

REGISTRATION RULES

The Irish Draught Horse Society of Canada registers and recognizes purebred and partbred Irish Draught horses through a two-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 Purebred Irish Draught or Partbred Irish Draught; and
2. **Approval**, 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 Registered Irish Draught, Irish Draught Sport Horse or Appendix Irish Draught.

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1 Guiding Principle: A single, world-wide 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 world-wide 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)

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, that are recognized by the holder of the studbook in Ireland, are considered to be “Sister Societies”.

2 Registration

2.1 Eligibility

2.1.1 Registration is open to all horses with a minimum of 1/8th Irish Draught blood. Irish Draught blood must be proven as per section 2.4.

2.1.2 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.

2.2 Definition of “Purebred Irish Draught”

2.2.1 A horse is considered a purebred Irish Draught if as per section 2.4, it has been proven that its parents are:

- Both Registered Irish Draught (RID) OR
- A Registered Irish Draught (RID) Stallion and an Appendix Irish Draught (AID) mare.

2.3 Definition of “Partbred Irish Draught”

2.3.1 Horses that are registered but do not meet the definition for purebreds (section 2.2) shall be considered partbreds.

2.3.2 Where a horse in a 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.

2.3.3 Where a horse in a pedigree has undocumented parentage but was approved as Grade B or Appendix Irish Draught by a sister society, that horse shall be deemed to have 75% Irish Draught blood.

2.4 Proof of Pedigree

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

2.5 Cross-Registration

2.5.1 Horses that have been previously registered with a sister society may be cross-registered provided the horse meets the requirements of the rules of this Society.

2.5.2 When there is a question as to a horse’s eligibility for cross-registration, the Board may review the pedigree of a horse submitted for cross-registration and may, in its sole discretion, grant or refuse cross-registration.

3 Inspection for Breeding Stock Approval

3.1 Characteristics of the Breed

The Irish Draught Horse is an active, short-shinned, powerful horse with substance and quality. It is proud of bearing, deep of girth and strong of back and quarters. Standing over a lot of ground, it has an exceptionally strong and sound constitution. It has an intelligent and gentle nature and is noted for its docility and sense.

3.1.1 Height

Stallions: 15.3 h.h. to 16.3 h.h. approx.

Mares: 15.1 h.h. to 16.1 h.h. approx.

3.1.2 Bone: Good, strong, clean bone.

3.1.3 Head: Good, bold eyes, set well-apart, long, well-set ears, wide of forehead. Head should be generous and pleasant, not coarse or hatchet-headed, though a slight roman nose is permissible. The jaw bones should have enough room to take the gullet and allow ease of breathing.

3.1.4 Shoulders, neck and front: Shoulders should be clean-cut and not loaded, withers well-defined, not coarse; the neck set in high and carried proudly. The chest should not be too broad and beefy, the forearms should be long and muscular, not caught in at the elbow; the knee large and generous, set near the ground; the cannon bone straight and short, with plenty of flat, clean bone, never back of the knee (calf kneed), i.e. not sloping forward from knee to fetlock. The bone must not be round and coarse. The legs should be clean and hard, with a little hair permissible at the back of the fetlock as necessary protection; the pastern strong and in proportion, not short and upright nor too long and weak. The hoof should be generous and sound, not boxy or contracted and there should be plenty of room at the heel.

3.1.5 Back, hindquarters, body and hind legs: The back to be powerful, the girth very deep, the loins must not be weak but the mares must have enough room to carry the foal. The croup to buttocks to be long and sloping, not short and rounded or flat topped; hips not wide and plain; thighs strong and powerful and at least as wide from the back view as the hips; the second thighs long and well developed; the hock near the ground and generous, points not too close together or wide apart but straight, they should not be out behind the horse but should be in line from the back and the quarters to the heel to the ground, they should not be over bent or in any way weak. The cannon bone, etc., as for the foreleg short and strong.

3.1.6 Action: Smooth and free but without exaggeration and not heavy or ponderous. Walk and trot to be straight and true with good flexion in the hocks and freedom of the shoulders.

3.1.7 Colour: Any strong whole colour, including greys. White leg, above the knees or hocks is not desirable.

3.2 Basic Objectives of Selection

To produce a correct, sound horse that is suitable for all equestrian disciplines.

3.3 General Pre-Inspection Requirements

3.3.1 Horses must be fully registered or cross-registered with the Society before they are eligible for inspection.

3.3.2 Failure to pass inspection does not revoke registration.

3.3.3 Horses that fail inspection may apply for inspection in subsequent years.

3.4 Books of Entry for Inspected Horses

3.4.1 Registered Horses may be inspected and, if approved, will be entered on one of the following books:

- a) The Registered Irish Draught Horse Studbook;
- b) The Appendix Irish Draught Registry; or
- c) The Irish Draught Sport Horse Studbook.

3.4.2 The Registered Irish Draught Horse Studbook

This book records Canada's purebred Irish Draught horses that are approved for breeding and geldings that are considered to be exemplary of the breed.

3.4.2.1 Eligibility

- a) Consistent with the Rules and Procedures of the Irish Horse Register, candidates for Registered Irish Draught status must be the progeny of either:
 - Two Registered Irish Draught parents OR
 - For females and geldings only, a Registered Irish Draught stallion and an Appendix Irish Draught mare.

3.4.2.2 Qualification

- a) To be approved as Registered Irish Draught, horses must be of excellent conformation and must generally comply with the guidelines of the Irish Draught breed standard.

- b) Horses must undergo and pass a formal inspection according to rules and procedures set by the Society.
- c) In cases where the inspectors consider it appropriate, a mare that does not conform to the Irish Draught breed standard sufficiently to be approved as Registered Irish Draught but is otherwise of breeding stock quality may, with the owner's agreement, be approved as Appendix Irish Draught or Irish Draught Sport Horse.
- d) In cases where the inspectors consider it appropriate, a stallion which does not conform to the Irish Draught breed standard sufficiently to be approved as Registered Irish Draught but is otherwise of breeding stock quality may, with the owner's agreement, be approved as Irish Draught Sport Horse.
- e) In cases where the inspectors consider it appropriate, a gelding which does not conform to the Irish Draught breed standard sufficiently to be approved as Registered Irish Draught but is otherwise of exemplary quality may, with the owner's agreement, be approved as Irish Draught Sport Horse.

3.4.2.3 Designation

- a) Approved horses will receive the designation "Registered Irish Draught" (RID).
- b) Unapproved stallions that have been used at stud will be given the designation "Irish Draught (Supplementary)" either before or after inspection.
 - Uninspected stallions shall be graded "Supplementary 2".
 - Stallions that are inspected and do not pass the veterinary examination will be graded "Supplementary 2".
 - All other stallions that do not pass inspection shall be graded "Supplementary 1" unless the horse was approved as Irish Draught Sport Horse.
- c) Unapproved mares and geldings will continue to be designated "Purebred Irish Draught".

3.4.3 The Appendix Irish Draught Registry

3.4.3.1 Eligibility for Inspection

- b) Partbred Irish Draught mares shall be eligible for inspection as Appendix Irish Draught if they have:
 - One Registered Irish Draught parent AND
 - Three Registered Irish Draught grandparents AND
 - The fourth grandparent is registered in the main section of the relevant studbook AND
 - All blood is known to be only Irish Draught, Thoroughbred or Connemara, or a combination. Thoroughbred blood is allowed regardless of country of origin but horses must be registered.

3.4.3.2 Qualification

- a) To be approved as Appendix Irish Draught, mares must be of excellent conformation and must generally comply with 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) Mares that are eligible to be inspected for Appendix Irish Draught status are also eligible to be inspected for the Irish Draught Sport Horse Studbook. A mare which does not conform to the breed type requirement to be approved as Appendix Irish Draught but is otherwise of breeding stock quality may be approved as Irish Draught Sport Horse.
- d) When there is a question as to a horse'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.

3.4.3.3 Designation

- a) Approved horses will receive the designation “Appendix Irish Draught” (AID).

3.4.4 The Irish Draught Sport Horse Studbook

3.4.4.1 Eligibility for Inspection

- a) Partbred mares, stallions and geldings shall be eligible for inspection for approval as Irish Draught Sport Horses.
- b) Purebred horses of both genders that are not eligible for inspection for approval as Registered Irish Draught shall be eligible for inspection for approval as Irish Draught Sport Horses.

3.4.4.2 Qualification

- a) To be approved as a Registered Irish Draught Sport Horse, a horse must be of excellent conformation and must generally comply with the guidelines of the Irish Draught breed standard.
- 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.

3.4.4.3 Designation

- a) Approved horses will receive the designation “Irish Draught Sport Horse”.
- b) Unapproved horses will continue to be designated as “Partbred Irish Draught”.

3.5 Cross-Recognition

3.5.1 Horses previously inspected and approved by sister societies may be cross-recognized by entry into the appropriate book once the horse meets the requirements of that book of entry. The Society will accept inspection results of sister societies, provided the inspections have been carried out following procedures equivalent to those of the IDHSC.

3.5.2 When there is a question as to a horse’s eligibility, the Board may review the pedigree of a horse submitted for cross-recognition and may in its sole discretion grant or refuse cross-recognition or may set conditions to be met such as DNA profiling or verification of parentage before granting cross-recognition.