

# IRISH CHAMPIONS FESTIVAL

  
**LEOPARDSTOWN**  
Dublin's heart is racing

**THE CURRAGH**  
WHERE CHAMPIONS ARE MADE



IT ALL  
COMES DOWN  
TO THIS

## OWNER'S & TRAINER'S GUIDE 2025

Leopardstown 13th September

The Curragh 14th September

DAY 1

# LEOPARDSTOWN

**Saturday, 13th September**

The feature race at Leopardstown on Day One of Irish Champions Festival is the Group 1 Royal Bahrain Irish Champion Stakes, ranked eighth in the IFHA World's Top 100 Group 1 Races 2024. Leopardstown is a fair, galloping left-handed circuit situated 20 minutes from Dublin City.



## Contact Details

Should you have any queries in relation to the advertised race programme or wish to enquire further regarding travel and quarantine assistance please do not hesitate to contact any of the following:

**Vicki Donlon**, Leopardstown Racecourse, Interim CEO

Tel: +353 (0)87 2029195 • Email: [vdonlon@hri.ie](mailto:vdonlon@hri.ie)

**Jonathan Mullin**, Horse Racing Ireland, Director of Racing

Tel: +353 (0)45 455455 • Email: [jmullin@hri.ie](mailto:jmullin@hri.ie)

**Andrew Finnegan**, Horse Racing Ireland, Race Planning Manager

Tel: +353 (0)45 455455 • Email: [afinnegan@hri.ie](mailto:afinnegan@hri.ie)

**Peter Roe**, Horse Racing Ireland, Head of Racing - HRI Racecourses

Tel: +353 (0)86 8208870 • Email: [proe@fairycastle.ie](mailto:proe@fairycastle.ie)

# RACE PROGRAMME

## Royal Bahrain Irish Champion Stakes

(Group 1) of €1,250,000 over 10f.  
For 3 years old and upwards.  
Weights: 3-y-o: 9st 3lb  
4-y-o and up: 9st 9lb  
Fillies allowed: 3lb  
Closing for entries: 28th May 2025  
A Breeders' Cup Challenge Race

## The Coolmore America 'Justify' Matron Stakes

(Group 1) of €400,000 over 8f.  
For 3 years old and upwards fillies only. Weights:  
3-y-o: 9st 2lb  
4-y-o and up: 9st 7lb  
Closing for entries: 25th June 2025  
A Breeders' Cup Challenge Race

## The Solonaway Stakes

(Group 2) of €200,000 over 8f.  
For 3 years old and upwards.  
Weights: 3-y-o: 9st 5lb / 4-y-o and up: 9st 10lb  
Fillies allowed: 3lb  
Closing for entries: 6th August 2025  
Winner of a Group 1 race: 3lb extra

## The KPMG Champions Juvenile Stakes

(Group 2) of €150,000 over 8f.  
For 2 years old only  
Weights: 9st 5lb  
Fillies allowed: 3lb  
Closing for entries: 20th August 2025  
Penalties: Winner of a Group 3 race: 3lb extra Of a Group 2 or a Group 1 race: 5lb extra  
A Breeders' Cup Challenge Race

\* Provisional race conditions correct at time of publication.

\*\* Forfeit, Second Entry & Supplementary stages can be obtained at +353 45 455422.

## The CMG Training 'Kiltarnan' Stakes (Group 3)

of €100,000 over 12f.  
For 3 years old and upwards that have not won a Group 1 race.  
Weights: 3-y-o: 9st 1lb / 4-y-o and up: 9st 9lb Fillies allowed: 3lb  
Closing for entries: 20th August 2025  
Winner of a Group 3 race: 3lb extra  
Of a Group 2 race: 5lb extra

## The Ballylinch Stud Irish EBF Ingabelle Stakes (Listed Race)

of €100,000 over 7f.  
For 2 years old fillies only, that have not won a listed race or been 1st, 2nd or 3rd in a Group race and are EBF eligible. Weights: 9st 2lb  
Closing for entries: 9th September 2025

## The Irish Stallion Farms EBF 'Sovereign Path'

Premier Handicap of €150,000 over 7f.  
For 3 years old and upwards which are EBF eligible (105 = 10st).  
Closing for entries: 27th August 2025

## The Irish Stallion Farms EBF 'Petingo' Premier Handicap

of €150,000 over 12.5f.  
For 3 years old and upwards which are EBF eligible (105 = 10st).  
Closing for entries: 27th August 2025

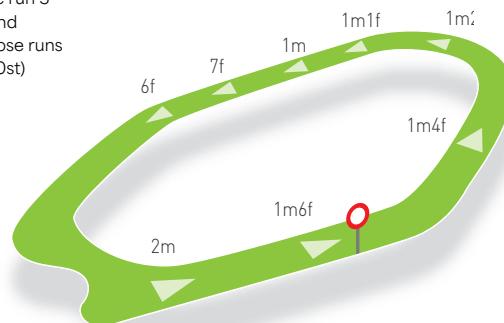
## The HKJC World Pool Autumn Fillies Premier Handicap

of €100,000 over 8f  
Three years old and upwards fillies only that have run 3 or more times under any Rules of Racing up to and including 1st September, 2025, at least one of those runs having been on or after 1st August, 2024 (100 = 10st)  
Closing for entries: 27th August 2025



## LEOPARDSTOWN'S COURSE

Leopardstown is a galloping, left-handed oval turf course of one mile and six furlongs with a slightly uphill finishing straight.



DAY 2

# THE CURRAGH

**Sunday, 14th September**

Day Two at the Curragh includes four Group 1 races, highlighted by the Comer Group International Irish St Leger, the final Irish Classic of the season, and the Bar One Racing Flying Five Stakes, together with The Goffs Vincent O'Brien National Stakes and the Moyglare Stud Stakes, two of the best juvenile races of the year which are likely to determine the champion two-year-olds in Europe once again.



THE CURRAGH

## Contact Details

Should you have any queries in relation to the advertised race programme or wish to enquire further regarding travel and quarantine assistance please do not hesitate to contact any of the following:

**Brian Kavanagh**, The Curragh Racecourse, CEO

Tel:+353 (0)45 401205 • Email: [bkavanagh@curragh.ie](mailto:bkavanagh@curragh.ie)

**Jonathan Mullin**, Horse Racing Ireland, Director of Racing

Tel:+353 (0)45 455455 • Email: [jmullin@hri.ie](mailto:jmullin@hri.ie)

**Andrew Finnegan**, Horse Racing Ireland, Race Planning

Manager Tel:+353 (0)45 455455 • Email: [afinnegan@hri.ie](mailto:afinnegan@hri.ie)

# RACE PROGRAMME

## The Comer Group International Irish St. Leger

(Group 1) of €500,000 over 14f.  
For 3 years old and upwards.  
Weights: 3-y-o: 9st 2lb  
4-y-o and up: 9st 11lb  
Fillies allowed: 3lb  
Closing for entries: 28th May 2025

## The Moyglare Stud Stakes

(Group 1) of €400,000 over 7f.  
For 2 years old fillies only.  
Weights: 9st 2lb  
Closing for entries: 25th June 2025  
A Breeders' Cup Challenge Race

## The Goffs Vincent O'Brien National Stakes

(Group 1) of €400,000 over 7f.  
For 2 years old colts & fillies only.  
Weights: 9st 5lb  
Fillies allowed: 3lb  
Closing for entries: 25th June 2025

## The Bar One Racing Flying Five Stakes

(Group 1) of €400,000 over 5f.  
For 3 years old and upwards.  
Weights: 3-y-o: 9st 5lb  
4-y-o and up: 9st 6lb  
Fillies allowed: 3lb  
Closing for entries: 25th June 2025  
A Breeders' Cup Challenge Race

## The Moyglare "Jewels" Blandford Stakes

(Group 2) of €200,000 over 10f.  
For 3 years old and upwards fillies only.  
Weights: 3-y-o: 9st 2lb  
4-y-o and up: 9st 8lb  
Closing for entries: 6th August 2025  
Winner of a Group 1 race: 3lb extra

## The Irish Stallion Farms EBF 'Bold Lad' Sprint Premier Handicap

of €150,000 over 6f.  
For 3 years old and upwards which are EBF eligible (105 = 10st).  
Closing for entries: 27th August 2025

## The Irish Stallion Farms EBF 'Northfields' Premier Handicap

of €150,000 over 10f.  
For 3 years old and upwards which are EBF eligible (105 = 10st).  
Closing for entries: 27th August 2025



## THE CURRAGH

The Curragh, one of the world's most iconic racecourses offers magnificent facilities on a par with the best in the world. The centrepiece of the racecourse is the spectacular multi-purpose grandstand which incorporates five-star facilities on four levels and superb viewing of the racecourse. Featuring a parade ring and saddling boxes, which ensures that more patrons can share in the excitement and build up to the racing.

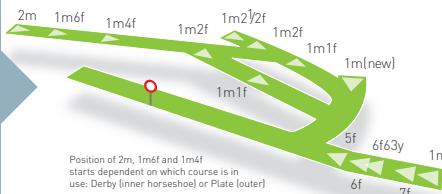


## TRAINING GROUNDS

Comprising of approximately 1,500 acres, the Curragh training grounds include 80 miles of grass gallops. Used daily by approximately 900 horses in the care of 55 horse trainers. The training grounds are owned and managed by the Curragh and have been used by international stars such as Harzand and Sea The Stars. The Curragh training grounds are located at the Curragh Racecourse, 40 minutes from Leopardstown Racecourse and Dublin airport. Use of the facilities during your horse's stay can be arranged through Evan Arkwright at [eark@curragh.ie](mailto:eark@curragh.ie).

## THE CURRAGH'S COURSE

A right-handed horseshoe-shaped course over two miles, with an adjoining chute feeding into the home straight which stages races of up to a mile. It has a three furlong run-in with an uphill finish and is regarded as one of the best and fairest racecourses in the world.



\* Provisional race conditions correct at time of publication.

\*\* Forfeit, Second Entry & Supplementary stages can be obtained at +353 45 455422.

# STABLING & ACCOMMODATION

**Curragh:** Stabling for runners at The Curragh will be available at the racecourse to include access to the world famous Curragh Training Grounds.

**Leopardstown:** Leopardstown Racecourse have modern stabling available at the Racecourse which is in South Dublin, stabling outside the racecourse can be arranged also. Accommodation for racing staff is provided in nearby locations.

Accommodation and transportation for racing staff will be provided courtesy of the relevant racecourse.



# Free Entry Races

The races below form the 'Irish Champions Festival Free Entry Scheme' incentive which will be a series of races in August in which the winning horses will be entitled to a refund equivalent to the total cost of running for a horse which had been entered at the initial entry stage should they run in designated races at the Irish Champions Festival.

RACE DATE	RACECOURSE	QUALIFIER RACE	FREE ENTRY FOR
7th August	Leopardstown	The Bahrain Turf Club Desmond Stakes (Group 3)	The Solonaway Stakes (Group 2)
7th August	Leopardstown	The Xin Gin Ballyroan Stakes (Group 3)	Comer Group International Irish St. Leger (Group 1)
8th August	Tipperary	The Coolmore Stud Churchill Stakes (Listed)	The KPMG Champions Juvenile Stakes (Group 2)
9th August	The Curragh	The Phoenix Sprint Stakes (Group 3)	The Bar One Racing Flying Five Stakes (Group 1)
13th August	Gowran Park	The Darley Irish EBF Hurry Harriet Stakes (Listed)	The Moyglare "Jewels" Blandford Stakes (Group 2)
16th August	The Curragh	The Newbridge Silverware Royal Whip Stakes (Group 3)	Royal Bahrain Irish Champion Stakes (Group 1)
16th August	The Curragh	The Irish St. Leger Trial Stakes (Group 3)	Comer Group International Irish St. Leger (Group 1)
23rd August	The Curragh	The Coolmore Stud Wootton Bassett Tom Cooper Irish EBF Futurity Stakes	The Goffs Vincent O'Brien National Stakes (Group 1)
23rd August	The Curragh	The Alpha Centauri Debutante Stakes (Group 2)	The Moyglare Stud Stakes (Group 1)
24th August	Naas	The Tally-Ho Stud Irish EBF Ballyogan Stakes (Group 3)	The Bar One Racing Flying Five Stakes (Group 1)
30th August	The Curragh	The Snow Fairy Fillies Stakes (Group 3)	The Moyglare "Jewels" Blandford Stakes (Group 2)
31st August	Tipperary	The Coolmore Stud No Nay Never Fairy Bridge Stakes (Group 3)	The Coolmore America 'Justify' Matron Stakes (Group 1)
31st August	Tipperary	The Irish Stallion Farms EBF Abergwaun Stakes (Listed)	The Bar One Racing Flying Five Stakes (Group 1)

## International Opportunities

Horse Racing Ireland has partnered with the Japan Racing Association to have the Group 1 Osaka Hai as a 'Win and You're In' race, meaning a place is guaranteed in the Royal Bahrain Irish Champion Stakes for the winner of the big race at Hanshin at the beginning of April.

The first three placed horses in the Comer Group International Oleander Rennan, Hoppengarten receive a free entry into the Comer Group International St. Leger.

# TRAVEL GUIDE

Travelling to Ireland is convenient with an increasing number of air and ferry routes to the island now available. The island of Ireland has five main ferry ports - Belfast, Dublin, Dun Laoghaire, Larne and Rosslare, and seven main airports - Belfast, Cork, Dublin, Kerry, Knock, Shannon and Waterford. If travelling from Great Britain to Ireland by ferry, you can bring your car or go as a foot passenger.

Visit [ireland.com](http://ireland.com) for more information.



## TRAVELLING TO IRELAND BY SEA

DEPART	ARRIVE	CARRIER	DURATION
Cairnryan	Larne	P&O Ferries	1hr
	Belfast	Stena Line	2hrs 15mins
Fishguard	Rosslare	Stena Line	2hrs
Holyhead	Dublin	Irish Ferries	3hrs 15mins
		Irish Ferries	1hr 50mins
	Stena Line	3hrs 45mins	
Dublin	Dun Laoghaire	Stena Line	2hrs
	Liverpool	P&O Ferries	7hrs 30mins
Pembroke	Rosslare	Irish Ferries	3hrs 45mins

## FERRY, COACH & TRAIN OPERATOR CONTACTS

OPERATOR	TELEPHONE	WEBSITE
<b>FERRY</b>		
Irish Ferries	+44 871 730 0400	<a href="http://irishferries.com">irishferries.com</a>
P&O Ferries	+44 130 444 8888	<a href="http://poferries.com">poferries.com</a>
Stena Line	+44 844 770 7070	<a href="http://stenaline.co.uk">stenaline.co.uk</a>
<b>BUS</b>		
Eurolines	+44 871 781 8181	<a href="http://eurolines.co.uk">eurolines.co.uk</a>
Bus Éireann	+353 (0) 1 836 6111	<a href="http://www.buseireann.ie">www.buseireann.ie</a>
<b>TRAIN</b>		
Irish Rail	+353 (0) 1 836 6222	<a href="http://www.irishrail.ie">www.irishrail.ie</a>

## AIRLINE CONTACTS

OPERATOR	TELEPHONE	WEBSITE
Aer Lingus	+353 (0) 1890 800 600	<a href="http://aerlingus.com">aerlingus.com</a>
British Airways	+353 (0) 1890 626 747	<a href="http://britishairways.com">britishairways.com</a>
Finnair	+358 600 140 140	<a href="http://finnair.com">finnair.com</a>
KLM	+353 1 5251 804	<a href="http://klm.com">klm.com</a>
Loganair	+44 141 642 9407	<a href="http://loganair.co.uk">loganair.co.uk</a>
Ryanair	+353 (0) 1520 444 004	<a href="http://ryanair.com">ryanair.com</a>
Air France	+353 (0) 818 776 057	<a href="http://airfrance.ie">airfrance.ie</a>
Vueling	+34 931 518 158	<a href="http://vueling.com">vueling.com</a>

## GETTING TO: LEOPARDSTOWN RACECOURSE

### BY CAR

Trainers and Owners should take either exit 14 or 15 off the M50 and proceed to the check point for car parks B, C, D, E & F. Once you have a runner your name will be on the car parking list and you will be allowed access to these designated car parks on the day.

### BY AIR

For overseas owners, Leopardstown will provide complimentary transport from Dublin airport and hotel accommodation. Please contact the Leopardstown office +353 (0) 1 2890500 or Email: info@leopardstown.com

### CAR PARKING

On the day there will be car parks reserved in close proximity to the enclosure for owners and trainers with runners.

### HELICOPTER FACILITIES

Helicopter facilities available, must be booked in advance by contacting Leopardstown Administration Office on +353 (0)1 2890500

## GETTING TO: THE CURRAGH

### BY CAR

When travelling by car from Dublin, take Exit 9 off the M50 onto the N7 southbound. Take Exit 12 off the M7. Follow the R413 for a short drive until you are greeted by Curragh signage and directions towards the car park, which is located on the right.

### BY AIR

For overseas owners, The Curragh will assist with transport from Dublin airport. For any assistance and for more information on travel and accommodation, please contact +353 (0) 45 441205 or email: eark@curragh.ie.

### CAR PARKING

When arriving at the Curragh Racecourse, you will find that there are plenty of free car parking spaces, which are only a short walk away from the Racecourse.

### BY BUS/TRAIN

The Curragh provides a complimentary bus service collecting at both Newbridge and Kildare Train Stations.

### HELICOPTER FACILITIES

Helicopter facilities available, landings must be booked in advance by contacting The Curragh Racecourse directly on +353 (0) 45 441205



For all updates before traveling to Ireland, see The Department of Foreign Affairs website: [www.dfa.ie/travel/travel-advice/](http://www.dfa.ie/travel/travel-advice/)

irishchampionsfestival.ie

# IRISH CHAMPIONS FESTIVAL



LEOPARDSTOWN RACECOURSE

Foxrock, Dublin 18, Ireland. D18 C9V6

Tel:+353 (0) 1 289 0500 Email: info@leopardstown.com

 LeopardstownRacecourse  @leopardstownrc



HORSE RACING IRELAND

The Curragh, Co. Kildare, Ireland. R56 RR67

Tel:+353 (0) 45 455 455 Email: info@hri.ie

 goracing  @GoRacing

THE CURRAGH

THE CURRAGH

The Curragh, Co. Kildare, Ireland. R56 XE37

Tel:+353 (0) 45 441 205 Email: info@curragh.ie

 TheCurraghRacecourse  @curraghace