**Evaluation rules**

Irish Cob Studbook Czechia (ICS CZ)



Irish Cob the Czech Republic, z.s.

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**Definitions of Terminology and Abbreviations Used for the Purposes of This Document:**

1. **ICCR, z.s.** – IRISH COB THE CZECH REPUBLIC, registered association;
2. **breeder** - a person involved in the Breeding Program according to §2 para.1, letter d) of the Breeding Act, registered in the Breeders Register (BR) according to the BRC;
3. **Breeding Act** - Act No. 154/2000 Coll., on breeding, mating, and the registration of farm animals and amending certain related laws (Breeding Act), as amended;
4. **regulation on breeding animals** - Regulation (EU) 2016/1012 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 8 June 2016 on zootechnical and genealogical conditions for the breeding of purebred breeding animals, hybrid breeding pigs and their germinal products in the Union, for trade in them and for their entry into the Union, amending Regulation (EU) No 652/2014 and Council Directives 89/608/EEC and 90/425/EEC and repealing certain acts in the field of animal breeding (‘regulation on breeding animals’);
5. **legislation on breeding animals** - regulation on breeding animals and the Breeding Act;
6. **Recognized Breeding Association (RBA)** - approved according to the Breeding Act;
7. **BRC** (Breed Registry Council) - professional authority of ICCR, z.s.;
8. **BRR** – Breed Registry Rules;
9. **BP** – Breeding Program;
10. **TR** - Trial Regulations.
11. **Trial regulations of the Irish Cob**

The Trial Regulation (hereinafter referred to as TR) describes the methodology for conducting evaluation during registrations and foal inspections, at shows (premium inspections), and the recording of mares, in the selection of stallions, and in all performance tests.

It also establishes principles for determining inspectors and the composition of evaluation commissions.

Appendices to TR include all forms for inspectors.

It is a general rule that during shows (premium inspections) and all performance tests, the breeder of the horse must present valid documents for the horse's transfer according to the Methodology for Health Control and Mandatory Vaccination for the given year before unloading the horse.

* 1. **Presentation Area**

The eligibility of the presentation area at all breeding events and performance tests is decided by the judging commission, and it is authorized to choose alternative solutions for the successful progress of the event.

1. **Inspectors and Evaluation Method**
	1. **Inspectors and Breeding Commissions**
2. Evaluation of the conformation and temperament of stallions, mares, and their offspring is carried out in accordance with the provisions of the Breeding Program (BP) by the relevant inspector.
3. At shows (premium inspections), a minimum 2-member evaluation commission conducts the evaluation. The composition of this commission for a specific event is appointed by the ICCR Presidency, on the proposal of the BRC ICS CZ.
4. The horse inspector ensures an objective evaluation of conformational and utility characteristics. Only a qualified person with expertise according to § 30 paragraph 2) or 4) of the Breeding Act can be a inspector.
5. Entry into the Auxiliary Register (BASIC) is carried out by a person appointed by the BRC ICS CZ.
6. Breeding Commission - at exhibitions and shows, evaluations can also be conducted by educated breeders or a breeding commission. A member of the breeding commission is usually an experienced breeder of Irish Cob. These breeding commissions are appointed for a specific event by the Presidency, on the proposal of the BRC ICS CZ.
	1. **Evaluation and Inspections**

The evaluation of horses, including foals, is conducted using grades ranging from 6 to 10 points (in half-point increments). Additionally, during shows (premium inspections), a linear description is prepared for all individuals.

* 1. **Evaluation Scale**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 10 | 9 ½  | 9 | 8 ½  | 8 | 7 ½  | 7 | 6 ½  | 6 |
| exceptional | excellent | very good | good | satisfactory | sufficient | insufficient | bad | very bad |

1. **Evaluation**
	1. **Evaluative Criteria**
2. **Breed type and sexual expression**
3. Overall appearance (Irish Cob type)
4. **Body structure**
5. Head (eyes, ears, muzzle, teeth)
6. Neck
7. Shoulders and withers
8. Forelegs
9. Chest
10. Back
11. Hindquarters
12. Hind legs
13. Feathers
14. Tail and Mane
15. **Movement**
16. Walk
17. Trot
18. **Character attributes and temperament**
19. Character and temperament
20. Presentation/Willingness to cooperate
21. **Overall impression**
22. Overall impression
	1. **Character Test**

The character test may consist of simple tasks that assess the horse's character and its willingness to cooperate with humans.

* 1. **Evaluation of Foals under the Dam**

The evaluation is carried out by the inspector during the registration of the foal, usually in its home environment.

Foals are scored, described verbally, and any inherent markings are graphically represented. A microchip is applied for identification purposes. All data must be recorded by the inspector in a written or electronic form in the studbook.

Before the start of the next breeding season, the Breed Registry Council (BRC) evaluates the recorded data and considers it for the individual inclusion of breeding stallions in the acceleration program for the next breeding season, taking into account the specific offspring of each stallion.

1. **Evaluation of Breeding Animals and Young Horses at Shows and Inspections**
	1. **Evaluation of Foals under the Dam at Shows and Exhibitions**

The evaluation is conducted by at least one, usually foreign, evaluator or a breeding committee appointed by the ICCR Presidency, proposed by the Breed Registry Council (BRC).

The evaluation of conformation includes expressing the desirable type, body structure, correctness of stance, and harmonious physical development. The foal's evaluation is carried out with the mare standing still. The movement mechanics in walk and trot are evaluated while the mare is presented, and the foal moves alongside.

* 1. **Evaluation of Young Horses at Show and Exhibitions**

The evaluation is carried out by at least one, usually foreign, evaluator or a breeding committee appointed by the ICCR Presidency, proposed by the BRC.

The assessment of conformation includes expressing the desirable type, body structure, correctness of stance, and harmonious physical development. Foals are presented without the dam, on a halter, led by hand. The evaluation at shows usually aims to determine the winner (champion of young horses) and one or two additional placed horses. The mentioned titles, in the context of the overall evaluation within the IC breed, may be awarded by the BRC.

* 1. **Evaluation of Mares at Shows and Exhibitions**

The evaluation is conducted by the least one, usually foreign, evaluator or breeding committee appointed by the ICCR Presidency, proposed by the BRC.

Method of Evaluation:

Mares are presented on a halter, led by hand. If the conditions of the exhibition allow, all participating mares first enter the presentation area, and they are walked in procession according to their assigned numbers. Then, all mares leave the presentation area, and each mare is presented individually according to their assigned number.

Firstly, the mare is shown to the evaluators standing still, in a zootechnical posture. The evaluator assesses breed type and sexual expression, body structure, and correctness. Subsequently, the mare is presented in motion on a lead, and the committee assesses the movement mechanics in walk and trot. An assistant may be invited to correct the horse's speed during the presentation. The verbal commentary is public, and it is desirable to briefly summarize it immediately after the presentation of each mare.

Next, the evaluator asks for the mares to be presented again in a group. The mares are led in a procession, and the evaluator selects those advancing to the final. A maximum of 5 mares proceed to the final round. By moving the mares in procession, the evaluator determines the order of mares in the final, and the ranking of the best is announced at the end.

* 1. **Evaluation of Mares at Inspections (premium inspections)**

The evaluation of mares at mare inspections is conducted by at least a two-member evaluation committee.

The evaluation committee is appointed by the ICCR Presidency, proposed by the BRC ICS CZ.

The mares are presented on a halter, led by hand. Firstly, the mare is presented to the committee standing still, in a zootechnical posture. The committee assesses breed type and sexual expression, body structure, and correctness. Subsequently, the mare is presented in motion on a lead, and the committee assesses the movement mechanics in walk and trot. An assistant may be invited to correct the horse's speed during the presentation. The verbal commentary is public, and it is desirable to briefly summarize it immediately after the presentation of each mare.

Individual scores are part of the document recording the mare in the studbook, scored in half points. Recording mares can also be done in a home environment; in such a case, one inspector can conduct the recording independently, following the evaluation method mentioned above.

The Mare Inspection Form (Inspection description - Attachment No. 1) is used for recording mares.

Simultaneously, a linear description is conducted (Attachment No. 2).

* 1. **Evaluation of Stallions and Geldings at Shows and Exhibitions**

The evaluation is carried out by at least one, usually foreign, evaluator or a breeding committee appointed by the ICCR Presidency, proposed by the BRC.

Method of Evaluation:

Stallions are presented on a bridle with a snaffle.

If the conditions of the exhibition allow, all participating stallions first enter the presentation area, and they are walked in procession according to their assigned numbers. Then, all stallions leave the presentation area, and each stallion is presented individually according to their assigned number.

Firstly, the stallion is shown to the evaluators standing still, in a zootechnical posture. The evaluator assesses breed type and sexual expression, body structure, and correctness. Subsequently, the stallion is presented in motion on a lead, and the committee assesses the movement mechanics in walk and trot. An assistant may be invited to correct the horse's speed during the presentation. The verbal commentary is public, and it is desirable to briefly summarize it immediately after the presentation of each stallion.

Next, the evaluator asks for the stallions to be presented again in a group. The stallions are led in a procession, and the evaluator selects those advancing to the final. A maximum of 3 stallions proceed to the final round. By moving the stallions in procession, the evaluator determines the order of stallions in the final, and the ranking of the best is announced at the end.

* 1. **Pre-selection of Stallions for Breeding**

The evaluation of stallions at pre-selections is conducted by at least a two-member evaluation committee.

The evaluation committee is proposed and approved by the BRC. Stallions are presented on a bridle with a snaffle. Firstly, the stallion is shown to the committee standing still, in a zootechnical posture. The committee assesses breed type and sexual expression, body structure, and correctness. Subsequently, the stallion is presented in motion on a lead, and the committee assesses the movement mechanics in walk and trot. An assistant may be invited to correct the horse's speed during the presentation. The verbal commentary is public, and it is desirable to briefly summarize it immediately after the presentation of each stallion. Individual scores are part of the documents for the selection of a stallion for breeding, scored in half points.

The breeder (or owner) of a stallion applying for selection for breeding must submit along with the application the result of the PSSM1 (Polysaccharide Storage Myopathy 1) test conducted in an authorized laboratory. At the same time, the breeder (or owner) is required to submit a health status protocol of the stallion (Attachment No. 3) or undergo a veterinary check directly at the place of selection. If the stallion is a carrier of the PSSM1 allele or the veterinarian finds health issues incompatible with breeding (especially cryptorchidism, malocclusions, allergies, ataxia), such a stallion cannot participate in the selection.

The selection of a stallion for breeding can also be conducted in a home environment. The procedure follows the evaluation method mentioned above. The Stallion Inspection Form (Inspection description - Attachment No. 1) is used for pre-selection of stallions.

Simultaneously, a linear description is conducted (Attachment No. 2). Stallions that participated in the pre-selection must pass the Basic Performance Test within 18 months of receiving the pre-selection.

* 1. **Selection of Stallions for Breeding**

All stallions are required to participate in a reevaluation and final selection for breeding at the age of at least 6 years and no later than 3 years from the pre-selection.

The evaluation is conducted by at least a two-member evaluation committee and follows the procedures outlined in section 4.5. of the Regulation.

1. **Performance Tests**

Basic Performance Tests are announced for horses aged three and older who have already been registered in the Studbook.

**Organizational Order for Performance Tests**

1. The breeder can choose any of the following basic performance tests:
* Riding Test
* Performance Test in Driving (Distance Driving in light driving or Dressage task).

Completing either of these tests qualifies the horse in the basic performance test.

1. The horse must be in appropriate condition and nutritional status.
2. After the completion of PT and their evaluation, all participants will undergo an assessment. The results will be announced by the commissioner with a brief evaluation.
3. Mares, stallions, and geldings registered in the Irish Cob Studbook can participate in performance tests.
4. After completing the performance tests and failing to meet the limit in the chosen discipline, stallions, and mares can repeat the entire test once in a term set by the BRC.
5. Any gross violation of the prescribed conditions of BRC or inappropriate behavior of the rider/driver can lead to exclusion from performance tests. All participants in the evaluation committee must agree to the exclusion.
6. Evaluation for PT are appointed by the BRC ICS CZ.
7. The organizer of PT does not take responsibility for any damages that may occur.
	1. **Riding test – performance test**
* The task is performed in an arena of 20 x 40 m.
* The equipment must adhere to the rules of the ČJF or WRC.
* Allowed bridles: English or Western leather bridles. A noseband is not mandatory, but if used, it must be English, combined, Mexican, or Hanoverian. Snaffle bits with a minimum width of 10 mm (measured at the ring), single or double jointed, are allowed. Other types of bits and nosebands are prohibited. The use of auxiliary reins and martingales is forbidden, even during warm-up before the test.
* The use of spurs and whips longer than 75 cm is prohibited.
* Evaluation includes the quality of paces, straightness, transitions to and from a halt, transitions to higher and lower pace, position and bending, and the regularity of the circle.
* The task is read, and the breeder ensures the reading of the task.

1. A - enter in working trot

X - halt, salute, forward in working trot

C - on right hand

2. M-K - change of rein, light trot

 K - working trot

3. Between K-A - working canter once around the arena

 A - working trot

4. B - circle

5. C - halt, 4 sec halt, continue with medium walk

 H-B - change of rein

6. B - working trot

 Between F-A - working canter once around the arena

 A - working trot

7. E - circle

8. A - from center

 X - halt, salute

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Character evaluation | Name of the Horse | Mark | Coefficient | Resulting mark |
| **1. Type and Sexual Expression** |  | 1 |  |
| **2. Movement** |  |  |  |
| Walk |  | 0,4 |  |
| Impulsion and Elasticity – Trot |  | 0,3 |  |
| Regularity of movement |  | 0,3 |  |
| **Total Movement** |  |  |  |
| **3. Abilities, Willingness** |  |  |  |
| Manageability/Rideability and Obedience |  | 0,5 |  |
| Preparedness |  | 0,2 |  |
| Controllability  |  | 0,3 |  |
| **Total Abilities, Willingness** |  |  |  |
| **4. Overall Impression** |  |  |  |
|  |
| **TOTAL RESULTS (Number of Points)** |  | /4 |  |
|  |  |  |  |

* 1. **Performance Test in Driving**

For carriage driving tests, a single horse cart or wagon is allowed. For pair driving, always use wagon or a carriage (if the carriage doesn't have brakes, then a backstrap is mandatory).

Single horses are always positioned between 2 poles and with a backstrap.

For endurance driving, only a wagon or a carriage is allowed.

The committee will assess the suitability of the used cart or carriage.

* + 1. **Endurance Driving and control of the horse**

A distance of 6 km is covered in diverse terrain in approximately 30 minutes. A better time is not evaluated.

At the end, a turn in a circle is performed on both hands, involving halt and starting twice.

Both endurance driving and control are evaluated independently.

The test can be conducted in both single and pair driving.

* + 1. **Dressage Task for the Driving Test**

Driving test (single or pair)

Single between 2 shafts, light carriage with two axles. In a pair, a 3-year-old mare is hitched only with a 3-year-old horse (without a so-called teacher), older mares (or horses) only in single. Dressage test and obstacle cones driving take place on a arena with recommended dimensions of 40 x 100m.

Dressage Task for Driving Test:

A - entry in walk

X - halt, salute, forward in walk

EH - walk

H - trot

A - circle once around

KXM - change of rein – extended trot

M - trot

C - circle once around

XHF - change of rein – extended trot

M - walk

A - turn on X

X - halt, salute, exit in walk from arena

The prescribed pace for the obstacle cones driving is the trot.

There are a total of 8 passes of approximately 150 cm width in the dressage arena.

The readiness, willingness to work, paces, smoothness of transitions, controllability, and overall impression are evaluated.

***The coefficient for the average evaluation of movement mechanics is 0.3.***

***The coefficient for the average evaluation of controllability, willingness, and reliability is 0.5.***

The reliability test in draft is evaluated comprehensively considering character, willingness, and controllability. The readiness is mainly evaluated for the horse's readiness for performance, balance, reliability, and presentation quality.

***The coefficient for the average readiness assessment is 0.2.***

**Final Evaluation**

The test result is calculated from the averages of the point evaluation of all evaluators in individual parts, multiplied by the coefficients, and the sum of these shares.

Stallion, mare or gelding successfully complete the test with a minimum performance rating of at least 7.5 points and individual character ratings of at least 6.5 points.

The evaluation committee issues a protocol for the conducted test, which must be signed by the evaluators. The protocol will be handed over to the horse's owner. The results for individual horses will be communicated to all participants after the entire test is completed.

**Grades**

Each part of the individual tests is scored on a scale according to the rules. A horse can score between 0 and 10:

0 = not presented

1 = very bad

2 = bad

3 = almost bad

4 = insufficient

5 = sufficient

6 = satisfactory

7 = quite good

8 = good

9 = very good

10 = excellent