

RDS NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS 2021 - QUALIFIER RULES

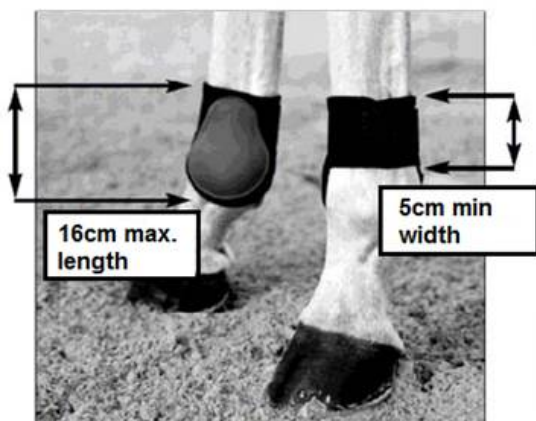
IMPORTANT POINTS OF CLARIFICATION

- Qualification pertains to the 2021 RDS National Championships only. Should the Show be cancelled, or unable to take place for any reason, qualification will not extend to the 2022 Dublin Horse Show or any other shows held by the Society.
 - Any reference to 'horse' also implies pony, if applicable.
 - Any reference to the male gender is for clarity and includes the female gender.
 - Horses ages are calculated from the 1 January of the year following foaling
1. Qualifier venues will be selected by the RDS.
 2. An entry fee of €35 for Horses and €30 for Ponies, Children on Horses, Young Riders and Amateurs will apply. Animals must be registered with, and athletes must be members of Showjumping Ireland (SJI) for the current season prior to the qualifying competition.
 3. All entries must be made via the SJI Live online declaration system (available at www.sjilive.ie) by the close of entries. **Late entries will not be accepted, under any circumstances.** A full entry fee will apply. Bookings for stabling at the qualifiers, if applicable, must be made directly with the qualifier venues.
 4. The onus is on the owner / athlete to make sure the correct animal / rider combination has qualified.
 5. All qualifying competitions should be judged under Article 238.2.3, with the exception of the 4 year old class which will run under special rules and the 8 & 9 year old class which will be run under Article 238.2.2. *However, the Ground Jury has the option to change these articles, in the event of inclement weather conditions or other unforeseen circumstances. Any changes must be notified to competitors immediately*
 6. In all cases the qualified animal will be declared to the RDS in the name of the owner registered with SJI, whose name will appear on all start lists and programmes at the Show.
 7. The animal / athlete must complete the course in the first round **clear** to be eligible for a qualifying place.
 8. In all matters of interpretation or circumstance unforeseen, the decision of the Chairman of Showjumping Ireland in agreement with the RDS shall be final and binding. In addition, SJI reserves the right in agreement with the RDS to clarify or amend the regulations for such qualifiers, and any such changes will come into effect on publication by SJI.
 9. The appointment and duties of officials must be in accordance with Article 259N.
 10. Should an athlete qualify more than the quota for a category, where the athlete first qualifies in the highest place in the competition on a particular day will determine the qualifying place. An exception to this rule may be permitted in the case of exceptional circumstances and will only be allowed on written request, with the approval of the RDS Show Director and the Chairman of SJI, who will consult with the Chairperson of the relevant sub-committee.
 11. All animals that complete clear rounds may be scanned for microchips at the RDS qualifiers to verify identity, passports must also be available for inspection.
 12. It is an RDS requirement that the Organising Committee make the following provisions at the qualifying show: medical assistance and a treating veterinary surgeon present or on-call for the duration of the competitions; a minimum of one ambulance; screens and a horse ambulance / suitable mode of transport available for an injured animal. The SJI Veterinary Committee may appoint a testing veterinary surgeon to attend all shows holding RDS qualifiers.
 13. If the owner has not entered his animal by the closing date of entries; the 19th of July, it will automatically be assumed that the owner does not wish to take up the qualifying place, and the next animal in line from the applicable qualifier will be contacted. (It is strongly advised that the owner/s of the next animal in line should ensure to enter online, as a '**reserve**', with the RDS before the close of entries). Qualification of an animal at a qualifier will not mean that it is automatically entered with the RDS. Please note that the RDS closing date of the **19th of July** will be strictly adhered to and late entries will not be accepted (except in the case of qualifiers after this date). Should a qualified combination not have entered by the 19th of July or for some reason is unable to take their place at the Final, the next in line will be notified on or before the 23rd of July. No changes to the qualified combinations will be made after the 26th of July.
 14. It will only be in the following circumstances that the athlete who qualified the animal will not ride that animal at the RDS National Championships;
 - A. A bona fide sale and change of registered owner (which must be made with SJI office before the 19th of July, to be included in the RDS catalogue)
 - B. A proven injuryIn all cases a change will only be allowed on written request, with the approval of the RDS Show Director and the Chairman of SJI, who will consult with the Chairperson of the relevant sub-committee. All changes in ownership, regardless of athlete change, must be done through the SJI offices before the 19th of July.
 15. A horse cannot start in more than one qualifier category for the RDS National Championships. It is the responsibility of the owner / agent / athlete to ensure that all animals and athletes are eligible to compete in the relevant qualifying competition.
 16. A horse's first qualification will secure its qualification, regardless of further placings at later qualifiers.
 17. Should any qualifier fail to provide the number of qualifying places under the rules, such places will be carried forward to the next qualifier within the year. If, at the end of the fourth qualifier the places have not been filled, the Chairman of SJI and the Chairman of the relevant Standing Committee, in agreement with the RDS, will have the right to determine how such place should be filled, if at all.

18. Should an animal / athlete be unable to take their place at the Final, their place can only be filled by the animal / athlete combination next in line at the particular qualifying venue. The 'next in line' must place his / her entry with the RDS Equestrian Department by the close of entries on the 19th of July and will be notified should a place become available on or before the 23rd of July. If there is no eligible animal / athlete combination to take up the qualifying place, the quota does not have to be met.
19. If the number of qualifying places available have not been filled by the final qualifier, a draw may take place among the eligible reserve combinations at the preceding qualifiers in order to fill the quota of places. (The draw will be conducted by the RDS Chief Executive in the presence of the Show Director, the Equestrian Manager and the Chairman of the Equestrian Committee). In the event there are not enough eligible reserve combinations the quota does not have to be met.
20. A joint placing awarded at a qualifier will not alter the prescribed number of qualifying places to be awarded as outlined under each competition category. In the event of a tie for the final qualifying place, the horse and rider combination closest to the time allowed in the first round will qualify. Under no circumstances will additional qualification places be awarded in the event of a judging error.
21. In the Pony and Children on Horses categories, only fully paid up members of SJI, resident on the island of Ireland for six months of the calendar year, may take up a qualifying place at the RDS National Championships. To be eligible to compete in the RDS qualifiers, both athlete and horse / pony must be fully paid up with SJI and the ponies must fulfil the same criteria for measurement and points applied to Irish registered ponies. In order to be eligible to compete in the Young Rider qualifiers for the RDS National Championships, athletes who are resident outside of the island of Ireland for more than six months of the calendar year must be available for selection for Ireland. The athlete and horse must also be registered with SJI for the current year.
22. Horses competing in the 4 year old classes will not be permitted to wear hind boots or bandages. Only non-performance enhancing hind boots may be worn in all other qualifier categories for the RDS National Championships. These rules will also extend to the Finals at the Show. Each athlete / owner wishing to avail of the use of hind boots on their horse / pony must ensure that the boots are of the variety specified below. Under no circumstances will non-specified hind boots, or bandages of any kind, be permitted. SJI stewards will be in attendance at each qualifier to carry out spot checks.

All hind leg protections must have a maximum interior length of 16cm and minimum exterior width of 5cm. The following criteria must be respected:

- The inside of the protection must be smooth; the fixations must be non-elastic Velcro; no hooks, buckles, clips or other methods of attaching the fasteners may be used;
- The rounded rigid part of the protection must be placed around the inside of the fetlock;
- No additional elements may be used in conjunction with the protection.



SPECIFIC RULES FOR THE RDS NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP QUALIFIERS

The following are rules which are specific to each qualifier.

PONIES RULES

1. Height of pony	Class	Number to qualify
128cm	1 st Round: 1.00m – 1.05m 2 nd Round: 1.05m – 1.10m 3 rd Round (Jump Off): 1.10m	7x4 = total 28
138cm	1.20m	7x4 = total 28
148cm	1.30m	7x4 = total 28
148cm 6 / 7 Year Old	6 year olds: 1.10m – 1.15m 7 year olds: 1.15m – 1.20m	6x4 = total 24

To be eligible to qualify for the RDS National Championships, all ponies in the 128cm, 138cm and 148cm qualifiers must have a minimum of 150 SJI grading points at least three days before competing at the qualifier.

To be eligible to qualify for the RDS National Championships, 148cm 6 / 7 Year Old ponies must have a minimum of 50 SJI grading points at least three days before competing at the qualifier.

Competitors are reminded that first category selected must be adhered to through the four qualifiers i.e. a pony may not compete in both the 148cm and 148cm 6 / 7 Year Old category.

2. Athletes in the **128cm class** must have attained the **Bar 1 of SJI Five Bar Training System** at least **five days** before competing at a qualifier in order to be eligible to qualify to compete in the 2021 RDS National Championships. Athletes in the **138cm, 148cm** and **148cm 6 / 7 Year Old** competitions must have attained **Bar 2 of SJI Five Bar Training System** at least **five days** before competing at a qualifier in order to be eligible to qualify and compete in the 2021 RDS National Championships.

3. The 128cm competition is open to athletes from the year in which they reach their 10th birthday to the year in which they reach their 12th birthday. The 138cm competition is open to athletes from the year in which they reach their 10th birthday to the year in which they reach their 14th birthday, and the 148cm competition is open to athletes from the year in which they reach their 12th birthday to the year in which they reach their 16th birthday.
4. A competitor may not ride more than **2** ponies in any one qualifying competition.
5. An athlete may qualify a maximum of **1** pony in any height category, with the exception of the 148cm height category, where an athlete may qualify 1 pony in the 148cm & 1 pony in the 148cm 6 / 7 Year Old class for the RDS National Championships. An athlete may qualify a maximum of 2 ponies overall for the Show, hereinafter referred to as the 'quota'.
6. A pony once qualified, or athlete on reaching their quota, may compete in further RDS qualifying competitions. However, they **must** clearly demonstrate that they are qualified by wearing a distinctive arm band. Failure to comply with this rule may result in a fine and / or loss of qualification place for the RDS National Championships. This will be the responsibility of the owner or person responsible. If a qualified pony is subsequently sold, an athlete will not be allowed to qualify another pony in that height category.
7. For all ponies whose eligibility is based on foreign competition records, they must be registered with SJI and have their 'foreign points' recorded on the SJI online system by the 4th of June 2021.

HORSE RULES

1. 4 year old horses, foaled in 2017. No. to qualify 8 x 3 = 24*. Fence Heights 1.10m Round 1 & Round 2
- 5 year old horses, foaled in 2016. No. to qualify 12 x 3 = 36. Fence Heights 1.20m
- 6 year old horses, foaled in 2015. No. to qualify 12 x 3 = 36. Fence Heights 1.30m
- 7 year old horses, foaled in 2014. No. to qualify 9 x 3 = 27. Fence Heights 1.40m
- 8 & 9 year old horses, foaled in 2013 and 2012. No. to qualify 9 x 3 = 27. Fence Heights 1.45m

*The 4 year old horses will be awarded points for 'Future Potential', 'Rideability' and 'Jumping Technique / Natural Ability' in the second round of the qualifiers. The 8 highest placed horses at each qualifier, based on their final score will qualify for the RDS National Championships. In the event of a tie, the 'Future Potential', 'Rideability' and 'Jumping Technique / Natural Ability' scores in that order will decide.

The 4, 5 & 6 year old classes are restricted to animals registered as being bred on the island of Ireland, and to those entire animals (stallions and mares) bred outside of Ireland, that are registered and approved / preliminary approved or selected for breeding in an Irish Studbook (approved by the Department of Agriculture).

2. A maximum of 2 horses, in any one age category, with the exception of the 8 & 9 year old horse competition, may be qualified by the same athlete. In the 8 & 9 year old horses, an athlete may qualify a maximum of 2 horses overall (2 x 8 year olds or 2 x 9 year olds, or 1 horse in each age group). Athletes are subject to an overall limit of 10 horses.
3. A horse cannot qualify in more than one category for the RDS National Championships.
4. A horse once qualified, or an athlete on reaching the quota cannot compete in further qualifiers.
5. A total of 10 nomination places, 2 per age category in the 5, 6, and 7 year olds and 4 across the 8 & 9 year old class, will be reserved for international athletes representing Ireland at CSIO team events, during the period from the first 'Horse' qualifier to the final 'Horse' qualifier. (While preference will be given to Irish-based athletes, these places will not be exclusively retained for Irish-based athletes). In all cases the nominated horse(s) must not have competed in more than one of the 2021 RDS National Championship qualifiers. Athletes will be subject to an overall limit of 10 horses in national show jumping classes at the Show. Athletes availing of this provision in the rules will be allowed to nominate horses in the 5, 6, 7 and the 8 & 9 year old classes only, there will be no nominations permitted for 4 year olds. Athletes must enter their nomination online before the close of entries on the 19th of July. Athletes must be members of, and nominated horses must be registered with, SJI for the current season, prior to the close of entries on the 19th of July. Recommendations as to the allocation of such places will be made by Horse Sport Ireland.
6. 5 year old mares having carried a foal to parturition as a four year old, and providing that the foal was subsequently registered in a studbook, will be permitted to compete in the 4 year old qualifiers.

AMATEUR RULES

1. Qualifiers will incorporate A or AA status. Number to qualify: The top 8 athletes regardless of status will qualify from each qualifier.

Grade	Height of fences
A	1.05m - 1.10m
AA	1.10m - 1.15m
2. The qualifiers will be judged under Articles 238.2.3.AM6 and 254N.C (the handicap system as for 'A' and 'AA' athletes)
3. A horse competing in the Amateur category cannot be competed in any other qualifier category for the RDS National Championships.
4. A substitution of athlete and / or horse is not permitted at the RDS Amateur qualifiers.
5. An Amateur athlete may only qualify one horse.
6. An Amateur athlete may not participate in non-amateur RDS qualifier classes, as to compete in a non-amateur class at the RDS National Championships will result in the loss of Amateur status in accordance with Amateur rules.

CHILDREN ON HORSES & YOUNG RIDER RULES

1. There will be categories for the following, with the qualifying date of the **16th of June**:

Young Riders (1.35m – 1.40m) Open to athletes from the year in which they reach their 14th birthday to the year in which they reach their 21st birthday.
Minimum of SJI 50 grading points.

Young Riders (1.25m – 1.30m) Open to athletes from the year in which they reach their 14th birthday to the year in which they reach their 21st birthday.
Minimum of SJI 50 grading points.

Young Riders (1.10m – 1.15m) Open to athletes from the year in which they reach their 14th birthday to the year in which they reach their 21st birthday.
Minimum of 20 SJI grading points.
Restricted to horses 5 – 7 years old on the 1st of January 2021.

Children on Horses (1.15m) Open to athletes from the year in which they reach their 12th birthday to the year in which they reach their 14th birthday.
Restricted to mares and geldings, 6 year old and over on the 1st of January 2021.
Athletes may only qualify **1** horse to compete in the Children on Horses category at the RDS National Championships. Only the combination of horse and athlete qualified are eligible to compete at the RDS National Championships, a change of athlete will not be permitted. However, if a qualified horse is subsequently sold, the new athlete may seek qualification and the previous athlete may seek qualification on another horse.
The Children on Horses competition at the RDS National Championships will be an Individual Championship. Further details are available at www.rds.ie/nationalchampionships.

Numbers to qualify:	Young Riders (1.35m – 1.40m)	4 x 4 = 16
	Young Riders (1.25m – 1.30m)	5 x 4 = 20
	Young Riders (1.10m – 1.15m)	5 x 4 = 20
	Children on Horses (1.15m)	4 x 4 = 16

2. Athletes in the **Children on Horses classes** must have attained **Bar 2** of the **SJI Five Bar Training System** by the **16th of June** in order to be eligible to compete in the 2021 RDS National Championships qualifiers.
3. Athletes in the **Young Rider class** must have attained **Bar 2** of the **SJI Five Bar Training System** by the **16th of June** in order to be eligible to compete in the 2021 RDS National Championships qualifiers.
4. A horse may not compete in different height categories within the Children on Horses and Young Rider qualifiers – the first category selected must be adhered to throughout the 4 qualifiers.
5. An athlete may qualify a maximum of **2** horses across the Children on Horses and Young Rider category.
6. A Young Rider can qualify for the RDS National Championships (provided they are riding different animals) in only 2 of the 3 categories: Horses, Ponies, and Children on Horses and Young Riders (to an overall maximum of 8 animals). This does not preclude the athlete from competing in other qualifying competitions, but where they first qualify will, at all times, govern their eligibility under this rule.
7. A horse once qualified in a Young Rider or Children on Horses category will be allowed to compete in further RDS qualifying competitions for that category. However, the competitor **must** clearly state that the horse is already qualified, by marking a "**Q**" on the top right-hand corner of the Registration Ticket. Failure to comply with this rule may result in a fine and / or loss of qualification place for the RDS National Championships.
8. For all horses whose eligibility is based on foreign competition records, they must be registered with SJI and have their 'foreign points' recorded on the SJI online system by the 4th of June 2021.
9. The FEI Jumping European Championships for Children on Horses and Young Riders will take place in Vilamoura, Portugal from the 18th to the 25th of July. Should the Children on Horses team, the Junior team or an individual rider win a medal, additional qualification places will be awarded to the winning combination(s) (5 riders in the case of a team medal), provide they have not already qualified, or have not already reached their quota. In the case of a Young Rider winning an individual medal he or she will be awarded a qualification place in either the Young Rider (1.35 – 1.40m) class or the 8 & 9 Year Old class.