



Dear Amateur Riders,

I hope this message finds you all in good health and high spirits as we gear up for another exciting season of equestrian events. With the RDS qualifiers on the horizon, I'm sure many of you are busy preparing your horses and yourselves for the challenges ahead.

We have some important updates and dates to share with you all, so please take note and mark your calendars.

As we embark on this new season, I want to extend my best wishes to each and every one of you. May 2024 be a year filled with success.



National Amateur Committee 2024

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IMPORTANT INFORMATION

As a committee, we acknowledge the existence of an email in circulation containing several grievances. It is important to note that Showjumping Ireland's policy mandates that any communication must include a name and member number to be considered. We have communicated this requirement on multiple occasions.

Should the author wish to attach their name and member number to the email, their concerns will be addressed by the National Amateur Committee while maintaining anonymity.

This process ensures transparency and allows us to respond appropriately to the issues raised. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation in adhering to our policy.



IMPORTANT INFORMATION

The National Amateur Committee is also aware of errors in the points of amateur riders during the 2023 season. These discrepancies arose from a misconfiguration of classes at the Cavan Amateur Show. Following a thorough review of competitor results and points, the committee has manually adjusted the system. Every endeavor will be undertaken to prevent such occurrences in the future, ensuring that all amateur classes are appropriately set up



The National Amateur Committee are thrilled that Orchard Equestrian and Newmarket Architectural and Planning Services Ltd has generously agreed to come on board as a key sponsor for the 2024 season of the National Amateur Show Jumpers League.

After the resounding success of the 2023 league, which witnessed fierce competition where Tara Brandon's was crowned as champion at Cavan Equestrian Centre, we are excited for the 2024 league to start.

We are confident that the 2024 Orchard Equestrian/NAPS League will surpass expectations and set new standards with a prize fund in excess of €5500

The league is kicking off at the Ingrid Kane show in Barnadown on the 20th and 21st of April.

Please see some of the dates below and there will be more to follow.

All Rules are available on the SJI website.





ShowjumpingIreland

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Leinster

**Ingrid Kane -
April 20th/21st**

**Mullingar -
June 2nd**

**Ballyfoyle -
June 30th**

Tattersalls - July 27th

Connaught

**Duffys -
April 27th**

**Galway -
May 6th**

**Headford -
June 9th**

**Corrundulla -
June 23rd**

Munster

**Ballylawn -
April 28th**

**Newmarket On Fergus -
May 5th**

**Limerick Clare -
May 26th**

**Munster Amateur Show -
July 7th**

**Dungarvan -
July 14th**

**Goatenbridge -
July 21st**

**Munster Amateur Show -
September TBC**

Ulster

**Banbridge -
June 8th**

**Cavan -
29th & 30th June**

**Omagh -
6th July**

**Balmoral -
19th July**

**Kernans -
25th August**



Once again we are looking forward to the Farmers Journal league for the 2024 season.

The first leg of the Farmers Journal is kicking off at the Ingrid Kane show in Barnadown on 20th of April.

Please see the Showjumping Ireland Website for the dates and venues of the Farmers Journal League.

All Farmers Journal Rules will be on the amateur section on the Showjumping Ireland website.



• DUBLIN • HORSE SHOW



We are Fastly approaching the RDS qualifiers with the first one being in May at Tipperary Equestrian Centre on May 4th.

We would to remind you to familiarise yourself with the RDS amateur rules most notably

An Amateur athlete must have competed in a minimum of six amateur classes (excluding DHS qualifiers and competitions at the DHS) in the twelve months prior to competing in the 2024 DHS Amateur qualifiers. At least three of these classes must be held at stand-a-lone shows and not part of a league held in a centre. (In exceptional circumstances, where an athlete cannot compete for more than a six-month period but has met the 'six class quota' in the previous twenty-four months, prior to the DHS qualifiers, that athlete may be eligible for an exemption. To apply for an exemption, an application must be sent to the SJI National Amateur Committee before the 19th of April 2024).

All other RDS Rules can be found on our website

Amateur Qualifier Dates

- Tipperary Equestrian Centre, Thurles, Co. Tipperary Saturday 4 May
- Killossery Lodge Stud, Swords, Co. Dublin Saturday 25 May
- Kernan's Equestrian Centre, Crossmaglen, Co. Armagh Saturday 8 June
- Galway Equestrian Centre, Athenry, Co. Galway Saturday 22 June



The National Amateur committee are delighted to announce that the National Amateur and Sports member Championships will be taking place In Maryville Equestrian Centre on the 31st of August and the 1st of September.

Futher details will be announced in the coming weeks but it is sure to be a great weekend with great prizes and fantastic sponsors coming on board.

Please keep an eye on the website for all important updates regarding the championships.



CAVAN
EQUESTRIAN

June Amateur Summer Championships 2024

Saturday 29th &
Sunday 30th June

- ◆ Farmers Journal
- ◆ Orchard League

- ◆ NEW for 2024 - Six Bar

Prize fund - €1000

A six bar competition consists of six obstacles that get higher and higher. After each round clear round, they're raised even more. The winner is the rider which jumps all obstacles clear, at the maximum height. Last rider standing 🌟

A & AA section.



Ulster Region
Showjumping Ireland

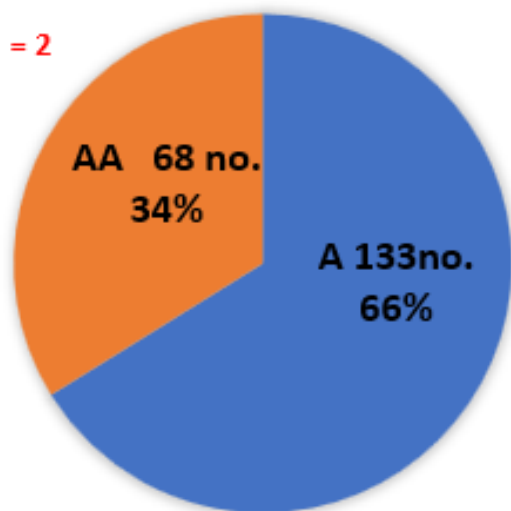
WORKING WITH YOU, FOR YOU



Amateur Survey Results

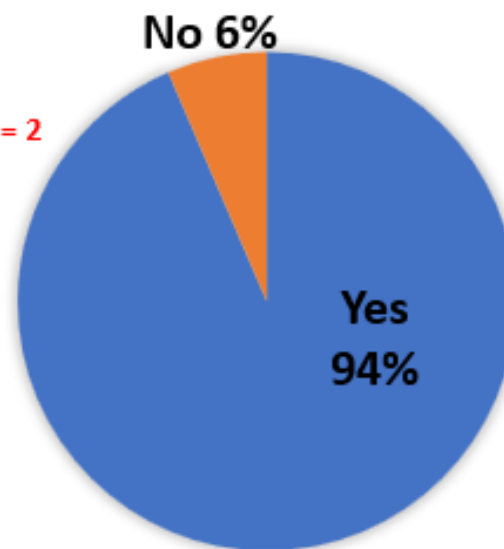
Q2. AMATEUR CATEGORY REPONDEES

N = 201
Skipped = 2



Q3. COMPETED IN THE PAST 3 YEARS

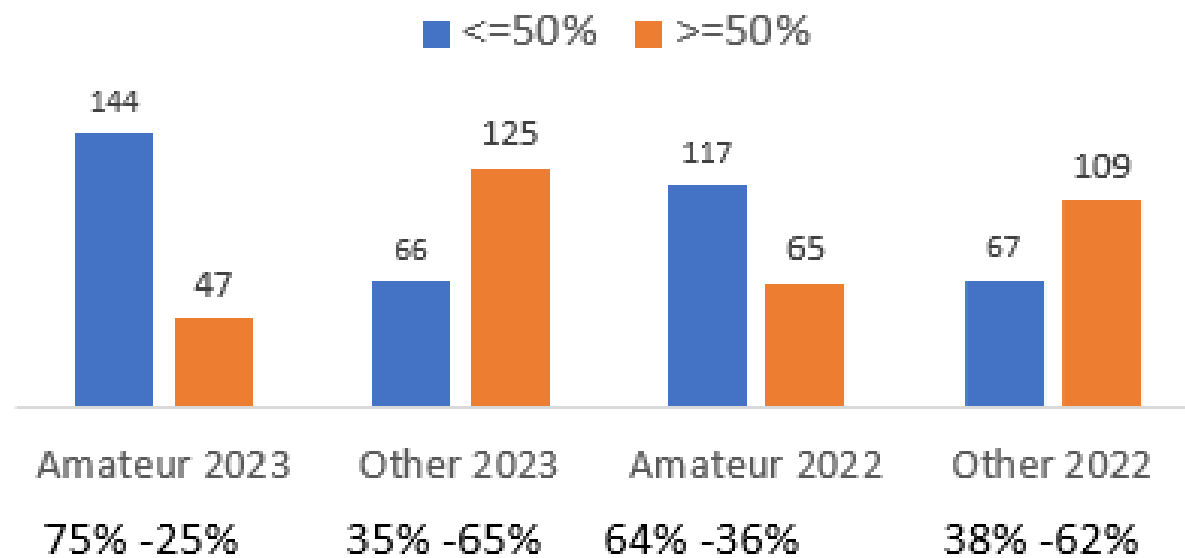
N = 201
Skipped = 2





Amateur Survey Results

N = 194 Q4. Approximately what % of your classes per year are Amateur Classes?





Amateur Survey Results

Q5. If the percentage of amateur classes were less than 50%, is there a particular reason?

The main reasons for not jumping in amateur classes as per the information provided can be categorized broadly into the following:

- 1. Availability and Accessibility:** Many respondents indicated that there aren't many amateur shows available that suit their schedule or are within a reasonable distance from their location. There is also a limited availability of amateur classes at the shows they attend.
- 2. Horse Readiness and Personal Circumstances:** Some riders are working with horses that are not ready for the amateur classes because of their age, injury, or the horse's current jumping height. Personal circumstances like work commitments, injury, family responsibilities, or having a new baby also impacted participation.
- 3. Preference for Other Classes:** Some riders prefer other shows that offer a range of options to jump in and provide more experience. Some riders are also more comfortable jumping in non-amateur classes or have a preference for classes with better prize money.
- 4. Quality of Shows and Classes:** Some respondents mentioned that amateur classes are often smaller, not up to height, held in lower quality rings, or not competitive. They also pointed out that the courses are not always well-built or the ground conditions are poor.
- 5. Concerns about the Amateur Point System:** Some riders expressed concerns about accumulating too many amateur points which could force them to jump at a higher level than they or their horse are ready for.

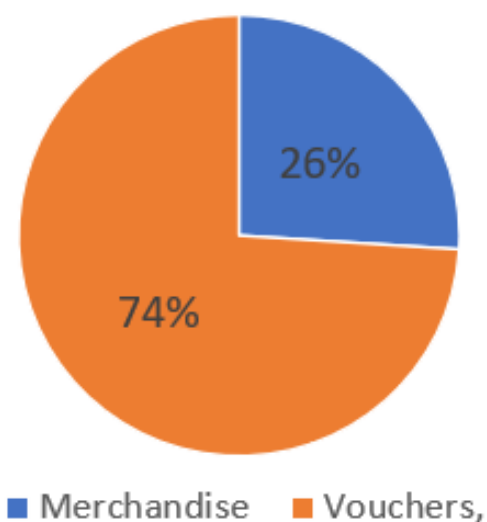


Amateur Survey Results

6. Lack of Information: Some new riders found it hard to find information on upcoming leagues and shows.
7. Prize Money and Rewards: The availability of better prize money and rewards in other classes was also a motivating factor for some riders to not jump in amateur classes.
8. Timing of Classes: The time at which the amateur classes are held at shows often does not suit some riders.
9. Inconsistency in Height of Fences: Some riders mentioned inconsistency in the height of fences in amateur classes, which could be a deterrent

Q6. Type of prizes preferred

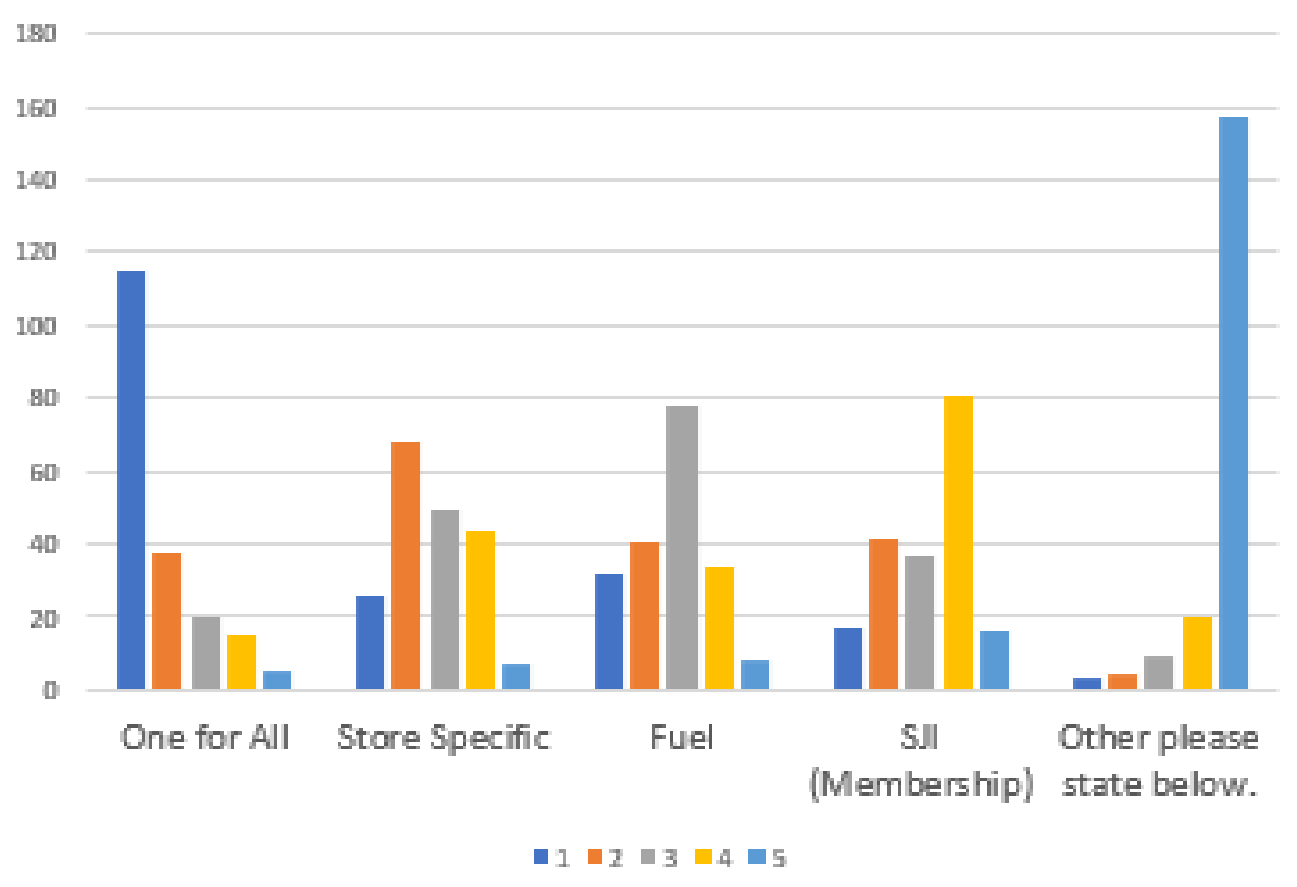
N = 202





Amateur Survey Results

Q7. Preference order 1-5 for vouchers





Amateur Survey Results

Q8. Preference for voucher types?

- 1. Equestrian Specific Retailers:** This was the most popular preference, with many respondents favouring vouchers for equestrian stores or brands, such as Boomerang Equestrian, Tri, and Equine Warehouse.
- 2. Cash or Monetary Equivalents:** Many respondents also preferred cash or cash equivalent prizes, including prepaid Mastercard, Allgo Rewards cards, and Perx prepaid credit cards.
- 3. One-for-All Vouchers:** Some respondents preferred these vouchers because of their flexibility to be used in different shops and online.
- 4. Entry Discounts or Free Entries:** Several respondents liked the idea of vouchers for entry discounts to other classes or free entries to SJI classes.
- 5. Other Specific Stores/Vouchers:** A few respondents mentioned specific stores or types of vouchers such as Dunnes Card, Feed Vouchers, and Hotel/Accommodation/Restaurant vouchers.



Amateur Survey Results

6. **Training Bursaries:** There were mentions of training bursary vouchers as well.
7. **Trophies and Equipment:** Some respondents mentioned they would like trophies, equipment, or horse food.
8. **Non-Monetary Prizes:** A few respondents expressed a preference for non-monetary prizes like rosettes and rugs, or a mixture of different types of prizes to keep things interesting.
9. **Sponsor Business Vouchers:** Some respondents suggested vouchers for the sponsor's business to return the support and encourage more sponsors.

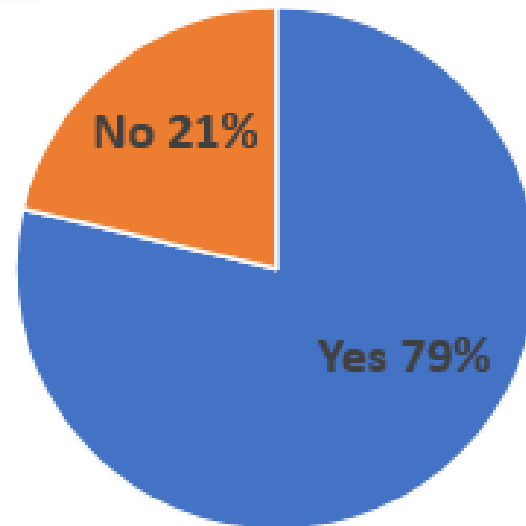


Amateur Survey Results

N = 202
Skipped = 1

Q9. Should prizes/prize fund be split equally for each Category? (e.g 3 prizes for A & 3 for AA)

Chart Title





Amateur Survey Results

Q11. Suggestions to improve A / AA

Grading

- More information about the handicap system should be provided within the rules, and an updated rider list released for transparency.
- Riders who consistently make it to championships should be encouraged to upgrade and not sit at a comfortable level for years.
- Riders who consistently win championships should be encouraged to upgrade.
 - Less strict rules for A riders after downgrading.
 - The system should be adjusted to recognize the significant difference in standard between A and AA riders
- Results should be monitored closely by SJI to ensure riders who consistently perform well move up from A to AA.
- More attention should be paid to grading, considering factors such as performance, horse age, experience, and injury status and monitored by the SJI

Competition

- The rotation of A riders going last in Jump-off (JO) should be implemented to give A riders a fair chance.
 - A and AA riders should be equally represented in championship placements.

Qualifiers

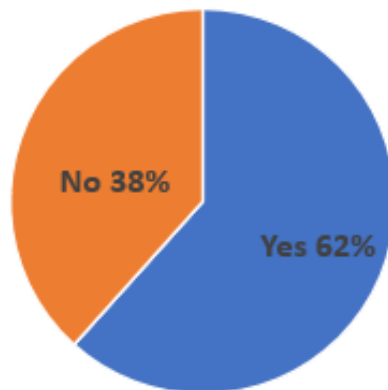
- Qualifiers should be divided into separate classes for A and AA riders..
 - Lower maximum jump heights for A riders during qualifiers.



Amateur Survey Results

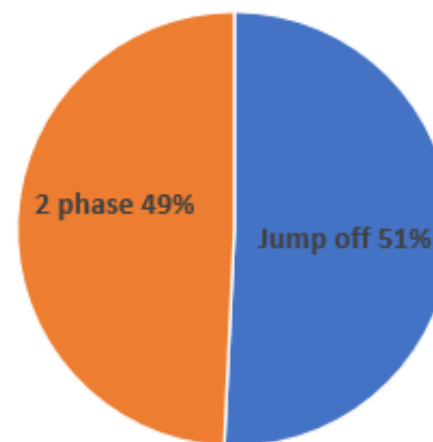
Q12. Is the process to upgrade from A to AA clear and generally being followed fairly?

N = 202



Q13. Do you prefer two phase or Jump off classes?

N = 193

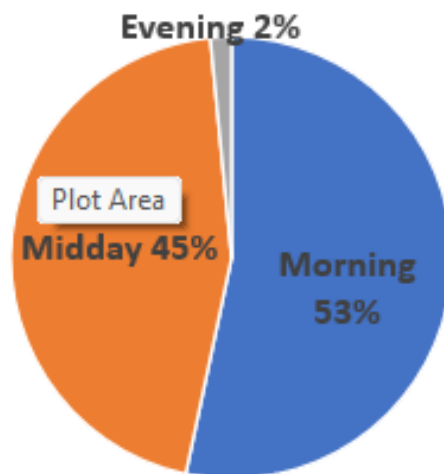




Amateur Survey Results

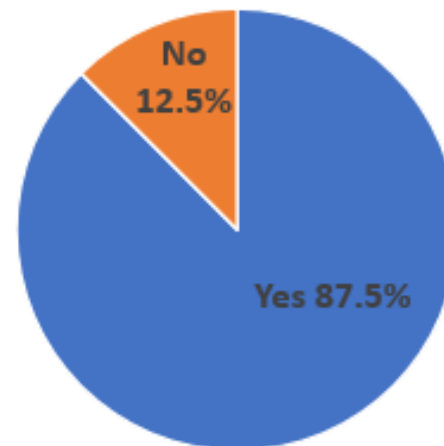
Q14. Do you have a preference for when the Amateur class is held at a show?

N = 195



Q15. Would you like to see live streaming of the RDS Qualifiers

N = 200

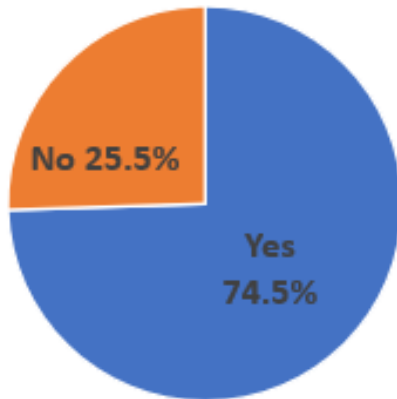




Amateur Survey Results

Q16. At Standalone Amateur Shows would you like to see more Variety in classes run

N = 200



Q17. If yes, Please state your preference (1-7 in order of your most favourite class!)

N = 183

