



&

Connolly's RED MILLS



Champion of Champions

Criteria for qualification - 2025



General information for Qualifying Shows

Nine qualifying shows will participate in this year's **Showing Ireland and RED MILLS Champion of Champions League**, culminating in the final which will be held at Wicklow Hunt Show on 13th July 2025 with a prize fund of over €5K sponsored by Connolly's RED MILLS.

There will be three finals this year:

- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| 1) Weighted Hunter final | <i>Three horses may qualify at each show for this section.</i> |
| 2) Riding Horse final | <i>Two horses to qualify at each show for this section.</i> |
| 3) Amateur final | <i>Two horses to qualify at each show for this section, however if 1st & 2nd are already qualified, we will take a third placed combination for qualification.</i> |

There are 6-7 possible combinations with which to qualify from each show.

NOTE:

- Showing Ireland and RED MILLS will not interfere with the running of your show; our only intent is to create a league which will support and promote entries of the ridden show hunters in each qualifying show.
- RED MILLS along with their sister brands Foran Equine and Carr & Day & Martin will present rosettes and prizes in kind to all qualifying combinations on each show day. Prizes will be sent prior to your show.
- RED MILLS/Showing Ireland will provide signage/advertising to be used on the day.
- Showing Ireland will make every effort to attend each qualifying show.

Qualification Criteria for Weighted Hunters

The **Weighted Hunter** section usually consists of the following:

- 4yr old class (all types of weighted hunters)
- Heavy Weight
- Middle Weight
- Light Weight
- Small Hunter

Depending on your show, you may or may not include a specific 4yr old class or small hunter within this section. That is fine, we can take 4yr olds from any class above based on your schedule and the judge's discretion on the day.

We also recognise that some weighted classes may be combined depending on entries.

After the above classes are judged, 1st and 2nd placed combinations from each class should go forward to a **Weighted Hunter Championship directly after the above classes are completed.**

NB: All combinations wishing to qualify must compete in the Championship.

TO QUALIFY

Max. three horses can qualify from this championship:

- 1) Champion
- 2) Reserve Champion
- 3) Top placed 4yr old (*IF NOT ALREADY CHAMPION OR RESERVE*)

ADDITIONAL NOTES RE: 4YR OLDS:

- If Champion and Reserve Champion are both 4yr olds then these 2 horses will qualify for the final
- If a 4yr is chosen to be Champion or reserve champion, along with an older horse then 2 these two horses will qualify for the final
- If a 4yr old is NOT Champion or Reserve, then it can be left to the judge's discretion to pick another 4yr old horse to qualify for the final. In this case 3 horses will qualify for the final.

*****Competitors must have passports available. The passport numbers of all prize winners will be recorded on the qualifying dates and then must be produced and confirmed on the day of the final.

Qualification Criteria for Riding Horses

The **Riding Horse Section** usually consists of the following types of classes but may vary from show to show:

- Riding Horse classes (small and large)
- Cob classes
- Coloured Horse Classes
- Racehorse to Riding Horse Class
- Irish Draught Ridden Class

After the above classes are judged, 1st and 2nd placed combinations from each class should go forward to a **Riding Horse Championship directly after above classes are completed**

NB: All combinations wishing to qualify must compete in the Championship.

Champion and Reserve Champion will qualify for the final.

*****Competitors must have passports available. The passport numbers of all prize winners will be recorded on the qualifying dates and then must be produced and confirmed on the day of the final.

Qualification Criteria for Amateur Class

CRITERIA FOR QUALIFICATION:

- 1st and 2nd placed combinations will qualify in the Amateur Class for the final
- If 1st and 2nd place has already qualified the qualification will be offered to the 3rd placed competitor
- Qualification will go no further than 3rd place

If your show finds it necessary to split the Amateur Class due to high entries and make two Amateur Classes, (the ideal number of entries in one class is 15), then 1st and 2nd placed combinations should go forward to an **Amateur Championship directly after the 2 classes are judged.**

Champion and Reserve Champion will qualify for the final.

NB: Amateurs may compete in other classes but **CANNOT** qualify for **BOTH** finals

*****Competitors must have passports available. The passport numbers of all prize winners will be recorded on the qualifying dates and then must be produced and confirmed on the day of the final.

Amateur Guidelines

- **It is expected that exhibitors will compete in the true spirit and fair play of these rules.**
- **Anyone who has operated as a professional showing producer or show rider will always be deemed to be professional rider.**

DEFINITION OF AMATEUR CLASSES/RIDERS

To be defined as an amateur and eligible for participation in these classes, a person must not:

1. Have engaged in livery, buying, selling, dealing, or hiring horses as a means of deriving a main source of income for the past five years;
2. Have accepted remuneration as a main source of income whether it be monetary or goods in kind for employment in connection with horses in a racing, show jumping, showing, livery stable or riding school in the past five years;
3. Have shown a horse owned by a company or a commercial firm, or a horse for which his or her immediate family accepts livery or training charges from a person outside immediate concern;
4. The horse entered in the class should be the regular mount of the rider stated on the Entry Form and must not have been competed by a professional in the current showing season and may not be competed by a professional in any other class at the show.

It is the responsibility of each owner to satisfy Showing Ireland that the owner and rider are true bona fide amateurs.

It is the responsibility of each owner to ensure that the owner and rider meet the eligibility requirements. If an owner is found in breach of this rule, then they will not be permitted to attend the final.

NEW for 2025

Connolly's RED MILLS Grand Slam of Showing

Connolly's RED MILLS is introducing an exciting new initiative for 2025

This ambitious challenge will reward the ultimate showing combination: Any horse and rider duo that successfully achieves the following:

1. Wins their class at Balmoral,
2. Secures victory in one of the three Champion of Champions Finals,
3. And triumphs in their class at Dublin



Will be awarded **1 tonne of RED MILLS horse feed.**



To be eligible for the Connolly's RED MILLS
Grand Slam of Showing:

- The rider must be a member of Showing Ireland before Balmoral Show
- Same horse and rider combination for all three classes
- The three classes must be won in the same calendar year.





Points Awards 2025



The 2025 points awards collection is from the 1st April - 30th September inclusive. It is open to Showing Ireland Members.

All shows are eligible for point collection during this period.