



## **GUIDELINES AND INFORMATION FOR 2026 MOUNTED GAMES TRIALS**

The 2026 Mounted Games Trials dates are:

Day 1 - Sunday 22<sup>ND</sup> February

Day 2 - Sunday 1<sup>ST</sup> March

Day 3 – Sunday 8<sup>TH</sup> March (only if either of the previous dates is cancelled due to extreme weather or other unforeseen circumstances)

Locations: Day 1 - all-weather arena at Barnadown EC, Co Wexford Y25 W8N0

Days 2 & 3 – all-weather arena at Hollypark EC, Curraghchase, Co. Limerick V94 71W2

Start times to be advised in due course.

All entries to be on its plain sailing. The entry fee of € 90.00, which is non-refundable, must be paid at time of entry on its plain sailing at <https://www.itsplainsailing.com/org/mounted>.

Entries open on 12<sup>TH</sup> January 2026.

Membership renewal of the Irish Pony Club for 2026 must be paid before making an entry.

Closing date for entries is **Monday 2<sup>ND</sup> February 2026 at midnight**.

**Please read the following carefully: You will be asked to confirm that you understand the weight/height rules when entering on its plain sailing. Your DC will also have to sign off on each entry. This will be strictly adhered to.**

Dressed to compete a rider weighing over 54kg, may not ride a pony 128cm or under. A rider weighing over 60kg may not ride a pony 133cm or under and a rider weighing over 66kg may not ride a pony 138cm or under. If a team Member changes to a different pony during the competition or training the same weight/height rules apply.

Before training starts the appointed Trainer will liaise with parents to arrange a series of training sessions. Parents will then be asked to commit to attending training sessions and anyone who misses a training session (without good reason) will be dropped from the team at the discretion of the Chief Steward.

The pony that a rider presents on the first day of trials must be used throughout the trials, training and travelling period. Those selected for the Windsor Team (including the reserve rider) must use the same pony for the trials, training, travelling period and for the Irish International Competition in October. If it becomes necessary to change a pony, this can only be done at the discretion of the Chief Steward. If a player or pony gets injured during the trials their placing will be at the discretion of the selectors.

A Liaison Officer will be appointed for the days of trials, and he/she will be the point of contact for queries on the day.

Please note the following when preparing for and taking part in the trials as the points below will be important when the selectors are making their final decisions. All points having equal merit.

- Ability to vault.
- Ability to correct a mistake quickly and accurately.
- Ability to achieve pace and speed but also to check or pull up.



- Ability of pony and rider to give a pass.
- Ability of pony and rider to take a pass.
- Ability to play technical games correctly.
- Temperament and attitude of pony and rider

**Additional Information -**

- Consideration is given to the complementary attributes of all 5 riders and ponies to the overall team as a unit.
- All players who attend trials will be given the best possible chance to show their abilities.
- The scores are only an aid to assist the selectors and do NOT determine places. Outside scoring is NOT relevant
- Any rider not wanting to finish any game may raise their hand and not finish that game. They will not be awarded any points for that game.
- Selectors should not be asked for information regarding placing of a rider after either the 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> day of trials.
- The decision of the selectors is final.

**Estimated cost of trips for 2026,**

WINDSOR .....	€2,500.00
BATH & WEST .....	€2,000.00
MALVERN OR SCOTLAND.....	€1,100.00
CHESTER/WALES (OR SIMILAR) .....	€1,100.00

The above payments will be due for the team fund to cover export/import papers for pony travel and required vetting, food during travel and at the competition, training costs, team clothing etc. as agreed between the Team Mum (who administers the team fund) and Trainer. One of the team parents will be appointed Team Mum. Details re payment methods will follow in due course. These costs do NOT include travel for pony and rider, travel for parents/supporters, team clothing for parents/supporters all of which will be payable in addition to the above fees.

By entering for these trials, you are deemed to have accepted the following –

1. All International Trial Mounted Games competitors MUST be at least 13 years of age on the 1<sup>st</sup> of January of the current year (2026) i.e. all competitors should at least be in their 1<sup>st</sup> Senior year.
2. All competitors must be under 15 years of age on the 1<sup>st</sup> of January of the current year (2026)
3. All competitors must be registered, paid up, members of the Irish Pony Club for 2026
4. All competitors and their ponies must be dressed/tacked up in accordance with the IPC Mounted Games Tack Sheet 2026.
5. A member putting themselves forward for selection on a team travelling abroad, or to Northern Ireland, must have taken part in IPC Mounted Games Competitions, or have been available for selection by their Branch, in the previous 12 months.
6. Whilst we endeavour to do the utmost to arrange a team place for everyone who trials, we **cannot guarantee** a place for everyone as the availability of competitions is outside our control.

If entering for Trials, you must be available for training on all the following dates and other dates to be confirmed by your trainer.

Sunday 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> of March 2026.