



Irish Draught Sport Horse Registration Rules

Contents

1	Guiding Principle	2
2	Date of Effect	2
3	Definitions	3
4	Purpose	3
4.1	Basic Objectives of Selection	3
4.2	Characteristics of the Irish Draught Sport Horse	3
5	Sections of the Irish Draught Sport Horse Studbook	3
6	Registration	4
6.1	Eligibility	4
6.2	Definition of “Purebred Irish Draught”	4
6.3	Definition of “Irish Draught Sport Horse”, also known as “Partbred Irish Draught Horse”	4
6.4	Proof of Pedigree	4
7	Inspection for Breeding Stock Approval	5
7.1	Eligibility	5
7.2	Classification	5
7.2.1	Approved Irish Draught Sport Horse:.....	5
7.2.2	Unapproved Irish Draught Sport Horses:.....	5
7.2.3	Horses excused from inspection for safety or animal welfare reasons.....	5
8	Re-Presentations/Appeals Procedures for Inspections	5
8.1	Stallions that do not meet the radiograph requirements.....	6
8.2	Horses that do not meet the Clinical Veterinary Requirements.....	6
8.3	Horses that do not meet the conformation, movement, athleticism or requirements	6
8.4	Horses that are excused due to veterinary, safety or animal welfare concerns	6
9	Recognition of Performance	7
10	Cross-Registration/Endorsement into and from the IDHSC Studbooks.....	7
10.1	Cross-Registration/endorsement into the IDHSC Studbooks	7
10.2	Cross-Registration/Endorsement into sister society studbooks.....	8



Irish Draught Sport Horse Registration Rules

The Irish Draught Horse Society of Canada registers and recognizes purebred and partbred Irish Draught horses through a three-step process:

1. **Registration**, which provides independent confirmation of the horse's breeding. This is accomplished through DNA testing or blood-typing and results in horses being designated as Irish Draught Sport Horse.
2. **Inspection (selection)**, which provides independent evaluation that the horse conforms breeding objective for Irish Draught Sport Horses. This is only open to registered horses, is accomplished through formal inspection of the horse, and results in horses being classified as Approved Irish Draught Sport Horse. Certain Approved Irish Draught Sport Horse mares may also be designated for entry into the Irish Draught Grade-up Register.
3. **Recognition of Performance**, which provides specific recognition for performance success of mares, geldings and stallions holding the highest levels of approval for breeding.

1 Guiding Principle

The Irish Draught Horse Society of Canada (IDHSC) is dedicated to the preservation of the Irish Draught Horse, a rare breed. In recognition of the endangered status of the breed, the Society actively supports the establishment of a worldwide book for the Purebred Irish Draught and close cooperation among the Irish Draught Horse Societies worldwide (Ireland, United States, Great Britain, Australia, and others).

In response to the Breed Standard statement that the Irish Draught "is a foundation breed that, when crossed with other breeds, will produce all types of leisure and performance horses". The IDHSC, like sister societies in the US, Great Britain and Australia also maintains this studbook in order to record and promote part-bred Irish Draught horses, also known as Irish Draught Sport Horses (IDSH)

"A single, worldwide standard for Irish Draught registration and selection."

The IDHSC, in collaboration with the Traditional Irish Horse Association of Ireland, identifies IDSH that meet pedigree requirements to be designated "Traditional Irish Horses (TIH)".

In support of these objectives, the IDHSC will attempt to maintain consistency with other societies in the following order of precedence:

1. The Irish Horse Register (Ireland)
2. The Irish Draught Horse Society of North America (United States)
3. The Irish Draught Horse Society of Great Britain
4. (Other societies)

2 Date of Effect

These rules take effect as of **April 1, 2023**.



Irish Draught Sport Horse Registration Rules

3 Definitions

The following definitions are provided to assist readers in understanding this document:

- **Board/Board of Directors:** In these rules, “the Board” or “the Board of Directors” refers to the Board of Directors of the Irish Draught Horse Society of Canada.
- **Inspection:** also known as selection. The process by which eligible horses are reclassified into Class 1, Class 2, Class 3, the Grade Up register and potentially, Approved Irish Draught Sport Horse.
- **Merit:** Additional recognition of a horse’s achievement through its own competition record or that of its progeny. Only Class 1 and Class 2 horses are eligible for Merit.
- **Partbred/Partbred Irish Draught:** Also known as “Irish Draught Sport Horse”. A horse with verified minimum 12.5% (1/8) but less than 100% Irish Draught blood.
- **Inspection:** Also known as selection. The process by which eligible horses are reclassified into Class 1, Class 2, Class 3, the Grade Up register and potentially, Approved Irish Draught Sport Horse.
- **Sister Society:** another organization operating an Irish Draught Horse studbook recognized by the Studbook of Origin. Currently, in addition to the operator of the Irish Draught Studbook in Ireland (Horse Sport Ireland), these societies are the Irish Draught Horse Society of Great Britain and the Irish Draught Horse Society of North America.
- **Studbook of Origin:** The Irish Draught Studbook of Ireland (in 2023, managed on behalf of the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine by Horse Sport Ireland)

4 Purpose

The Irish Draught Sport Horse Studbook of Canada is one of two studbooks maintained by the IDHSC. This book records Canada’s partbred Irish Draught horses and recognizes horses that are approved for breeding and geldings that are considered to be exemplary of the breed.

4.1 Basic Objectives of Inspection

To breed horses of excellent conformation that exemplify the role of the Irish Draught as a foundation breed that, when crossed with other breeds, produces all types of leisure and performance horses.

4.2 Characteristics of the Irish Draught Sport Horse

The Irish Draught Sport Horse is a versatile, powerful and athletic animal with substance and quality. It has a pleasant head, good bone and a short shin, good spring of rib, strong loins and hindquarters and an active powerful stride. Known for its good temperament, docility and willing nature, it has a robust constitution and is inherently sound.

5 Sections of the Irish Draught Sport Horse Studbook

The Irish Draught Sport Horse Studbook consists of one section that records all registered Irish Draught Sport Horses. There are three classes for Irish Draught Sport Horses:



Irish Draught Sport Horse Registration Rules

- a) Approved Irish Draught Sport Horses: This class is for Irish Draught Sport Horse stallions, mares and geldings that have met all requirements of the inspection process as outlined in [section 7](#).
- b) Unapproved Irish Draught Sport Horses: This class is for Irish Draught Sport Horse stallions, mares and geldings that have not met the requirements of the inspection process as outlined in [section 7](#).
- c) Uninspected Irish Draught Sport Horses: This class is for Irish Draught Sport Horse stallions, mares and geldings that have not been inspected.

6 Registration

6.1 Eligibility

- a) Registration is open to all horses with a minimum of 1/8th (one/eighth) purebred Irish Draught blood as defined in paragraph [6.2](#), but is not a Purebred Irish Draught as defined in [paragraph 6.2](#). Pedigree must be proven as per paragraph [6.4](#).
- b) Horses will be registered regardless of when or how they were conceived, (e.g., via live cover, artificial insemination, embryo transfer, etc.) so long as they meet the requirements for Irish Draught parentage.

6.2 Definition of “Purebred Irish Draught”

A horse is considered a purebred Irish Draught if it is designated as such in the Irish Draught Horse studbook maintained by Canada, by one of the sister societies or in the studbook of origin.

6.3 Definition of “Irish Draught Sport Horse”, also known as “Partbred Irish Draught Horse”

- a) A horse is considered an Irish Draught Sport Horse if, as per paragraph [6.1](#), is more than 1/8th Irish Draught, but not a purebred Irish Draught. These horses are also known as “Partbred Irish Draught Horses”
- b) Where a horse’s pedigree has undocumented parentage but was approved as Grade C or Supplementary Irish Draught by a sister society, that horse shall be deemed to have 50% Irish Draught blood.
- c) Where a horse’s pedigree has undocumented parentage but was approved as Grade B, Appendix Irish Draught, or entered into the Grade-up Register by a sister society, that horse shall be deemed to have 75% Irish Draught blood.
- d) When there is a question as to a horse’s eligibility for registration due to pedigree irregularities, the Board may review the horse’s pedigree and, in its sole discretion, grant or refuse registration. This decision cannot be appealed.

6.4 Proof of Pedigree

Horses must have their parentage verified by DNA testing, or if verification cannot be done by DNA testing, blood typing shall be used.



Irish Draught Sport Horse Registration Rules

7 Inspection for Breeding Stock Approval

7.1 Eligibility

- a) Any Irish Draught Sport Horse is eligible for inspection.
- b) Horses must be fully registered or cross-registered with the Society before they are eligible for inspection as described in [section 7](#).
- c) The IDHSC reserves the right to excuse a horse from the inspection process if there is agreement among the inspection party (technical delegate, inspectors, veterinary) that there is a safety or animal welfare concern. In these cases, the IDHSC Board will assign the horse an interim classification, based on advice from the inspection party. This classification will only be revised in accordance with [section 8](#).
- d) Horses that fail inspection may appeal the decision as described in [section 8](#).

7.2 Classification

In order to be reclassified, Irish Draught Sport Horses must undergo and pass a formal inspection according to rules and procedures set by the Society.

7.2.1 Approved Irish Draught Sport Horse:

Horses that meet veterinary requirements as well as the standard for conformation, type, movement, and athleticism will be classified “Approved Irish Draught Sport Horse”. To be approved as an Irish Draught Sport Horse, a horse must be of excellent conformation and must conform to the guidelines of the Irish Draught breed standard in the context of the stated characteristics of the Irish Draught Sport Horse (see [paragraph 4.2](#)).

In accordance with section [6.4](#) of the Irish Draught horse studbook, mares and stallions may also be designated “Approved Irish Draught Sport Horse”.

7.2.2 Unapproved Irish Draught Sport Horses

Horses that are inspected but fail to meet required standard for approval will be classified “Unapproved Irish Draught Sport Horse”.

7.2.3 Horses excused from inspection for safety or animal welfare reasons

In cases where a horse is excused from inspection for safety or animal welfare reasons ([section 7.1 \(c\)](#)), the horse will be assigned an interim classification by the Board. Based on advice from the inspection party. This classification will only be revised in accordance with [section 8.4](#).

8 Re-Presentations/Appeals Procedures for Inspections

When horses are presented for inspection and are not designated Approved Irish Draught Sport Horse, the owner may either appeal the inspection decision or may have one opportunity to re-present the horse for inspection, as described in the following paragraphs. The results of an appeal will replace the results of the first inspection, regardless of whether the results represent an improvement or not.



Irish Draught Sport Horse Registration Rules

8.1 Stallions that do not meet the radiograph requirements

Owners of stallions that are deemed by the IDHSC Radiography Veterinary Panel to not meet the radiograph requirements may appeal the findings of the examination once. The conditions of the appeal are as follows:

- a) The owner of the stallion must apply to IDHSC to appeal the findings of the radiographic examination Within one month of the original finding in writing to the registration officer of the IDHSC.
- b) The appeal will involve the examination of the original radiographs by a second Radiography Veterinary Panel chosen by the IDHSC.
- c) The second Radiography Veterinary Panel may require a new set of radiographs be taken;
- d) The full costs of the re-examination will be borne by the owner of the stallion.

The decision of the second Radiography Veterinary Panel shall be final.

8.2 Horses that do not meet the Clinical Veterinary Requirements

Owners of horses that do not meet the clinical veterinary requirements may appeal the findings of the veterinary examination once. The conditions of the appeal are as follows:

- a) the owner of the horse must apply to have the horse re-examined within one month of the original examination in writing to the registration officer of the IDHSC;
- b) the owner of the horse shall arrange, at their own expense, to have the horse examined by a veterinary practice nominated by the IDHSC;
- c) the re-examination shall only be carried out in respect of the condition(s) for which the horse originally failed the clinical veterinary examination.

The decision of the veterinary practice nominated by IDHSC, in respect of each examination shall be final.

8.3 Horses that do not meet the conformation, movement, athleticism or requirements

The owners of horses that do not meet the conformation, type, movement, athleticism requirements will be given the opportunity to re-present the horse on one occasion at a subsequent inspection date.

- a) the re-inspection shall only be carried out in respect of the criteria for which the horse originally did not meet requirements;
- b) the cost of the second inspection shall be borne by the owner;

The decision of the second inspection panel shall be final.

8.4 Horses that are excused due to veterinary, safety or animal welfare concerns

Horses that are requested to withdraw from the inspection process due to safety or animal welfare concerns under [paragraph 7.1\(c\)](#) may be re-presented on one occasion at a subsequent inspection date. The conditions of the re-presentation are as follows:

- a) The cost of the second inspection shall be borne by the owner.



Irish Draught Sport Horse Registration Rules

- b) The owner may submit a rationale to adjust the horse's interim classification to the IDHSC Board, which will make a final decision on the matter. The IDHSC Board's decision on adjusting the interim classification will be final.
- c) The interim classification will be replaced by the decision of inspectors at the second inspection.

The decision of the second inspection panel shall be final.

9 Recognition of Performance

Horses that have been designated the highest level of approval (Approved Irish Draught Sport Horse) are eligible to be assigned additional recognition for performance as per the Recognition of Performance Rules published from time to time by the IDHSC.

10 Cross-Registration/Endorsement into and from the IDHSC Studbooks

The harmonized Irish Draught studbooks recognize registration, selection and performance recognition accorded through one another's studbooks. This allows for freer movement of genetic materials globally, supporting conservation efforts of Irish Draught societies worldwide.

In parallel, the IDHSC has cross-registration/Endorsement agreements related to IDSH with:

- a) **The Irish Draught Horse Society of North America:** where Canadian IDSH meet IDHSNA pedigree requirements, the IDHSNA will cross-register the horse into its IDSH studbook and recognize results of Canadian inspections.
- b) **The Irish Horse Register:** All Canadian IDSH are eligible for entry into the Irish Horse Register. When the Canadian IDSH meet IHR pedigree requirements (One parent is Irish draught, the other is from the main section of a World Breeding Federation of Sport Horses recognized studbook); mares achieving approved status in Canada will be granted Select status in Ireland and Stallions achieving approved status in Canada and meeting current ISH veterinary requirements will be granted Not Approved 1 status (can be upgraded to Approved status should stallion meet performance requirements) in Ireland.
- c) IDSH that meet the following criteria will receive the designation of "**Traditional Irish Horse**":
 - The horse is registered In Canada as an IDSH; AND
 - Only the following breeds are recorded in the horse's pedigree: Irish Sport Horse, Irish Draught, Jockey Club or equivalent registered Thoroughbred, Connemara Pony; AND
 - The horse has no unknown ancestors in the first two generations; AND
 - all Irish Sport Horse ancestors of the horse, from the second generation back with unknown or partial pedigree were born before 1982.

10.1 Cross-Registration/endorsement into the IDHSC Studbooks

- a) Members' horses that have been previously registered and/or inspected with a sister society may be cross- registered or endorsed into the appropriate studbook in Canada, provided the horse meets the requirements of the rules of the IDHSC and sufficient documentary evidence is provided



Irish Draught Sport Horse Registration Rules

to the satisfaction of the IDHSC, including:

- Original registration documents from the sister society
 - Proof of pedigree as described in paragraph [6.4](#)
 - Horse identification documents
 - Inspection documentation (where applicable)
- b) When there is a question as to a horse's eligibility for cross-registration or endorsement, the Board may review the pedigree and inspection results of the horse and may in its sole discretion grant or refuse cross- recognition.

10.2 Cross-Registration/Endorsement into sister society studbooks

In support of its guiding principle, the IDHSC will assist members in efforts to have their Irish Draught or Irish Draught Sport Horses cross-registered into or endorsed by other registries or studbooks.