age category to go forward for **further training and selection**. A team of four in both age categories will subsequently be chosen to participate at the 2024 World Championships.

Two juniors and two seniors are already selected from the 2023 October events at HHS Stud and Mullingar Equestrian Centre. The highest six scoring participants overall in the junior and in the senior age categories at the National Championships will be invited to join these. The judges in consultation with the team manager have the freedom to propose as the other two individuals in each age category persons who impressed at training events over the course of 2023/2024 training season (these individuals must have attended a minimum of two training days). Alternatively the top eight in each age group at national championships may be accepted.

Panel members must be prepared to attend compulsory training sessions prior to the World Championships. Panelists must also be prepared to fund accommodation, food and possibly contribute toward some expenses that may be associated with travel to World Championships i.e. insurance/ PCR testing/ other if required. Every effort is made to minimise costs to participants, though not all costs are clear at this stage.

Panel members will be expected to attend **all three** training/selection days. This is not negotiable.

Provisional proposed dates are Thursday March 28th (Kilconnell Stud Co. Tipperary); Thursday April 4th (Derryglen Stud, Co. Meath); and Sunday April 14th (Hughes Horse Stud, Co. Kilkenny)

Once the teams are chosen two to three days will be identified for teambuilding, training and final preparations in June, usually involving one overnight, but will consult on this as a group.



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Panelists must inform Wendy Conlon, Teagasc (wendy.conlon@teagasc.ie / 087 9879083) **by Monday March 25th** of their availability to attend the selection/ training dates and to travel to Holland from **July 4th – 6th 2024**, should they be selected. If a panellist is not available either for training or the World Championships then the place may be deferred to the next best candidate from the National Championships results. Flight availability may dictate necessity to travel from July 3rd to July 7th (4 nights).

Costs:

Panelists should be aware of a fee of €20 per selection training to help towards costs of providing these (i.e. €60). Those chosen to represent the Irish Sport Horse Studbook will be required to fund some additional costs as indicated above, which will be specifically identified, as information is made available, and kept to a minimum.

2024 World Championship Costs (*updated March 6th*):

Accommodation on site - €260 per person

Catering on site - €77

Sunday excursion - €30 (though flight time may determine this not to be possible)

Team members will be provided with t-shirts / branded team gear; however own trousers will need to be supplied and PPE.



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Appendix One:

Only hats that meet the following specifications are acceptable. Hats must meet all the requirements in any one row:

	Standard and Date	Quality Assurance Mark	Examples		
1	PAS 015 (1998* or 2011)	AND MUST HAVE BSI Kitemark  Or Inspec IC Mark 			
2	VG1 01.040 (2014-12)	AND MUST HAVE BSI Kitemark  Or Inspec IC Mark 			
3	ASTM F1163 (2004a or 04a onwards)	AND MUST HAVE SEI mark 			
4	SNELL E2001* or E2016	AND MUST HAVE Official SNELL label and number 			
5	AS/NZS 3838 (2006 onwards)	AND MUST HAVE SAI Global mark 			

