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**IRISH PONY SOCIETY**

**SPORTS PONY CHALLENGE 2022**

**DATES**

Sunday 10 April – Ross House (QUALIFIER)

Tuesday 19 April – Killossory (QUALIFIER)

Monday 2 May – Marlton Stud (QUALIFIER)

Saturday 21 May – Spruce Lodge (FINAL)

**LIST OF CLASSES**

<i>Class</i>	<i>Pony</i>	<i>Rider's Age on 1.1.22</i>	<i>Max Fence Height/Width</i>
1. Starter Stakes Combined Training	Not exceeding 133 cms	Under 12 years	75cm / 84 cm
2. 133 cms	Not exceeding 133 cms	Under 14 years	90 cm / 1 m
3. 143 cms	Not exceeding 143 cms	Under 17 years	1m / 1.05m
4. Reg Connemara Pony		Up to & incl 16 years	1m / 1.05m
5. Reg Connemara Pony		Over 16 years	1m / 1.05m
6. 153 cms	Not exceeding 153 cms	Under 20 years	1.05m / 1.20m
7. 158 cms	Not exceeding 158 cms	Under 25 years	1.15m / 1.20m
8. Novice Class	Any height	As per IPS WH rules	80 cm / 90 cm

**ENTRY FEE - €45.00**

Entries through [www.itsplainsailing.com/org/spcips](http://www.itsplainsailing.com/org/spcips)

Qualifiers also open to Non Members (subject to purchase of Day Membership {€5.00} on the day of the Show) but all competing at Final must be IPS members

## SPORTS PONY CHALLENGE AND STARTER STAKES COMBINED TRAINING CLASSES

### Rules

#### Format of Competition

This is a three phase competition consisting of:

1. Dressage Test
2. Performance Working Hunter
3. Show Jumping

#### LIST OF CLASSES

<i>Class</i>	<i>Pony</i>	<i>Rider's Age on 1.1.21</i>	<i>Max Fence Height/Width</i>
1. Starter Stakes Combined Training	Not exceeding 133 cms	Under 12 years	75cm / 84 cm
2. 133 cms	Not exceeding 133 cms	Under 14 years	90 cm / 1 m
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6. 153 cms	Not exceeding 153 cms	Under 20 years	1.05m / 1.20m
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8. Novice Class	Any height	As per IPS WH rules	80 cm / 90 cm

Ponies in all classes must be 5 years or over on 1.1.21 (apart from Class 8 where 4 years olds are eligible)

Note that Class 1 and 8 will not be eligible for the Sports Pony Challenge Prize Fund but will receive Prizes in Kind. Entries in these two classes could have the performance hunter phase as their first phase, depending on the number of entries.

Starter Stakes Combined Training will be a Dressage and Performance Hunter Competition only (children riding in this class MAY NOT ride in any other class in the Competition)

Riders can ride a maximum of two ponies at the Qualifiers and the Final.

Connemara ponies can ONLY compete in one class at any given Qualifier on a day. However, they can attend and compete in another Class at a different Qualifier (eg can compete in Connemara class at one Qualifier and the 143 cms class at another Qualifier BUT can only qualify for one class in the Final).

Riders who are eliminated for any reason in any phase may continue on a HC basis, subject to permission from the Committee.

It will be permitted to change tack between phases.

Qualifiers are open to both Members and Non-Members (subject to purchase of Day Membership {€5.00} on the day of the Show) of the IPS. For the Final, all competitors' (ponies and riders) must be registered and be a current member of the IPS, all ponies must have a current measuring certificate. Ponies entered in the Connemara classes ONLY do not need to be measured.

Each phase of the competition will be allocated points. The winner of the competition is the competitor with the highest points after ALL three phases. If, at the end of the three phases, two ponies have equal points, the Performance Hunter Phase will be the deciding score.

Points' allocation for each phase is as follows:

First Place	100 Points
Second Place	95 Points
Third Place	90 Points
Fourth Place	85 Points
Fifth Place	80 Points

Continuing to 20<sup>th</sup> place in increments of 5 points

At each Qualifier, the first three ponies will qualify from each competition for the Final. If a pony is not able to compete in the Final, the next placed pony from that Qualifier will be brought forward to the Final.

### LEAGUE

League points will be allocated as follows:

1 <sup>st</sup> Place	10 Points	4 <sup>th</sup> Place	7 Points	7 <sup>th</sup> Place	4 Points	10 <sup>th</sup> Place	1 Point
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	9 Points	5 <sup>th</sup> Place	6 Points	8 <sup>th</sup> Place	3 Points		
3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	8 Points	6 <sup>th</sup> Place	5 Points	9 <sup>th</sup> Place	2 Points		

### Dressage Phase

**Test: BD Novice Test 30 (2006) – Sports Pony Challenge/Novice Class**  
**South Munster Dressage Introduction to Dressage Test C (2012) – Combined Training**

Times will be available two days before competition

Dressage Phase is to be ridden before jumping phases and in a snaffle. All transitions from one pace to another may be progressive.

1. All trot to be executed sitting or rising
2. Tests are to be ridden from memory with no outside assistance allowed
3. Competitors must not enter the arena until the Judge has rung the bell
4. Dress must be in accordance with Dressage Ireland Rules, gloves must be worn, spurs are not permitted, black or brown saddles, numnahs can be white, black or brown with no logo
5. Nosebands only of cavesson, drop, flash, grackle or Mexican are permitted but must not have chain or rope
6. Martingales, side cheek or running reins are not permitted
7. Whips are allowed up to 75 cms.

Permitted bits are as per list on page 22 of the IPS Rule Book for 2020 – see attached diagram

### Performance Hunter Phase

This is run under IPS Rules (<http://www.irishponysociety.ie/members-area/rulebook/>)

This phase will be jumped over a course of natural fences, not less than ten fences and will include a double. Solid fences, water jumps, skinnies, banks etc. may also be included

Each fence is marked out of 10 plus 20 marks for Overall Way of Going

The total mark is divided by two and any penalties are subtracted

Penalties are as follows:

Refusals	1 <sup>st</sup> Refusal	15 penalties
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Refusal	20 penalties
	3 <sup>rd</sup> Refusal	Elimination

Knock Down 10 penalties  
(the height and width of the fences must be altered to constitute a knock down)

Premature departure from the arena equals elimination

Errors of course equals elimination

### Dress Code:

Tweed or Hunting Style jacket

Shirt and Tie

Beige, fawn or cream breeches

Long black boots, jodhpur boots or leather half chaps / gaiters with boots

Starter Stakes Combined Training can wear short boots

Gloves must be worn

Protective headgear conforming to the current recommended kitemark standard

A body protector must be worn by all riders as per IPS rules

Long hair tied neatly and placed in a hairnet

No jewellery on face or ears

### Showjumping Phase

This phase is jumped over one round with the second half being against the clock. In the event of equality of faults, time will be the deciding factor.

- Tack as per Performance Working Hunter Phase
- Showjumping jackets and jodhpurs allowed
- No spurs permitted
- Whip to be no longer than 75 cms and not weighted at the end
- Competitors allowed to walk the course in advance of the class on foot
- Body protectors are required for those under 16 years

**Penalties as follows:**

<b>Knock</b>	<b>4 Penalties</b>
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Refusal</b>	<b>4 Penalties</b>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Refusal</b>	<b>8 Penalties</b>
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Refusal</b>	<b>Elimination</b>

**Fall of rider or pony equals elimination**

**Taking the incorrect course, jumping an extra fence or going before the bell constitutes elimination. If, at the end of the three phases, two ponies have equal points, the Performance Hunter Phase will be the deciding score.**