

OVERVIEW RULES AND TERMS OF 2025 INSPECTION

This information package contains important information about eligibility, applications and the stages of Irish Draught and Irish Draught Sport horse Inspections that will be offered for 2025 in Canada consistent with Rules from Horse Sport Ireland.



Irish Draught Horse
Society of Canada

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Introduction

In 2025, the Irish Draught Horse Society of Canada (IDHSC) will be inspecting eligible Irish Draught and Irish Draught Sport horses in order to offer owners an evaluation of their breeding stock. Irish Draught mares and stallions will be inspected in accordance with the harmonized studbook requirements as described in the registration rules found at www.idhsca.com.

Owners of eligible Irish Draught Sport Horse stallions have the option to be inspected for approval within the Canadian studbook only (no x-rays required) or for Preliminary Approval in the Irish Horse Register (x-rays required).

Inspection

When: Oct 3 (set-up and prep), October 4 (inspection day)

Where: Field of Dreams Farm, 1072 Monarch Road, Lindsay, ON

Application Deadline

The 2025 deadline for applications and inspection fees for stallions is **July 31, 2025**. Mares and geldings applications and inspection fee deadline is **August 30, 2025**. Complete applications and all fees must be received by the Society on or prior to that date.

Following the close of applications, the Society will review all completed applications and determine feasibility of moving ahead with planning regional inspections. Incomplete applications and outstanding fees will not be taken into account in the board's decision to proceed with hosting inspections.

To Apply to Present Your Horse at Inspections

1. Review the eligibility criteria. Contact the Registrar if you are unsure if your horse is eligible.
2. If you have not already done so; submit your Irish Draught Horse Society membership form and payment for 2025. www.idhsca.com/membership
3. Complete one application per horse. Download and complete the inspection application.
4. Submit the completed application via email to inspection.idhsc@gmail.com or mail to the registration office. All mailed in applications must be received by the registrar for stallions by July 31, 2025 or for mares and geldings by August 30, 2025.
5. Submit the required inspection fees to complete your application via etransfer to treasurer.idhsc@gmail.com OR via Paypal.

Eligibility

1. Membership of Owner: To be eligible for inspection, horses must be owned by current members in good standing of the Irish Draught Horse Society of Canada. The membership form is available on the [website](#) or from the Registration Office.
2. Minimum Age: All horses presented must be three years old or older.
3. Registration: To be eligible for inspection, horses must be registered or cross-registered with the IDHSC. Registration application forms are available on the website or from the Registration Office.
 - Horses may be pending registration at the time of application for inspection and inspection. In this case, the horse's identification and DNA will be collected by the veterinarian on site at the owner's cost.

- Horse eligibility is outlined in the IDHSC registration rules and may be noted on Inspection Application forms.
4. Welfare and safety: the welfare of the horse and safety of horses and participants is always paramount. If, at any time during the inspection process, the veterinarian or inspectors believe the horse is unfit to continue, or the safety of participants is at risk, the inspection will be stopped, and the horse classified as per the registration rules.

Amnesty for female and gelded progeny of uninspected mares (temporary measure)

Recognizing that a large number of purebred horses have not been inspected, and in response to the fact that Canada's herd of Irish Draughts have not had the same opportunity for inspection as other countries, the IDHSC has adopted a temporary measure of granting the right to be inspected to progeny of certain uninspected mares. This amnesty is a temporary measure and may be repealed by the Board at any time.

Under the amnesty, female and gelded progeny of uninspected Irish Draught Mares by RID, Class 1 or Class 2 stallions that meet the following conditions are eligible for inspection for Class 1 status:

- a) The horse being presented for inspection under the amnesty:
 - must be a mare or a gelding. Stallions are not eligible for inspection under the amnesty.
 - if imported to Canada, must be resident in Canada prior to termination of the amnesty program in the originating country.
- b) The sire of the horse being presented under the amnesty:
 - must be classified as RID, Class 1 or Class 2 in the IDHSC Irish Draught studbook, in the Irish Draught studbook of any of the sister societies, or in the Studbook of Origin.
- c) The dam of the horse being presented under the amnesty:
 - has not been inspected and is classified as ID or uninspected (Class 4) in the Irish Draught Horse Studbook in Canada, in the Irish Draught studbook of any of the sister societies, or in the Studbook of Origin.
 - the recorded pedigree of the dam must show:
 - her sire is classified RID, Class 1 or Class 2 in the Irish Draught Horse Studbook in Canada, in the Irish Draught studbook of any of the sister societies, or in the Studbook of Origin, and
 - her dam is classified as RID, Class 1, Class 2, AID or Grade up in the Irish Draught Horse Studbook in Canada, in the Irish Draught studbook of any of the sister societies, or in the Studbook of Origin.
 - If imported to Canada, must be resident in Canada prior to termination of the amnesty program in the originating country.
- d) The progeny of "Class 3" or "Uninspected (CLASS 4)" Irish Draught Horse stallions are not eligible under this amnesty.
- e) Because the amnesty inspection follows the mare inspection process, any progeny of a gelding granted Class 1 or Class 2 under the amnesty remains ineligible for inspection. (Note this situation might arise if the progeny was sired prior to gelding or sired after gelding via artificial insemination.)

Applications and Fees

Applications are available on the Irish Draught Horse Society website. Please download and complete the appropriate application for each horse. Applications include:

- Irish Draught/Irish Draught Sport Horse Stallion Application
- Irish Draught Mare or Gelding/Irish Draught Sport Horse Mare or Gelding Application

Inspection Fees

All fees are in Canadian funds and are required to be submitted with an application form prior to the closing deadline.

Stallion Inspection	\$ 800.00	Stallion Re-Presenting or Presenting for Merit under saddle	\$ 800.00 \$ 800.00 test rider/course designer fees. The owners of stallions opting to have their stallion's athleticism assessed by jumping a course under saddle will require a test rider appointed by the IDHSC board.
Mare and Gelding Inspection	\$ 350.00		
RID/AID Linear Profiling only	\$ 50.00	Class 1, 2 or IDSH Approved Mare presenting for merit (loose jumping)	\$ 175
Veterinary Exam for Registration (includes DNA collection). Stallions must be fully registered at time of application	\$ 100.00 (in addition to Registration Fee) The Registration Application, Step 1 must be received by the Registration Office by September 1, 2025 for the horse to be eligible for inspection. This administration fee will be applied in addition to the 2025 registration fees if a horse's Step 2 registration is incomplete. Note: Until Proof of Parentage is confirmed inspection results will not be released.		
Refund of Fees	<p>If IDHSC cancels inspection, a full refund will be issued to all horse owners who submitted a completed application (application + fees).</p> <p>If a horse is withdrawn prior to the application closing deadline, a refund of fees may be requested by the Applicant by emailing the Society. Request for refund must be accompanied by a veterinary note. Extenuating circumstances may be considered by the Board. Approval of the refund will be dependent on the costs incurred by the IDHSC to plan and put on inspection.</p>		

Stallion Veterinary Pre-Inspection

1. After August 1, 2025 each stallion must undergo a pre-inspection veterinary examination as set out in the Pre-Inspection Veterinary Examination of Stallions form, including an endoscopic examination of the throat, larynx and pharynx. Key components of the Pre-Inspection Veterinary Examination of

Stallions form are on the website. These results must be submitted to the IDHSC Registration Office by September 15, 2025.

2. By September 15, 2025 and the inspection date, the owner must submit current veterinary certificates to the IDHSC Registration Office confirming the stallion is free of:
 - a. Equine Infection Anemia (negative Coggins report) current within the last 6 months
 - b. Equine Viral Arteritis current within 90 days of inspection
 - c. Warmblood Fragile Foal Syndrome (carrier status is accepted and will be noted on results)
 - d. Proof of vaccines (Influenza (EIV), Equine Herpes Viruses 1 and 4 (EHV) minimum requirement) current within the last 6 months
3. Mandatory for ID stallions and IDSH stallions seeking preliminary approved status in the Irish Horse Register ONLY: Between August 15, 2025 and the inspection date, the owner must present a set of x-rays (radiographs) of the legs and feet of the stallion to the IDHSC veterinary panel.

Unsuitable Conditions for Stallions and Mares

The Irish Draught Horse Society of Canada aligns with Horse Sport Ireland's list of Unsuitable Conditions. Stallions with evidence of disease, injury, or physical abnormality likely to affect the animal's ability to contribute positively to the breed as a stallion are not eligible for approval.

The list below provides guidelines for those conditions that would generally be considered unsuitable by the Veterinary Panel. The list is not exhaustive. The appointed Veterinarians would be expected to make the final decision as a reasoned judgment based on their experience of examining stallions and their knowledge of the requirements of the Irish Draught Horse Society of Canada and the relevant studbooks at that point in time.

Respiratory Conditions

- Recurrent Laryngeal neuropathy
- Subepiglottic cyst
- Fourth branchial arch defects including rostral displacement of the palatopharyngeal arch
- Abnormal epiglottic cartilage
- Respiratory conditions including recurrent airway obstruction
- Abnormal inspiratory noise associated with any abnormal endoscopic findings

Pharyngeal/Digestive conditions

- Cleft palate
- Parrot mouth
- Wry nose
- Other dental conditions considered undesirable
- Umbilical hernia

Musculoskeletal conditions

- Osteochondrosis and other defects of endochondral ossification
- Subchondral bone cysts
- Osteoarthritis or periarticular new bone of the phalangeal joints (ringbone)
- Ossification of the collateral cartilages (sidebone)
- Osteoarthritis of the tarsus (bone spavin)

- Distension of the tarsus (bog spavin)
- Gross/Noticeable distension of the tarsal sheath (thoroughpin)
- Markedly asymmetric sized feet (will require radiographic examination)
- Defects of the navicular bone and associated structures
- Multiple (2 or more) or significant splints
- Bony enlargements (will require further evaluation with radiographs prior to acceptance. e.g. enlarged fetlock)
- Curb (plantar tarsal soft tissue enlargement)

Neurological conditions

- Cervical stenotic myelopathy
- Hyperflexion of the hindlimb (stringhalt)
- Shivering and polyneuritis equi

Dermal (skin) conditions

- Gross OR multiple sarcoids
- Dermal allergy (sweet itch)
- Scrotal hernia

Ocular conditions

- Blindness
- Anterior uveitis
- Cataract

Other

- Defective Genital organs including cryptorchidism
- Pathological cardiac murmurs (if mild may require further evaluation)
- Deafness
- Horses can also be excluded if they exhibit temperament deemed unsuitable in a stallion and showing evidence of vices

If there is evidence of surgery to correct one of the above conditions this must be identified and documented.

This is not a definitive list. Other conditions may be deemed to be undesirable and the final judgment rests with the IDHSC appointed Veterinarians. In those cases where there is disagreement refer to the appeals section of the registration rules.

Inspections

Prior to Arriving at Inspection Venue

- All horses are expected to be presented at show standard.
- Horses must be sufficiently trained and fit to take part in all aspects of the inspection.
- The horse should be in good condition, be well groomed and have well maintained hooves.
- Overnight stabling will be available at any venue chosen for inspections. This will be at the owner's cost.

Presentation and Turn Out

- All horses must attend inspection with their original IDHSC Passport.
- All horses must complete the veterinary examination and be cleared by the veterinarian to be presented for the conformation, movement, and athleticism assessment stages of the inspection.

Irish Draught Mare or Gelding Inspections

Irish Draught Horse mares/geldings of 3 years old or older are invited for inspection where they will be assessed on their pedigree, conformation, and movement.

Irish Draught mares that meet the requirements of the Inspection will be classified in Class 1 and those mares which achieve average scores of 80 or higher for conformation and movement will be awarded an additional 'Bronze' merit in 'Conformation and Movement'.

Additionally, approved mares may have their athleticism assessed by means of a loose jumping demonstration. 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-olds will be 1.00m in height and maximum 1.05m width.

Mares that achieve a score of 70 or higher in their athleticism demonstration may receive a 'Bronze' merit for 'Athleticism'. These merits demonstrate the added value of the mare for future sale of them or their progeny.

Irish Draught Sport Horse Mare or Gelding Inspections

Irish Draught Sport Horse mares/geldings of 3 years old or older are invited for inspection where they will be assessed on their pedigree, standard for conformation, type, movement, and athleticism. To be approved as an Irish Draught Sport Horse, a horse must score 70 or higher in conformation and 65 or higher in movement. Mares that meet the requirements of the Inspection will be classified "Approved Irish Draught Sport Horse". Approved Irish Draught Sport Horse mares will have the option to be assessed for athleticism.

Athleticism is assessed by means of a loose jumping demonstration. 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-olds will be 1.15m and width maximum 1.05m. Mares that score 80 in loose jumping will be awarded "one star" in show jumping.

Irish Draught Mare Grade-up (Supplementary) Register

Irish Draught Sport Horse mares shall be eligible for inspection for the Grade-up Register if they meet all pedigree requirements as stated in the registration rules. Inspectors determine approval for the Grade-up Register of mares exemplifying the guidelines of the Irish Draught breed standard and those offering potential for improvement to the Irish Draught breed.

Approved Irish Draught Sport Horse mares eligible for Grade Up Register will have the option to be assessed for athleticism as an Irish Draught Sport Horse.

Athleticism is assessed by means of a loose jumping demonstration. 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-olds will be 1.15m and width maximum 1.05m. Mares that score 80 in loose jumping will be awarded "Bronze Merit" in show jumping.

Irish Draught Stallion Inspections

Irish Draught Horse stallions of 3 years old or older are invited for inspection. Irish Draught stallions are assessed for pedigree, conformation characteristics, movement, and athleticism traits. Stallions have their athleticism assessed by means of a loose jumping demonstration. The jumping lane consists of three fences. 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, however the maximum height of the fences for 3-year-old stallions will be 1.00m.

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 re – presenting their stallion, whereby, they jump 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 for a bronze merit for their own performance in showjumping. Stallions that achieve the required minimum in the athleticism assessment 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.

Irish Draught Sport Horse Stallion Inspections

Irish Draught Horse stallions of 3 years old or older are invited for inspection. Irish Draught stallions are assessed for pedigree, conformation characteristics, movement, and athleticism traits. Stallions have their athleticism assessed by means of a loose jumping demonstration.

Stallions may be required to jump through the jumping lane at least six times. 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; however, the maximum height of the fence for 3- year-olds will be 1.20m. The owners of stallions that are 4 years or older that have selected to do this element under saddle on their application form will have their stallion's athleticism assessed by jumping the stallion over an age-appropriate jumping test.

Ridden Gait and Athleticism Assessment (Optional)

Stallions will be ridden in the indoor arena and their gaits will be assessed under saddle.

The stallion will then proceed to be assessed jumping under saddle over a course of 6 to 8 fences, including 2 doubles for stallions that are 5 years old and over. The test for 4-year-olds is the same course as the Irish Draught Stallions. Stallions will be jumped over the course of fences by their own rider first and then by a test rider appointed by Horse Sport Ireland. The height of the fences will be determined by the selection panel and will be age appropriate.

Other Terms and Conditions

- When horses are inspected subject to completion of registration requirements or other conditions, the inspection results will not be released until all conditions have been met.
- The owner and/or the handler presenting a horse for inspection shall not communicate with any member of the Inspection team except the IDHS (Canada)'s Technical Delegate before, during or after the inspection until the inspectors have signed off on their final decision with respect to the horse or unless requested by the inspectors.
- Where a horse is not approved on veterinary grounds (Stage 1, 2 and/or 3 of the inspection process), the owner may appeal the decision as per the registration rules.
- The results of all stages of the inspection are and remain in perpetuity the property of the Irish

Draught Horse Society of Canada, which may publish, share or communicate the results as it deems fit.

- Any photographs taken by representatives of the Irish Draught Horse Society of Canada prior to, during or following inspections are the property of Irish Draught Horse Society of Canada, which may publish, share or communicate the photographs as it deems fit.
- It is intended to publicly announce the provisional results of the inspections. The veterinary examination on the day of inspection and confirmed results will be subsequently IDHSC and/or affiliates' publications and/or websites/online.
- Substances that are listed on the FEI 'Equine Prohibited Substances List' (see www.feicleansport.org) are prohibited during the stallion inspection process. Blood and/or urine samples may be taken on the day of inspection and may be subject to screening for substances listed on the FEI 'Equine Prohibited Substances List' (see www.feicleansport.org). Blood and/or urine samples may also be stored and used for the purpose of research.
- IDHSC reserves the right to terminate any inspection for health and/or safety reasons of the horse or participants.
- Extra hair samples may be taken for future parentage verification.

*FAILURE TO SATISFY THE ABOVE CONDITIONS MAY RESULT IN DISQUALIFICATION
FROM INSPECTION/CLASSIFICATION.*

Appeals

Inspection decisions may be appealed depending on the circumstances. Refer to the registration rules for conditions and processes of appeals.