



Champion of Champions

Criteria for qualification - 2026



General information for Qualifying Shows

Ten qualifying shows will participate in this year's Showing Ireland and Connolly's RED MILLS Champion of Champions Series. Culminating at the final which will be held in Wicklow Summer Show on the 19th July and has a prize fund of over €5,500 sponsored by Connolly's RED MILLS

There will be three finals this year:

- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| 1) Weighted Hunter final | <i>A maximum of three horses may qualify at each show for this section.</i> |
| 2) Ridden Horse final | <i>A maximum of two horses to qualify at each show for this section.</i> |
| 3) Amateur final | <i>A maximum of 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 qualifying shows 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 will present rosettes and prizes in kind to all qualifying combinations on each show day.

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 WILD CARD AWARD in the Championship****

If any of the above participants have already qualified for the final at another venue, **then one WILD CARD qualification place** can be awarded at the judge's discretion to a combination not already qualified

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 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 Ridden Horses

The **Ridden 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 **Ridden 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. However if already qualified (see below note re WILD CARD)

****ADDITIONAL WILD CARD AWARD in the Ridden Horse Championship****

If any of the above participants have already qualified for the final at another venue, then one WILD CARD qualification place can be awarded at the judge's discretion to a combination not already qualified.

*****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 from each 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.

Showing Ireland Amateur Rules 2026

General

It is expected that all Exhibitors will compete in the true spirit of fair play and sportsmanship. Showing Ireland reserves the right, at its absolute discretion, to review and reclassify an Exhibitor's Amateur status or entry at any time should it be deemed necessary.

Ownership

All owners must be correctly registered in the horse's passport in accordance with the most recent Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM) regulations.

Definitions

Professional Show Producer / Trainer / Rider

A Professional is defined as any person who undertakes the preparation, training, keeping at livery, production of equines or riders, or who competes as a show rider or jobbing rider, whether full-time or part-time, for financial gain or reward.

Professional Show Groom

A Professional Show Groom is any person who is employed (full-time, part-time or self-employed) and who receives remuneration, monetary or otherwise, for the preparation, training, keeping or production of equines.

Commercial Branding & Sponsorship

No commercial branding may be visible in the ring during any Amateur class.

This restriction applies to:

- Equines
- Riders
- Attendees or assistants

Care must be taken not to market or promote sponsorship in any way that could be attributed to an Amateur competitor. Any breach of this rule will result in the loss of Amateur status.

(A) Professional Showing Status

Any person who has operated as a Professional Showing Producer, Show Rider or Show Groom will, for the purposes of these Rules, always be deemed a Professional, including when acting in the capacity of a Groom.

If there is any doubt regarding status, competitors must contact the Showing Ireland Office for clarification prior to competing.

(B) Amateur Status

A person is deemed an Amateur for the purposes of Showing Ireland if he or she has not, during the current or previous season:

(i)

Engaged in showing livery or production, buying, selling, dealing or hiring of horses in any commercial capacity, or owned or stood a stallion at stud, or taught or coached for financial gain.

(ii)

Received remuneration, whether monetary or goods in kind, for employment in connection with horses in showing livery, production, teaching or coaching.

(Instruction within Pony Club or Riding Club activities is excepted.)

This rule does not apply to providers of ancillary equestrian services, such as farriers, veterinary surgeons, therapists, or those working in purely administrative roles.

(iii)

Shown a horse owned by, sponsored by, or associated with a company or commercial firm, or shown a horse for which a member of the exhibitor's immediate family accepts livery, production or training charges from a person outside the immediate family, in any showing classes, whether under Showing Ireland rules or otherwise.

(iv)

Acted as a Brand Ambassador in any showing classes, whether under Showing Ireland rules or otherwise.

(v)

Competed in Amateur classes on an Exhibit that has been ridden by a Professional Rider in any class, whether under Showing Ireland rules or otherwise, during the current year and the following year.

This rule does **not** apply:

- Where the horse was professionally produced and ridden only by a Showing Professional during the previous season, or
- Where the horse has subsequently been sold and re-registered under new ownership.

Working Hunter and Side Saddle classes are exempt from this rule.

(vi)

If a competitor regularly rides or competes equines that are not stabled at their home premises, Amateur status may be reviewed by the Showing Ireland Committee.

Riding or competing multiple horses, or riding regularly for one or more owners, may result in the competitor being deemed Professional.

Conduct on the Showground

At any time while on a showground, where an Exhibit is entered in an Amateur class, Showing Professionals — including Professional Show Grooms — are not permitted to:

- Ride
- Work-in (in any form)
- Teach or coach
- Compete
- Enter the ring to groom or strip the horse in relation to that Exhibit.

Connolly's RED MILLS Grand Slam of Showing

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



PLACING	PTS
1ST	10
2ND	8
3RD	6
4TH	5
5TH	4
6TH	3

The 2026 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.