

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 Class 1 or Irish Draught Sport Horse;
2. **Selection**, which provides independent evaluation that the horse conforms to the Irish Draught Horse breed standard. This is only open to registered horses, is accomplished through formal inspection of the horse, and results in horses being designated as Irish Draught Class 1, Irish Draught Class 2, Irish Draught Class 3, or 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.

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1 Guiding Principle: A single, worldwide standard for Irish Draught registration

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 others¹).

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 January 1, 2012.

3 The Irish Draught Horse Studbook of Canada

The Irish Draught Horse Studbook of Canada is one of two studbooks maintained by the IDHSC. This book records Canada's purebred Irish Draught horses, and recognizes horses that are approved for breeding and geldings that are considered to be exemplary of the breed (Class 1 and 2 Irish Draughts).

3.1 Basic Objectives of Selection

To breed Irish Draught horses with conformation, movement and temperament that conforms to the breed standard, which will make good quality, sound and versatile horses.

3.2 Characteristics of the Breed

The Irish Draught 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. The Irish Draught horse is a foundation breed that, when crossed with other breeds, will produce all types of leisure and performance horses.

3.2.1 Height:

Ideally Irish Draughts should stand between 158cms (15.2hh) and a maximum of 170cms (16.3hh) at maturity.

3.2.2 Bone:

Approximately 23 centimetres (9 inches) of strong, clean, flat bone.

3.2.3 Head:

Should be pleasant, not coarse or hatchet like with plenty of room between the jaw bones. Wide forehead and kind eyes, set well apart, and with large quality ears.

3.2.4 Neck:

Good length of rein with head well set on, neck should be correctly muscled and well shaped.

3.2.5 Front legs:

Long muscular forearms, short cannon bones with plenty of strong clean, flat bone, not back at the knee or tied in below the knee. Pasterns should be in proportion with good hoof pastern axis. Hooves should be of equal size, hard and sound with plenty of room at the heel. They should not be boxy, over large or flat.

3.2.6 Shoulders:

¹ Organizations registering, inspecting and holding the studbooks for the Irish Draught Horse in Ireland, the United States, Great Britain, Australia and in other countries recognized by the holder of the studbook in Ireland, are considered to be "sister societies".

A sloping shoulder neither loaded, nor too heavy, nor too short, with well defined withers well set back. Body, back and hindquarters: Deep girth with a good spring of rib, strong back, loins and quarters. The croup and buttocks should be long and gently sloping. Hips should not be too wide.

3.2.7 Hind legs:

Strong gaskins, well shaped clean hocks set into short shins. Should not be cow-hocked or wide apart at the hocks.

3.2.8 Action:

Should be straight and free not heavy or ponderous. Movement should be active and strong, showing good flexion of joints and freedom of the shoulders.

3.2.9 Colour:

Any strong whole colour including bay, grey, chestnut, black, brown and dun. Excessive white markings are not desirable.

3.3 Sections of the Irish Draught Horse Studbook

The Irish Draught Horse Studbook comprises two sections:

a) The Main Section

b) The Supplementary Section

3.3.1 The Main Section of the Irish Draught Horse Studbook

The Main Section of the Irish Draught Horse Studbook records all registered Irish Draught Horses.

3.3.1.1 Classes for Irish Draught Stallions

There are six classes for Irish Draught stallions as follows:

- a) Registered Irish Draught (RID): This class is for Irish Draught stallions that were approved for breeding prior to 2012. This class is now closed.
- b) Purebred Irish Draught (ID): This class is for Irish Draught stallions that as of 2012, had not passed inspection. This class is now closed.
- c) Irish Draught Class 1: This class is for Irish Draught stallions that pass both veterinary and conformation/movement/athleticism phases of inspection.
- d) Irish Draught Class 2: This class is for Irish Draught stallions that pass only the veterinary phase of inspection.
- e) Irish Draught Class 3: This class is for Irish Draught stallions that did not pass the veterinary phase of inspection².
- f) Uninspected: This class is for Irish Draught colts and stallions that have not yet been inspected or that are not eligible for inspection. This class was formerly known as "Class 4".

3.3.1.2 Classes for Irish Draught Mares

There are six classes for Irish Draught mares as follows:

- a) Registered Irish Draught (RID): This class is for Irish Draught mares that were approved for breeding prior to 2012. This class is now closed.
- b) Purebred Irish Draught: This class is for Irish Draught mares that as of 2012, had not passed inspection. This class is now closed.
- c) Irish Draught Class 1: This class is for Irish Draught mares that pass both veterinary and conformation/movement/athleticism phases of inspection.
- d) Irish Draught Class 2: This class is for Irish Draught mares that pass only the veterinary phase of inspection.
- e) Irish Draught Class 3: This class is for Irish Draught mares that did not pass the veterinary phase of inspection³.
- f) Uninspected: This class is for Irish Draught mares that have not yet been inspected or that are not eligible for inspection. This class was formerly known as "Class 4".

3.3.1.3 Classes for Irish Draught Geldings

² Note that only stallions that pass the veterinary phase of inspection are permitted to undergo the conformation/ movement/ athleticism phase of inspection.

³ Note that only mares that pass the veterinary phase of inspection are permitted to undergo the conformation/ movement/ athleticism phase of inspection.

There are six classes for Irish Draught geldings as follows:

- a) Registered Irish Draught (RID): This class is for Irish Draught geldings that were inspected and approved prior to 2012. This class is now closed.
- b) Purebred Irish Draught: This class is for Irish Draught geldings that as of 2012, had not been approved through inspection. This class is now closed.
- c) Irish Draught Class 1: This class is for Irish Draught Geldings that pass both veterinary and conformation/movement/athleticism phases of inspection.
- d) Irish Draught Class 2: This class is for Irish Draught geldings that pass only the veterinary phase of inspection.
- e) Irish Draught Class 3: This class is for Irish Draught geldings that did not pass the veterinary phase of inspection⁴.
- f) Uninspected: This class is for Irish Draught geldings that have not yet been inspected or that are not eligible for inspection. This class was formerly known as “Class 4”.

3.3.1.4 Classes for Irish Draught Foals

There are two classes for Irish Draught foals as follows:

- a) Purebred Irish Draught: This class is for Irish Draught foals that as of 2012, had not been approved through inspection. This class is now closed.
- b) Uninspected: This class is for Irish Draught foals that have not yet been inspected or that are not eligible for inspection. This class was formerly known as “Class 4”.

3.3.2 The Supplementary Section of the Irish Draught Horse Studbook

The Supplementary Section of the Irish Draught Horse Studbook records mares whose progeny by an RID, Class 1 or Class 2 Irish Draught stallion, will be eligible for entry into the uninspected class of the Main Section of the Irish Draught Horse Studbook, and are eligible to be presented for inspection.

3.3.2.1 Classes for the Supplementary Section of the Irish Draught Horse Studbook

There are two classes in the Supplementary Section of the Irish Draught Horse Studbook:

- a) Appendix Irish Draught (AID): This class is for mares that were classified as AID prior to 2012. This class is now closed.
- b) Grade-up Register: This class is for Irish Draught Sport Horse mares that meet pedigree and inspection requirements as described in paragraph [6.3](#).

4 The Irish Draught Sport Horse Studbook of Canada

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 Selection

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.

4.3 Sections of the Irish Draught Sport Horse Studbook

The Irish Draught Sport Horse Studbook comprises two sections:

⁴ Note that only mares that pass the veterinary phase of inspection are permitted to undergo the conformation/ movement/ athleticism phase of inspection.

- a) Approved Irish Draught Sport Horses, which records Irish Draught Sport Horse stallions, mares and geldings that have met all requirements of the inspection process as outlined in paragraph [6.4](#); and
- b) Unapproved Irish Draught Sport Horses, which records Irish Draught Sport Horse stallions, mares and geldings that have not met the requirements of the inspection process as outlined in paragraph [6.4](#).

5 Registration

5.1 Eligibility

5.1.1 Registration is open to all horses with a minimum of 1/8th (one/eighth) purebred Irish Draught blood as defined in paragraph [5.2](#). Irish Draught blood must be proven as per paragraph [5.4](#).

5.1.2 Horses will be registered regardless of when or how they were conceived, (e.g., via live cover, artificial insemination, embryo transfer, etc.) as long as they meet the requirements for Irish Draught parentage.

5.2 Definition of “Purebred Irish Draught”

5.2.1 A horse is considered a purebred Irish Draught if, as per paragraph [5.4](#) its parents are

- any combination of ID, RID⁵, Class 1, Class 2, Class 3, Uninspected Irish Draught horses OR
- an RID, Class 1 or Class 2 stallion, and an AID mare OR
- an RID, Class 1 or Class 2 stallion, and a mare listed in the Irish Draught Grade-up Register.

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

5.3.1 Horses that are registered but do not meet the definition for purebreds (paragraph [5.2](#)) shall be considered Irish Draught Sport Horses. These horses are also known as “Partbred Irish Draught Horses”

5.3.2 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.

5.3.3 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.

5.4 Proof of Pedigree

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

6 Inspection for Breeding Stock Approval

6.1 General Pre-Inspection Requirements

6.1.1 Horses must be fully registered or cross-registered with the Society before they are eligible for inspection as described in paragraphs [6.2](#), [6.3](#), and/or [6.4](#).

6.1.2 Failure to pass inspection as described in paragraph 5 does not revoke registration.

6.1.3 Horses that fail inspection may be re-presented for inspection once, or may appeal the inspection decision as described in paragraph [6.5](#).

6.2 Inspection of Irish Draught Horses

6.2.1 Eligibility

- a) Consistent with the Rules and Procedures of the Irish Horse Register, candidates for Class 1, Class 2 or Class 3 status must be registered with the IDHSC as Purebred Irish Draughts (Uninspected or Class 4) or as Irish Draught (ID) and have proven parentage as depicted in the following chart:

⁵ For the purposes of this document, “RID” is used to denote RID, RID/GB, RID/CAN and any other equivalent variations on the RID designation that are developed as part of harmonization of the sister societies into the worldwide book.

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<u>Sire</u>	<u>Dam</u>				
	RID	Class 1, Class 2	Class 3	Class 4	AID, Grade-up Register
RID	Eligible for Class 1, 2 or 3	Eligible for Class 1, 2 or 3	Uninspected	Uninspected	Eligible for Class 1, 2 or 3
Class 1, Class 2	Eligible for Class 1, 2 or 3	Eligible for Class 1, 2 or 3	Uninspected	Uninspected	Eligible for Class 1, 2 or 3
Class 3	Uninspected	Uninspected	Uninspected	Uninspected	Uninspected
Class 4	Uninspected	Uninspected	Uninspected	Uninspected	Uninspected

- b) In cases where a Class 4 stallion or mare with progeny is subsequently inspected and reclassified into Class 1 or Class 2, the progeny's eligibility for inspection will be adjusted to reflect the new classification of the sire or dam.
- c) AMNESTY FOR PROGENY OF UNINSPECTED MARES: Progeny of uninspected Irish Draught Mares by RID., Class 1, Section 1 - S1, or Class 2 stallions will be eligible for inspection for Class 1 status as follows:
- The **mare being presented under the amnesty** must be registered in the Irish Draught Horse Studbook in Canada and be sired by a stallion that is classified as 'CLASS 1 (RID)' or 'CLASS 2 (Section 1 – S1)' in Canada or in any of the sister societies or in the studbook of origin, and out of a dam that is classified as 'ID' in the Irish Draught Horse Studbook in Canada or in any of the sister societies or in the studbook of origin.
 - The **dam of the mare being presented** must have a recorded pedigree showing her sire classified as 'CLASS 1 (RID)' or 'CLASS 2 (Section 1 – S1)' in Canada or in any of the sister societies or in the studbook of origin and her dam classified as 'RID', 'CLASS 1', 'CLASS 2', 'AID' or 'GRADE UP' in the Irish Draught Horse Studbook in Canada or in any of the sister societies or in the studbook of origin.
 - The progeny of Irish Draught Horse stallions of CLASS 3 (Section 2 – S2) or of uninspected (CLASS 4/ID) status in the Irish Draught Studbook are not eligible under this amnesty.

6.2.2 Qualification

- a) To be approved as Class 1 Irish Draught, horses must be evaluated formally and found to be of excellent conformation and compliant with the guidelines of the Irish Draught breed standard (see paragraph [3.2](#))
- b) Horses must undergo and pass a formal inspection according to rules and procedures set by the Society.

6.2.3 Designation

- a) Horses that have been inspected and found to meet veterinary requirements as well as the required standard for conformation, type, movement and athleticism will be designated Class 1.
- b) Horses that have been inspected, have passed the veterinary portion of the inspection, but found to not meet the required standard for conformation, type, movement and/or athleticism will be designated Class 2.
- c) Horses that have been inspected and have not passed the veterinary portion of the inspection will not be eligible for evaluation of conformation, type, movement or athleticism, and will be designated Class 3.
- d) In cases where the inspectors consider it appropriate, stallions and mares that do not conform to the Irish Draught breed standard sufficiently to be designated Irish Draught Class 1, but are otherwise of breeding stock quality may, with the owner's agreement, be also designated Approved Irish Draught Sport Horse.
- e) In cases where the inspectors consider it appropriate, a gelding that does not conform to the Irish Draught breed standard sufficiently to be designated as Irish Draught Class 1, but is otherwise of exemplary quality may, with the owner's agreement, be also designated as Approved Irish Draught Sport Horse.
- f) Horses and foals that have not been inspected will be designated Uninspected.

6.3 Inspection for the Irish Draught Grade-up Register

6.3.1 Eligibility for Inspection

- a) Partbred Irish Draught and Irish Draught Sport Horse mares shall be eligible for inspection for the Grade-up Register if they meet the following pedigree requirements:

- The mare is not eligible for registry in the Irish Draught Horse Studbook; AND
- One parent is designated Registered Irish Draught (RID) or Class 1; AND
- The other parent is registered in the main section of the relevant studbook AND
- Three of the mare's grandparents are any combination of Registered Irish Draught (RID) or Class 1 Irish Draught; AND
- The fourth grandparent is registered in the main section of the relevant studbook as Thoroughbred, Connemara Pony, or Irish Draught Sport Horse/ Irish Sport Horse with recorded pedigree of Thoroughbred/ Irish Draught/ Connemara Pony descent only.

6.3.2 Qualification

- a) To be approved for the Grade-up Register, mares must be of excellent conformation and must exemplify the guidelines of the Irish Draught breed standard.
- b) Mares must undergo and pass a formal inspection according to rules and procedures set by the Society.
- c) When there is a question as to a mare's eligibility for inspection, the Board may review the pedigree and other attributes of a horse submitted for inspection and may in its sole discretion grant or refuse inspection or may set conditions to be met such as DNA profiling or verification of parentage before granting inspection.

6.3.3 Designation

- a) Mares that have been inspected and found to meet the requirements for the Grade-up register will receive the designation "Approved Irish Draught Sport Horse / Irish Draught Grade-up Register"

6.4 Inspection for the Irish Draught Sport Horse Studbook

6.4.1 Eligibility for Inspection

- a) All Irish Draught Sport Horse mares, stallions and geldings shall be eligible for inspection for approved status as Irish Draught Sport Horses.

6.4.2 Qualification

- a) To be approved as a Registered 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](#)).
- b) Horses must undergo and pass a formal inspection according to rules and procedures set by the Society.
- c) When there is a question as to a horse's eligibility for inspection, the Board may review the pedigree of a horse submitted for inspection and may in its sole discretion grant or refuse inspection or may set conditions to be met such as DNA profiling or verification of parentage before granting inspection.

6.4.3 Designation

- a) Approved horses will receive the designation "Approved Irish Draught Sport Horse".
- b) Unapproved horses will continue to be designated as "Irish Draught Sport Horse".
- c) Irish Draught Class 1 Stallions having silver merit are automatically cross-entered into the Approved Section of the Irish Draught Sport Horse studbook.

6.5 Re-Presentations/Appeals Procedures for Inspections

When horses are presented for inspection and are not designated ID Class 1 or Approved Irish Draught Sport Horse as appropriate, 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.

6.5.1 Stallions that do not meet the radiograph requirements:

- a) 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. The conditions of the appeal are as follows:
 - Within one month of the original examination results being communicated to them, the owner of the stallion must apply to IDHSC to appeal the findings of the radiographic examination in writing to the registration officer of the IDHSC;
 - The appeal will involve the examination of the original radiographs by a second Radiography Veterinary Panel chosen by the IDHSC.

- The second Radiography Veterinary Panel may require a new set of radiographs be taken;
- 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.

6.5.2 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. The conditions of the appeal are as follows:

- 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;
- the owner of the horse shall arrange, at their own expense, to have the horse examined by a veterinary practice nominated by the IDHSC;
- the re-examination shall only be carried out in respect of the condition(s) for which the horse originally failed the clinical veterinary examination and the decision of the veterinary practice nominated by IDHSC, in respect of each examination shall be final.

6.5.3 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.

- the re-inspection shall only be carried out in respect of the criteria for which the horse originally did not meet requirements;
- the cost of the second inspection shall be borne by the owner;
- the decision of the second inspection panel shall be final.

7 Recognition of Performance

Horses that have been designated the highest level of approval (Irish Draught Class 1, 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.

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

8.1 Cross-Registration/endorsement into the IDHSC Studbooks

8.1.1 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 to the satisfaction of the IDHSC, including:

- Original registration documents from the sister society
- Proof of pedigree as described in paragraph [5.4](#)
- Horse identification documents
- Inspection documentation (where applicable)

8.1.2 Equivalences

Canadian Designation	Foreign Designation ⁶		
	Ireland / Studbook of Origin	IDHSNA	IDHS(GB)
RID	RID	RID	RID
AID	AID	AID	AID
ID	ID	ID	ID
Approved IDSH	ISH NA/1, ISH Approved (stallion) ISH Select (mare)	RIDSH, SID	IDSH

⁶ Other designations will be considered on a case-by-case basis

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Canadian Designation	Foreign Designation ⁶		
	Ireland / Studbook of Origin	IDHSNA	IDHS(GB)
	(must have required pedigree)		
IDSH	ISH (must have required pedigree)	IDSH	Partbred Irish Draught
Class 1 Irish Draught	Class 1 Irish Draught	Class 1 Irish Draught	Class 1 Irish Draught
Class 2 Irish Draught	Class 2 Irish Draught	Class 2 Irish Draught	Class 2 Irish Draught
Class 3 Irish Draught	Class 3 Irish Draught	Class 3 Irish Draught	Class 3 Irish Draught
Class 4 Irish Draught Uninspected	Class 4 Irish Draught Uninspected	Class 4 Irish Draught Uninspected	Class 4 Irish Draught Uninspected
Irish Draught Grade-up Register	Irish Draught Grade-up Register	Irish Draught Grade-up Register	Irish Draught Grade-up Register

8.1.3 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.

8.2 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.