



RULES

National Ploughing Association

2020/2021



PROGRAMME OF PLOUGHING CLASSES 2020

Tuesday:

- Under 28 Conventional Senior Plough Class
- Under 28 Reversible Plough Class
- Intermediate Conventional Plough Class
- Intermediate Reversible Plough Class

Wednesday:

- Senior Conventional Plough Class (Day 1)
- Senior Reversible Plough Class (Day 1)

Thursday:

- Senior Conventional Test Match (Day 2)
- Kverneland Reversible Test Match (Day 2)



TIME SIGNALS

NATIONAL PLOUGHING CONTEST

TIME SIGNALS FOR PLOUGHING COMPETITIONS

11.00am	All Ploughing Competitions Commence
11.30am	Stop for Judging of Opening Split
12.10pm	Restart
2.50pm	Ten Minute Warning Signal
3.00pm	All Ploughing Competitions Finish

Fog Horns will be used for time signals so please listen carefully for them during the competition.



RULE CHANGES

NATIONAL PLOUGHING CONTEST

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15. Idle Runs

Maximum of two idle runs allowed in Conventional Ploughing. Penalty of 5 marks per run after that. Driving on own plot constitutes an idle run.

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25. Judges

(e) Judges decision, at National and Local level, is final and binding.

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k) No idle runs permitted in Reversible Ploughing.
Penalty of 5 marks.

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23. Counties that have organized at least three Novice Matches can apply to NPA for a grant of €1,500 towards the purchase of a second hand plough, or for a grant of €2,000 towards the purchase of a new plough for County use. This grant is in addition to the current €500 Novice Grant available. Counties can only apply once for this grant.



RULES

NATIONAL PLOUGHING CONTEST

1. **Entry:** Submission of an entry will be regarded as an acceptance of all Rules and Regulations and the preparedness of the competitor to observe them or submit to penalties for breaches of same.

2. **Consultants:** The N.P.A. shall appoint Directors to be known as the Consultants. To whom may be referred any question, or the interpretation of any rule, or order, on the day of the Contest, and the decision of these Directors, or the majority of them, shall be final and binding on all parties. They will also inspect ploughs on days of the Contest.

3. **Misconduct:** Any Competitor or known Supporter, so misconducting himself or herself at the National, County or Parish Ploughing competitions, meetings or associated activities, as to bring discredit on the Organisation, shall be reported to the Council of the N.P.A. who shall take such action as may be deemed advisable.

4. **Opening Split:** In both lea and stubble ploughing, competitors must make an opening split. The rippings so turned out must be well cut through and no land left unturned in the middle of the ridge. Thirty minutes will be allowed for opening split when all ploughing must cease for 40 minutes (judging time). Competitor must have opening completed and his tractor and plough outside scribe mark on headland when signal is sounded. **Penalty for late finish of Opening Split: loss of 5 marks per minute or part thereof.**

(a) **Ripplings:** Rolling of ripplings with tractor are not allowed. **Penalty for rolling: 10 marks.**

5. **Sighting Poles:** for sighting and setting out, three poles only may be used inside wire. Anything additional outside wire constitutes an infringement. **Penalty: 5 marks.** Sighting poles must be sighted in line "V" where plot number is provided by N.P.A. **Penalty: 10 marks.**

All Competitors must start from same end with highest number to their right hand side.

TIME ALLOWED FOR PLOUGHING SHALL BE 3 HOURS AND 20 MINUTES FOR LEA AND STUBBLE. THIS INCLUDES THE 30 MINUTES FOR OPENING SPLIT.

6. **Helpers:** A helper will be allowed to erect and remove sighting poles but not allowed to wrench or adjust plough on headlands during contest and must remain outside wire. **Penalty: 10 marks.**

In the Farmerette, Macra, Under 21 and Novice a helper wearing an official armband may remain inside wire provided he/she does not go inside scribe mark. He or she can advise, and adjust plough, on headland only. If helper wishes to assist on both headlands, he/she must use the recognised pedestrian route only. **Breaches 10 marks first offence, 5 marks each offence afterwards**

In the Farmerette Class and Novice, helper is also allowed to erect and remove sighting poles and to measure first 2 rounds of cast off only and lift plough on headland, for final (sole) furrow. Opening Split must be done in this class. Helper must not go on ploughed ground without permission from Chief Supervisor. **Penalty: 10 marks.**

7.(a) **Horse Ploughing Only:** Time allowed 4 hours. Middle, National Style, Furrow, black sod discontinued. Depth, minimum 6 inches but this does not apply for first or last three rounds. Horses must be provided by the competitors. Scribe sods are optional but in no more than two rounds and cannot be moved by hands or feet. Brushing of first two sods allowed but only once. Where a competitor has a split off 10 minutes will be allowed. Helper allowed to erect and take down marking poles. **Depth and Time Penalty will apply as in all other classes. Last green sod to crown. Middle 10 sods.**

7.(b) Total number of people on horse ploughing plot is maximum of 3; this is to include 1 competitor and 2 helpers, one of which must remain on the headland.



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8. TYPE OF PLOUGH:

(a) The type of plough is left to the discretion of the competitor. There will be a stipulation that the plough shall not be fitted with any extraneous attachments the function of which is to treat or fashion the slice after being turned by the plough. Any extraneous attachment which is applied upon the slice or furrow is regarded as a subsequent tillage tool and is additional to the plough. Only one flat tailpiece to each mould-board is permitted.

(b) A plough body must not be removed or otherwise adjusted in such a way as to make the plough in effect a single furrow mould-board. One body may be used opening or finishing, provided both bodies remain in position as a complete two furrow mould board fitted with shares, disc-coulters, skimmers. **Penalty: 10 marks.**

(c) There is no restriction on the changing of disc-coulters or shares for the making of the "Opening" or "Finish".

(d) i) Use of GPS, laser beams, cameras, electronic visual aids not allowed.
ii) Use of extraneous attachments to the tractor that manipulate or fashion the furrow not allowed.
iii) **Only 3 working ploughing wheels on conventional plough allowed, also 3 wheels per working side in reversible.**
Penalty: 5 Marks

(e) If using a 3 furrow plough it shall be permissible to raise only one body. If using a 4 furrow plough it shall be permissible to raise only 2 bodies to an out-of-action position when ploughing the Opening Split only.
Penalty: 20 marks.

(f) Competitors who qualify for Test Match are not obliged to use the same plough on both days.

9. **Supervisors:** The N.P.A. shall appoint a Chief Supervisor who will brief and allocate positions to Supervisors on days of the Contest.

Supervisors will issue one warning only after which points will be deducted for breach of any rule. Some Rules do not carry any warning.

10. Depth of Ploughing:

Depth of ploughing to be measured approx 10cm from furrow wall.

Minimum depth

For all grassland.....18cms

For all stubble18cms

For each cm or part of,
less than 18cms2 marks

If the competitor does not make adjustment after penalty being imposed, he/she is liable for an additional penalty of 4 marks.

Measuring team appointed by N.P.A. In all Classes reduction in depth allowed during last three rounds.

11. **Middle:** In lea and all 2 furrow stubble classes, a middle shall consist of 15/16 sods. The remainder of plot shall be split to the higher number. Depth measurements must not be taken until a competitor has completed 3 rounds (12) sods and must not be taken on last three rounds of furrow.

Penalty: 10 marks.

In the 3/4 Stubble Classes a middle shall consist of 17/18 sods. **Penalty: 10 marks.**

12. **Extra Time:** Extra time may be requested only in case of a mechanical breakdown or a situation beyond the control of the competitor or the organisers. Maximum time allowed 1 hour. Neighbouring competitor will be allowed 10 minutes and must notify their Supervisor of the situation.

Competitors who have drawn end plots will not be allowed extra time for measuring off, but must do so during the 40 minutes break while the opening splits are being judged. Helper allowed to erect and take down marking poles.

Farmerettes who have drawn end plots to measure off before contest starts or during the four hours allowed. Helper to erect and take down marking poles.



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13. (a) **Straightening:** Only 2 rounds allowed on "Cast-Off" side, 3 markers allowed at discretion of competitor for each round for this purpose only. If more than 3 markers. **Penalty: 5 marks.**
- (b) A competitor may plough one round and drive on his/her own ploughing plot. Must not damage neighbours plot. **Penalty: 5 marks.**
14. **Measuring:** Where a competitor does not plough a full plot. **Penalty: 10 marks.**
15. **Idle Runs:** Maximum of two idle runs allowed in Conventional Ploughing. Penalty of 5 marks per run after that. Driving on own plot constitutes an idle run.
16. **Furrow:**
- (a) The final furrow will be black-sod or sole furrow. Only one wheel mark allowed in the furrow and this must be on the cast off side. Plough wheel mark must be within tractor wheel mark. Any other wheel mark on the plot is a fault and will be judged accordingly by the judges.
- (b) The light sod at cast-off side of final furrow should be visible from end to end. There should be no wheel mark on this sod except in the 3/4 furrow classes at the discretion of competitor. In all classes, **Penalty for faulty wheel mark: will be judged accordingly by the judges.**
- (c) The black sod must be turned towards the crown or middle. **Penalty: 20 marks.**
- (d) **Finish:** A 10 minute warning signal will be given before finishing time. When the Final Signal is sounded, a competitor must have his plot fully completed and his Tractor and Plough outside scribe mark on headland. If **NOT** finished he/she will lose 5 marks for every minute or part of a minute he/she is late.
- (e) Competitors after entering the furrow are only allowed to come back to adjust plough. No walking on furrow permitted when plot is completed. **Penalty: 10 marks.** This rule does not apply to Under-21, Farmerette and Novice Classes.
17. **Penalties**
- (a) Practising on any part of Ploughing Championships site – **Penalty 10 marks.**
- (b) Rolling of Ins and Outs – **Penalty 10 marks.**
- (c) Competitors must enter front plough on the scribe mark, Ploughing outside scribe mark. **Penalty 5 marks.**
- (d) 10 marks for removing plough.
- (e) Practising on or damaging a Championship Plot – **disqualification.**
- (f) Getting down off tractor on ploughed ground – where a two door tractor is in use – **Penalty 5 marks.**
- (g) Footing, handling, walking on ploughing or use of fork or spade or any other implement on ploughed ground, or getting off tractor on ploughed ground. **Penalty 5 marks for each offence.**
- (h) A competitor may lose maximum of 50 marks for breaches of rules, plus 5 marks for every minute or part there of if late finishing furrow.
- (i) If competitor starts before starting time there will be **penalty of 5 marks.**
18. **Switching of Ploughs:** Not allowed unless permission has been obtained from the Consultants or Supervisors.
19. **Weights:** Weights will be allowed on all types of ploughs in all classes.
20. If a competitor walks across any plot before judging is finished, he/she will be liable for a penalty of 10 marks without any warning. The supervisor has authority to apply this penalty and in his absence the Judge or NPA Director has authority.



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21. Standard Reversible Class:

In this class ploughs will be inspected before and during the competition.

- No age limit.
- Hydraulics allowed on plough.
- Hydraulic top Link allowed.
- Wheel allowed. Open split and ins and outs must be done.
- Vari-widths allowed.
- No extra tail piece.
- No special shares.
- No modifications.
- For the purpose of the Standard Reversible Classes Number 25 body not allowed. **Penalty: 10 marks.**

22. Penalty of 25 marks will be imposed on competitors who park or drive their vehicles on any part of the competition grounds. There will be an as-sembly yard provided for all equipment.

23. Competitor allowed to remove loose material but pulling or raking stubble not allowed. **Penalty: 10 marks.**

24. Competitors or persons acting on their behalf, known to be working on their plot prior to the competition will be eliminated from the competition.

25. Judges:

- a) County and parish levels, one judge in every three can be from the County.
- b) Judges for qualifying matches must be listed on the Panel of Judges.
- c) Judges at National Level must have experience of judging at other ploughing competitions and be on the Panel of Judges.
- d) At National Level, if there is a junior Judge on the Panel of Judges he/she does not have an input into the results.
- e) Judges decision, at National and Local level, is final and binding.

26. Competitors who do not qualify from their County competitions cannot take part in the All-Ireland Ploughing Championships.

27. All competitors must start ploughing from the same end with highest number to right hand side.

28. Final Decision:

Any question arising and not provided for in these rules will be decided by the governing Board of the National Ploughing Association whose decision shall be final and binding. The NPA reserve the right to take whatever action deemed necessary for breach of any rules or regulations.

29. Objections:

An objection must be lodged in writing to the Secretary of the NPA accompanied by the fee of €10 not later than one hour after the results have been announced. The Competitor or one person nominated by the County concerned may request a meeting with the Consultants to support his/her objection and the National Ploughing Executive Committee will make the final decision within 10 days.



REVERSIBLE PLOUGHING RULES

ALL OTHER RULES APPLY WHERE APPLICABLE

1. Sighting and Setting Out

a) Three sighting poles only may be used. One pole may be sighted on the headland (inside the wire) of the plot.

Penalty 5 marks.

b) The use of plot number markers, guide lines, foot-marks, stones or any guide other than the three sighting poles is not allowed.

Penalty 5 marks.

c) Competitors may have assistance to place and remove the sighting poles. No other assistance allowed during the contest. **Penalty 10 marks.**

2. OPENING FURROW

a) In reversible Ploughing competitors must make a single opening furrow at the setting out.

b) The opening furrow is a single furrow ploughed from the start using the rear right-body.

c) Time allowed for the completion of the opening furrow – 30 minutes.

d) Failure to complete the opening furrow in the permitted time will be penalized. **Penalty loss of 5 marks per minute or part thereof.**

3. METHOD OF PLOUGHING

a) Scratch mark for butts – this scratch mark must be made whilst the opening furrow is being judged. The scratch mark for the butts should be made parallel to the opening furrow to allow 19 or 20 furrows for two furrow ploughs or 20 or 21 furrows for three furrow ploughs from the opening furrow to the butts. Three sighting poles may be used for making the scratch mark. Assistance is allowed to place and remove the sighting poles. No handling or rolling of the scratch allowed. Either left or right hand bodies may be used for making the scratch mark.

b) Two furrow ploughs – Ploughing must commence using the left hand bodies and after completing eight furrows which shall constitute the Crown, the competitor then proceeds to plough against the neighbour with the next highest plot number.

c) Three furrow ploughs – Ploughing must commence using the left hand bodies and after completing nine furrows which shall constitute the Crown, the competitor then proceeds to plough against the neighbour with the next higher plot number. **Penalty 10 marks.**

d) On completion of the Crown the competitor then ploughs all the land between the next competitors plot and his scratch mark, thus completing the butts.

e) i) Competitors must use all plough bodies when Ploughing the finishing furrows. It is allowed to use only one plough body when Ploughing the connecting furrow.

ii) Two furrow ploughs – the finishing furrows shall be the remaining 19 or 20 furrows between the butts and the finishing furrow, including the connecting furrow. All competitors must make 10 runs to conclude the finishing furrows. The connecting furrow may be ploughed showing one or two furrows but with all bodies in a working position. No further single furrows across the whole field are permitted. **Penalty 5 marks.**



REVERSIBLE PLOUGHING RULES

iii) Three furrow ploughs – the finishing furrows shall be the remaining 20 or 21 furrows between the butts and the finishing furrow, including the connecting furrow. All competitors must make 7 runs to conclude the finishing furrows. The connecting furrow may be ploughed showing two or three furrows but with all bodies in a working position. No further single furrow (two bodies in work) across the whole field are permitted. **Penalty 5 marks.**

f) Attachments are not allowed when ploughing the connecting furrow. **Penalty 5 marks.**

g) The competitor then starts at the scratch mark for the butts and ploughs to a finish at the cut of the opening furrow. Sight-ing poles or any other guide are not allowed when ploughing the connecting furrow at the scratch mark for the butts. **Penalty 5 marks.**

h) The final furrow should be cut close to the opening furrow. There should be no land left unploughed and no part of the first furrow of the start re-ploughed. The first furrow and the final furrow should be the same height.

i) Only one tractor wheel mark allowed at the finish. Plough wheel mark must be within tractor wheel mark. **Any other wheel mark on the plot is a fault and will be judged accordingly by the judges.**

j) Alternative bodies must be used at all times when ploughing plot.

k) No Idle runs permitted in Reversible Ploughing. **Penalty of 5 marks per run.**

4. FINAL DECISION

Any question arising and not provided for in these rules will be decided by the Governing Board of the National Ploughing Association whose decision shall be final and binding.

EXPLANATORY NOTES ON THE REVERSIBLE PLOUGHING RULES

THE OPENING FURROW – Reversible Ploughing: The depth of the scratch should be such that the furrow slice is cut completely free from the under-soil surface throughout the whole length of the opening furrow. The scratch should be straight, neat and uniform in its whole length.

THE CROWN/START – Reversible Ploughing: All land must be cut through. The first furrow of the crown should be turned into the opening furrow and the cut edge of the furrow should be level with the cut edge of the opening. The furrows in the crown should conform with the rest of the ploughing.

WEED CONTROL:

- A All stubble and grass must be completely buried beneath the furrows.
- B The ploughing should be done in such a way that all roots are cut or torn off.
- C Skimmers must be used.

SEED BED:

Furrows should be properly turned so that sufficient soil is made available to produce a seed bed without pulling stubble or grass to the surface in the future cultivations.

THE FINISH – Reversible Ploughing:

The final furrows adjoining the crown/start should be of equal height to the crown and there should be no unploughed or reploughed land.

INS AND OUTS:

The front share should enter the ground at the headland scratch mark and the rear share should leave the ground at the headland scratch mark.

GENERAL APPEARANCE:

- A All furrows in the plot should be straight, clearly defined, uniform and well turned with good weed control.
- B Faulty ploughing done by the neighbouring competitor should be corrected in the first and second runs adjoining the neighbours plot. The tractor must not be driven on the ploughed land.



RULES PER PLOUGHING CLASSES 2020

1. ONE COMPETITOR / ONE CLASS

One Competitor / one class.

Exemption to this is as follows;

- A) Senior Conventional & Senior Reversible Classes.
- B) Qualifications from the Under 28 Conventional / Reversible, Intermediate Conventional / Reversible to the Senior Class on Wednesday.
- C) Qualifications from the Senior Conventional / Reversible to Test Match on Thursday.
- D) Horse Classes.
- E) Visitors Classes.

2. SENIOR CONVENTIONAL

(Senior, Intermediate, Junior Grade)

- a) Individual ploughman/woman is graded according to where they ploughed in 2019 or according to if they are subject to regrading from 2019 NPC results.
- b) 3 competitors per County permitted over the 3 classes – Junior, Intermediate & Senior. 4 competitors (at least) must plough in Senior Classes at County level if a 3rd competitor is to qualify. In weaker Counties where there are only 2 or 3 to plough the max number will be allowed to go to the All-Ireland once application and approval is received from NPA.
- c) If a competitor does not qualify 1st, 2nd or 3rd in the county qualifying matches 2019/2020 then he/she not eligible to plough in NPC 2020.
- d) If a competitor returns to plough after number of year's absence he/she will plough at their last grade.
- e) Competitors qualifying for All Ireland Ploughing Championships must have competed in a minimum of two matches (exemption Novice Plough Class).
- f) The top two placed competitors in the Intermediate Conventional Class (from the Republic of Ireland) and the top two placed competitors in the Under 28 Conventional Class-Senior Grade (from the Republic of Ireland not including non ROI competitors) will qualify for the Senior Conventional Class on Wednesday.
- g) The top ten placed competitors (from Republic of Ireland) in the Senior Conventional Class on Wednesday will plough in the Senior Conventional Test match on Thursday. Two additional plots are reserved for Northern Ireland competitors in the Test Match (should they qualify in the top 10). If the Northern Ireland competitors do not qualify for the Test Match – their 2 plots will revert back to the next 2 highest placed Republic of Ireland Competitors – meaning that 12 plots will be ploughed in the Test Match.
- h) From the National Ploughing Championships Results 2020, the Competitor with the highest combined marks from the Senior Conventional Class on Wednesday and the Senior Conventional Test Match on Thursday (from Rep. of Ireland) will be NATIONAL SENIOR CONVENTIONAL CHAMPION.
- i) The Competitor with the highest combined marks from the Senior Conventional Class on Wednesday and the Senior Conventional Test Match on Thursday (from Rep. of Ireland) will qualify for the World Contest 2021 in Rep. of Ireland. The 2nd & 3rd placed competitors with the highest combined marks from the Senior Conventional Class on Wednesday and the Senior Conventional Test Match on Thursday (from Rep. of Ireland) will qualify to go to the 2021 Northern Ireland Competition.
- j) No age limit in this class.

3. SENIOR REVERSIBLE

(Senior, Intermediate Grade)

- a) Individual ploughman/woman is graded according to where they ploughed in 2019 or according to if they are subject to regrading from 2019 NPC results.
- b) 3 competitors per County permitted over the 2 classes – Intermediate & Senior. 4 competitors (at least) must plough in Senior Classes at County level if a 3rd competitor is to qualify. In weaker Counties where there are only 2 or 3 to plough the max number will be allowed to go to the All-Ireland once application and approval is received from NPA.
- c) If a competitor does not qualify 1st, 2nd or 3rd in the county qualifying matches 2019/2020 then he/she not eligible to plough in NPC 2020.



RULES PER PLOUGHING CLASSES 2020

- d) If a competitor returns to plough after number of year's absence he/she will plough at their last grade.
- e) If a competitor is a newcomer he/she will enter at Intermediate Grade.
- f) Competitors qualifying for All Ireland Ploughing Championships must have competed in a minimum of two matches (exemption Novice Plough Class).
- g) The top two placed competitors in the Intermediate Reversible Class (from the Republic of Ireland) and the top two placed competitors in the U-28 Reversible Class (from the Republic of Ireland) will qualify for the Senior Reversible Class on Wednesday.
- h) The top ten placed competitors (from Republic of Ireland) in the Senior Reversible Class on Wednesday will plough in the Kverneland Reversible Test match on Thursday. One additional plot is reserved for the Northern Ireland competitor in the Test Match (should they qualify in the top 10). If the Northern Ireland competitor does not qualify for the Test Match – their plot will revert back to the next highest placed Republic of Ireland Competitor – meaning that 11 plots will be ploughed in the Test Match.
- i) From the National Ploughing Championships Results 2020, the Competitor with the highest combined marks form the Senior Reversible Class on Wednesday and the Kverneland Reversible Test Match on Thursday will be NATIONAL SENIOR REVERSIBLE CHAMPION.
- j) The Competitor with the highest combined marks form the Senior Reversible Class on Wednesday and the Kverneland Reversible Test Match on Thursday (from Rep. of Ireland) will qualify for the World Contest 2021 in Rep. of Ireland. The 2nd & 3rd placed competitors with the highest combined marks from the Senior Reversible Class on Wednesday and the Kverneland Reversible Test Match on Thursday (from Rep. of Ireland) will qualify to go to the 2021 European Reversible Competition.
- k) There is no age limit in this class.
- l) This competition is restricted to 2/3 furrow ploughs.
- 4. UNDER 28 REVERSIBLE**
- a) County may enter two competitors in this class – NO GRADING
- b) Competitors in this class must be under 28 years of age on the 1st January of the competition year.
- c) Competitors qualifying for All Ireland Ploughing Championships must have competed in a minimum of two matches.
- d) The top two placed competitors in the U-28 Reversible Class (from the Republic of Ireland) will qualify for the Senior Reversible Class on Wednesday.
- e) This competition is restricted to 2/3 furrow ploughs.
- 5. UNDER 28 CONVENTIONAL**
- a) County may enter only one competitor in this class.
- b) Competitors in this class must be over 21 years of age and under 28 years of age on the 1st January of the competition year. Exception: Where a County has two U21 and no U28 competitor – one can enter this class.
- c) Competitors qualifying for All Ireland Ploughing Championships must have competed in a minimum of two matches.
- d) The top two placed competitors in the Under 28 Conventional Class-Senior Grade (from the Republic of Ireland) will qualify for the Senior Conventional Class on Wednesday.
- e) This class is confined to competitors who have not yet won an All-Ireland title in Senior, Intermediate or Junior 2 Furrow Tractor Class.
- 6. UNDER 21 CONVENTIONAL**
- a) County may enter only one competitor in this class.
- b) Competitors in this class must be under 21 years of age on the 1st January of the competition year.
- c) Competitors qualifying for All Ireland Ploughing Championships must have competed in a minimum of two matches.
- d) This class is confined to competitors who have not yet won an All-Ireland title in Senior, Intermediate or Junior 2 Furrow Tractor Class.



RULES PER PLOUGHING CLASSES 2020

7. **3 FURROW SENIOR & JUNIOR (previously 3 Furrow Match & Standard 3 Furrow)**
 - a) County may enter only one competitor in this class.
 - b) Competitors qualifying for All Ireland Ploughing Championships must have competed in a minimum of two matches
8. **STANDARD 3 FURROW REVERSIBLE**
 - a) County may enter only one competitor in this class.
 - b) This competition is restricted to standard 3 furrow reversible ploughs.
 - c) Previous competitors at National level not eligible for Standard 3 Furrow Reversible, exempt Macra.
 - d) A competitor may win this class a maximum of 3 times, then he / she must opt out.
 - e) Competitors qualifying for All Ireland Ploughing Championships must have competed in a minimum of two matches.
9. **MACRA**
 - a) County / Region may enter only one competitor in this class.
 - b) Competitor has the option of using a match or standard plough.
 - c) Competitor can not have previously represented their County at National Level.
 - d) Competitor can enter this competition as many times as they wish, but once they win the National Macra Class twice, they are no longer eligible to take part in this class.
 - e) Competitors qualifying for All Ireland Ploughing Championships must have competed in a minimum of two matches.
10. **NOVICE 2 FURROW CONVENTIONAL / REVERSIBLE**
 - a) County may enter one competitor in the Conventional Class and one Competitor in the Reversible Class.
 - b) Competitors in this class must be under 35 years of age on the 1st January of the competition year.
 - c) This class is confined to first time competitors who have not yet competed for an All-Ireland title. Exception: A competitor can compete in the Novice Class a maximum of three years, however if he/she wins the National Novice Class, he/she is excluded from competing again.
 - d) National Novice Class is limited to 2 Furrow Conventional / Reversible.
11. **FARMERETTE**
 - a) County may enter only one competitor in this class.
 - b) Competitors qualifying for All Ireland Ploughing Championships must have competed in a minimum of two matches.
12. **VINTAGE**
 - a) County may enter only one competitor per Vintage Class (3 classes).
13. **UNDER 40 HORSE, SENIOR HORSE, SPECIAL HORSE CLASSES**
 - a) Competitors in the UNDER 40 CLASS must be under 40 on the 1st of January of the competition year.
 - b) In the Senior Horse Class, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, placed competitors are not eligible to compete in the Special Horse Class on Thursday.
 - c) A County can enter 2 Horse competitors for each class.



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- d) Competitors qualifying for All Ireland Ploughing Championships must have competed in a minimum of two matches.

14. VISITORS

- a) Two competitors from Northern Ireland will be accepted in the Senior Conventional Class and one competitor from Northern Ireland into The Senior Reversible Class.
- b) Competitors taking part in another class can carry their marks from that class to the Visitors Class.



REGULATIONS & CONDITIONS NATIONAL PLOUGHING CONTEST

- 1.a Membership of the N.P.A. Ltd., As shall be prescribed from time to time by Articles of Association of N.P.A. Ltd.
- 1.b A person is only permitted to be a member of one ploughing club. He/She may however be a member of a club and a county association.
2. Venue: The venue of the National Ploughing Championships shall be selected by the Directors of the N.P.A. Ltd.
3. The Directors of the N.P.A. reserve the right to alter, amend, delete or add to the Rules at their discretion at any time, except during the four weeks preceeding or during the Championships.
4. Resident: A competitor shall be a born native of the county for which he or she competes or shall be working resident in the county for not less than 3 months prior to the date of the qualifying contest.
5. Age: No competitor under the age of 16 is permitted to plough in a match or be present on the plot run under NPA rules. Competitors taking part in tractor ploughing must have a driving licence.
6. Identification: Competitors must display identification stickers which are provided.
7. Judges: The Directors of the N.P.A. shall select the Judges.
- 8.a Draw for Plots: Drawing for plots shall be conducted each year by the Managing Director of N.P.A.
- 8.b At National Championships – no competitor is permitted to change plot unless a decision is made to do so by the NPA consultants.
9. Cups and Trophies: Will be presented to the winners at Competitor's Banquet. Cash Prizes will be sent by post one month after the Championships.
10. Bonds: The custody of any Perpetual Cup or Trophy may be given to a successful competitor (or his representative) who shall provide such security as may be demanded for the return of such Cup or Trophy in good condition, or its value when requested by the National Ploughing Association.
11. Method of Judging: The Judge shall assess the quality of the ploughing in accordance with the method of scoring as decided upon and required by the N.P.A.
12. Grading:
Based on individual merit and performance.
 - (a) In the Senior Conventional Plough Class, no competitor will be coming down from Senior for the next five years starting from NPC 2019 results.
 - (b) In the Intermediate Conventional Plough Class the top placed competitor will be graded Senior in 2021 and the last placed competitor will go Junior A in 2021.
 - (c) In the Junior A Conventional Plough Class the top placed competitor will be graded Intermediate in 2021. The last placed competitor in Junior A will be graded Junior B in 2021.
 - (d) In the Junior B Conventional Plough Class the top placed competitor will be graded Junior A in 2021.
 - (e) In the Senior Reversible Plough Class, the last placed competitor will be graded Intermediate in 2021.
 - (f) In the Intermediate Reversible Plough Class the top placed competitor will be graded Senior in 2021.
 - (g) All other competitors who compete at the 2020 All Ireland are graded at the grade they ploughed in.
 - (h) If a competitor does not qualify 1st, 2nd or 3rd in the county qualifying matches 2020/21 then he/she is not eligible to plough in NPC 2021.
 - (i) If a competitor does not plough for a number of years and returns to plough his/her grade will be what he/she was last graded.
 - (j) UNDER 28 CONVENTIONAL SENIOR & JUNIOR, UNDER 21 CONVENTIONAL SENIOR & JUNIOR Graded by County
Grading for Under 21 Conventional for 2021 NPC from 2020 results; Last placed County in Senior will be graded Junior. Top placed County in Junior will be graded Senior.
Grading for Under 28 Conventional for 2021 NPC from 2020 results; Last placed County in Senior will be graded Junior. Top placed County in Junior will be graded Senior.



REGULATIONS & CONDITIONS NATIONAL PLOUGHING CONTEST

(k) Grading when a competitor is no longer eligible to plough U-28 Conventional:

- Under 28 Conv. – Senior grade – when no longer eligible will be graded Intermediate Conventional.
- Under 28 Conv. – Junior grade – when no longer eligible will be graded Junior A Conventional.

(l) Grading when a competitor is no longer eligible to plough U-28 Reversible:

- Will be graded Intermediate Reversible.

(m) 3 FURROW Senior & Junior (previously 3

Furrow Match & Standard 3 Furrow)

Graded by County

Grading from 2020 results for NPC 2021, bottom County in Senior will be graded Junior and top County in Junior will be graded Senior.

13.(a) Selection of Competitors For National Event:

Counties will have the right to arrange their own classes. Competitors securing highest marks in the County shall be selected to represent their county.

(b) At County/Club level a competitor must declare what class he/she is competing in before competition season starts. Competitor can only declare one class for the entire ploughing season.

(c) In order to qualify for National Ploughing Championships competitors must compete in a minimum two matches. This applies to ALL classes, except Novice.

(d) Competitors qualifying for All Ireland must be paid up members of Affiliated Club or County.

14.a) NATIONAL SENIOR CONVENTIONAL CHAMPION:

All Senior Competitors plough on Wednesday as well as the top two placed competitors from Republic of Ireland in the U28 Conventional Plough Class and the top two from the Republic of Ireland in the Intermediate Conventional Plough Class.

The top ten placed competitors (from Republic of Ireland) in the Senior Conventional Class on Wednesday will plough in the Senior Conventional Test match on Thursday. Two additional plots are reserved for Northern Ireland competitors in the Test Match (should they qualify in the top 10). If the Northern Ireland competitors do not

qualify for the Test Match – their 2 plots will revert back to the next 2 highest placed Republic of Ireland Competitors – meaning that 12 plots will be ploughed in the Test Match.

From the National Ploughing Championships Results 2020, the Competitor with the highest combined marks from the Senior Conventional Class on Wednesday and the Senior Conventional Test Match on Thursday (from Rep. of Ireland) will be NATIONAL SENIOR CONVENTIONAL CHAMPION.

The Competitor with the highest combined marks from the Senior Conventional Class on Wednesday and the Senior Conventional Test Match on Thursday (from Rep. of Ireland) will qualify for the World Contest 2021 in Rep. of Ireland.

The 2nd & 3rd placed competitors with the highest combined marks from the Senior Conventional Class on Wednesday and the Senior Conventional Test Match on Thursday (from Rep. of Ireland) will qualify to go to the 2021 Northern Ireland Competition.

The winner of the Intermediate Conventional Plough Class will qualify to go to the 2021 5 Nations.

b) Where the county has no Under-28 Competitor the Under-21 competitor is allowed to compete in the Under-28 and to revert back to Under-21 if he/she so wishes.

c) For both the Senior Conventional Test Match and the Kverneland Reversible Test Match on Thursday, in the event that the top two placed competitors in the U28 and in the Intermediate do not wish to go forward to the Test Match the option is not open for 3rd place competitor.

d) Tractors parked just outside ploughing is unacceptable. All tractors should be parked back at rope/twine when Ploughing is finished.



REGULATIONS & CONDITIONS

NATIONAL PLOUGHING CONTEST

15. Scale of Marks for U-21, 3 Furrow, Macra, Vintage, Farmerette, Junior and for Conventional – Senior, Intermediate, Under 28, and Novice Championship.

OPENING SPLIT

- Neatness – Cut Through
- Uniformity of Furrows..... 10 marks
- Straightness..... 10 marks

MIDDLE

- Uniformity of Furrows 10 marks
- Weed Control 10 marks
- Straightness..... 10 marks

GENERAL WORK

- Skimming..... 10 marks
- Packing and Firmness..... 10 marks
- Soil made available (Flesh)..... 10 marks
- Uniformity..... 10 marks
- Straightness..... 10 marks

FURROW

- Uniformity of Furrows 10 marks
- Weed Control 10 marks
- Straightness..... 10 marks

INS AND OUTS..... 10 marks

GENERAL APPEARANCE

All aspects and workmanship clearly defined and uniform furrows..... 10 marks

GROSS TOTAL 150 marks

MARKS FOR HORSE CLASS

MIDDLE

- Uniformity of Furrows 10 marks
- Weed Control 10 marks
- Straightness..... 10 marks

GENERAL WORK

- Skimming..... 10 marks
- Packing and Firmness..... 10 marks
- Soil made available (Flesh)..... 10 marks
- Uniformity..... 10 marks
- Straightness..... 10 marks

FURROW

- Uniformity of Furrows 10 marks
- Weed Control 10 marks
- Straightness..... 10 marks

INS AND OUTS..... 10 marks

GENERAL APPEARANCE

All aspects and workmanship clearly defined and uniform furrows..... 10 marks

GROSS TOTAL 130 marks

16. In the event of a tie all aspects of middles and furrows, in all classes, will be totalled and competitors gaining highest combined marks for middles and furrows will be placed in order of merit.

17. Religious beliefs be adhered to and if Sunday Ploughing is not acceptable to all denominations, it should not be held. If this rule is violated, no competitors will be accepted from that county at the National Championships.

18. Reversible Classes: Three grades: Under-28 on the 1st January of competition year. Senior and Intermediate Reversible open to any age.

A National Senior Reversible Champion:

All Senior competitors plough on Wednesday as well as the top two placed competitors from the Republic of Ireland in the U28 Reversible Plough Class and the top two from the Republic of Ireland in the Intermediate Reversible Plough Class.

The top ten placed competitors (from Republic of Ireland) in the Senior Reversible Class on Wednesday will plough in the Kverneland Reversible Test match on Thursday. One additional plot is reserved for Northern Ireland competitor in the Test Match (should they qualify in the top 10). If the Northern Ireland competitor does not qualify for the Test Match – their plot will revert back to the next highest placed Republic of Ireland Competitor – meaning that 11 plots will be ploughed in the Test Match.

From the National Ploughing Championships Results 2020, the Competitor with the highest combined marks form the Senior Reversible Class on Wednesday and the Kverneland Reversible Test Match on Thursday will be NATIONAL SENIOR REVERSIBLE CHAMPION.

The Competitor with the highest combined marks form the Senior Reversible Class on Wednesday and the Kverneland Reversible Test Match on Thursday (from Rep. of Ireland) will qualify for the World Contest 2021 in Rep. of Ireland.



REGULATIONS & CONDITIONS NATIONAL PLOUGHING CONTEST

The 2nd & 3rd placed competitors with the highest combined marks from the Senior Reversible Class on Wednesday and the Kverneland Reversible Test Match on Thursday (from Rep. of Ireland) will qualify to go to the 2021 European Reversible Competition.

The 4th placed competitor with the highest combined marks, overall, from the Senior Reversible Class on Wednesday and the Kverneland Reversible Test Match on Thursday (from Republic of Ireland) will qualify to go to the 2021 Northern Ireland Competition.

The winner of the Intermediate Reversible Plough Class will qualify to go to the 2021 5 Nations.

- B In the event of a tie, the marks for the Crown and Straightness of Crown, and the marks for the finishing Furrow and Straightness of finishing Furrow to be totalled. If still a tie plough-off to be arranged.
 - C Under-28 Reversible competitor can compete in Senior Reversible and then revert back to Under-28 Reversible Class.
 - D Pressers at same angle as Mouldboard.
Diagram as for reversible.
19. Competitors are permitted to go on only one International Ploughing Competition trip in the year.



CONDITIONS OF NOVICE PLOUGHING DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME GRANT APPLICATION

(Must be adhered to)

1. Entries to Novice Class must be first time competitors – exemption a competitor can compete in the novice class a maximum of 3 years. However if he/she wins National Novice class, he/she is excluded from competing again.
2. Match is confined to youths not over 35 years of age on 1st January of the competition year (and over 16 with a valid tractor driving licence).
3. One can only compete in Novice Match Programme for a maximum of 3 years.
4. Counties must have at least 3 competitors in the Novice Ploughing competition, this can be a mix of conventional and reversible competitors. Only one of these competitors must be competing for the first time. Counties can have any number of additional competitors after this, following rule no. 1 and 3 above.
5. Entries in the Novice match must be different entries than those in the Macra Class.
6. The Novice Match can be run by a County Ploughing Association or a Club designated by the County Association and a grant of €500 will be paid by NPA on receipt of completed Grant Application Form, breakdown of how €500 was spent on the Novice Match and submission of match score-sheet.
7. A county can also apply for a €100 grant towards visiting Judges. Novice Judges Claim Form must be completed by visiting Judges on day of match, signed by Co. Chairman / Sec. and returned to NPA with Novice Grant Application Form. Grant will be sent directly from NPA to visiting Judges.
8. Judges must be from outside the County.
9. Novice Match must be held on a separate day from Club/County matches.
10. All clubs in the County must be given ample notice of the match and invited to send competitors.
11. All tractors used must display valid insurance disc.
12. Competitors must have a Tractor Driving Licence and present it on the day of competition.
13. The National Novice Class is limited to 2 Furrow Conventional / Reversible but County Novice Match is open to conventional / reversible and standard classes.
14. Novice competitors may plough in any County Match for practice purposes only – no points are awarded to competitor and practice matches do not contribute to qualification for National Novice Class at National event.
15. The winner of County Novice Conventional Class will qualify for All-Ireland where class will be graded Senior, Intermediate & Junior (pending number of entries). The NPA Executive Committee will decide grading.
16. The winner of County Novice Reversible Class will qualify for All-Ireland where class will be graded by NPA Executive Committee pending number of entries.
17. There must be at least 3 competitors competing in the Novice Conventional and Novice Reversible Classes at National level for the class to run.
18. Applicable to Novice & U21 Conventional Plough Class Only: If a County does not have an U21 competitor competing at the National Ploughing Championships, the runner up of the County Novice Match will be allowed to go forward as the U21 competitor for the County at the National event, providing they are a Novice competitor from the outset, are U21 on 1st January of competition year and that they have ploughed a 2nd qualifying match. If they do not place in a prize money position in U21 Class at Nationals then they will be allowed revert back to Novice for the following year. However if they do place in a prize money position for the U21 competition at the Nationals then they cannot revert back to Novice. If the runner up of the County Novice ploughs in U21 at the Nationals, and is eligible to revert back to Novice the following year, their participation in the U21 class will count as one of the 3 years they are allowed to plough Novice.



CONDITIONS OF NOVICE PLOUGHING DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME GRANT APPLICATION

19. Applicable to Novice 2 Furrow Conventional Only:

The winner of the 2 Furrow Conventional National Novice Classes (Senior, Intermediate & Junior) at the National Ploughing Championships will qualify for the following years U21/U28 Class in the respective grade if they finish as runner-up in the qualifiers within their county, along with the county winner resulting in 2 competitors from that county in that class for that year only. However if the 2 Furrow Conventional National Novice Winner wins the U21/U28 class in their county they will automatically go through to the National Ploughing Championships as the only competitor from their county eligible to plough in that class at the All Ireland. This opportunity is only open to the winners of the National Novice Classes and cannot be passed on to runner-ups in National Novice Classes should the winners be over-age.

20. At 2019 All Ireland, Conventional Novice Classes will take place on Thursday, and Reversible Novice Classes will take place on Tuesday.

21. Plough Grant for Novice Class Winners

A €1,500 discount (excluding VAT) to winner of

Senior, Intermediate & Junior Grades towards a new plough or demo match plough only bought through the NPA. If the competitor does not wish to avail of the discount his/her county can choose to draw down the discount.

Alternatively

A €1,000 grant (excluding VAT) towards the purchase of a second-hand plough. To apply for this discount competitors must have sourced plough themselves and submit application in writing to NPA Executive within 6 months of the competition with all relevant documentation. On receipt of application it will be reviewed by NPA Executive who will carry out necessary inspections and make final decision on whether plough is eligible for €1000 discount or not.

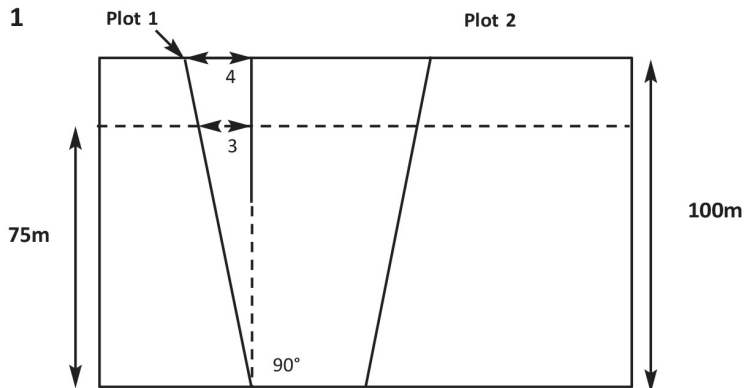
22. The second and third highest placed competitors in the National Novice classes will receive a medal.

23. Counties that have organized at least three Novice Matches can apply to NPA for a grant of €1,500 towards the purchase of a second hand plough, or for a grant of €2,000 towards the purchase of a new plough for County use. This grant is in addition to the current €500 Novice Grant available. Counties can only apply once for this grant.

MARKING FOR REVERSIBLE PLOTS

1. When setting out the plots the first plot must be squared and then offset to ensure that all plots are the same (See fig 1)

Fig 1

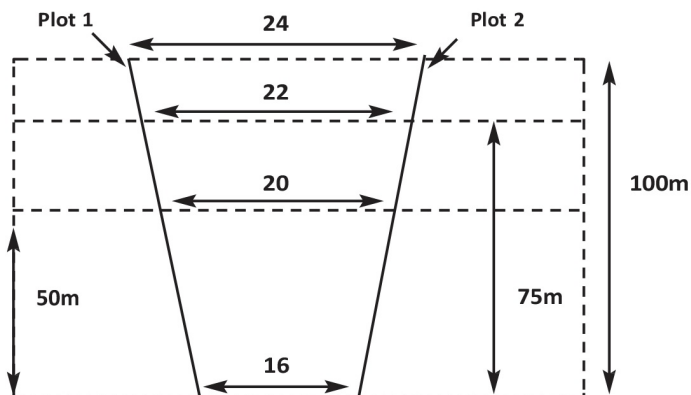


2. If plots are shorter than 100 meters the angle for butts must be maintained.

Example.

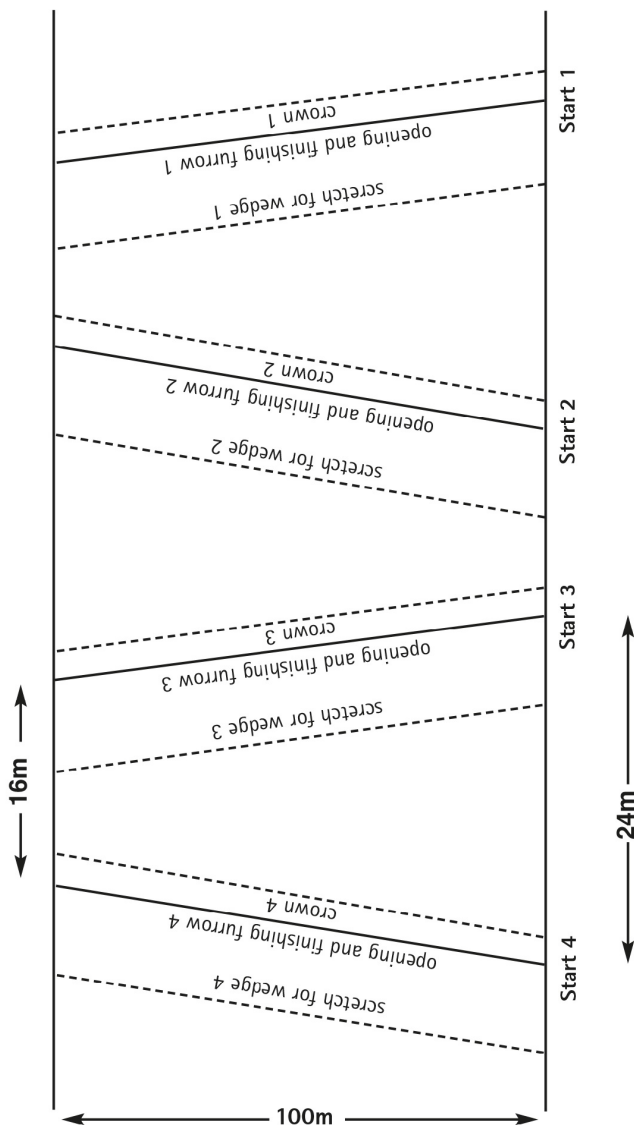
- a) If plot is 100m long, there must be an 8m difference between one headland and the other.
- b) If a plot is 75m long, there must be a 6m difference between one headland and the other.
- c) If a plot is 50m long, there must be a 4m difference between one headland and the other. (See fig 2)

Fig 2



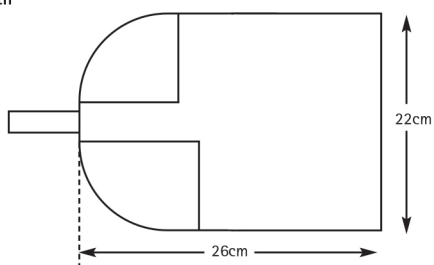
LAYOUT OF PLOT REVERSIBLE PLOUGHS

Plotplan reversible ploughing, standard size 100m x 16/24m (not to scale)

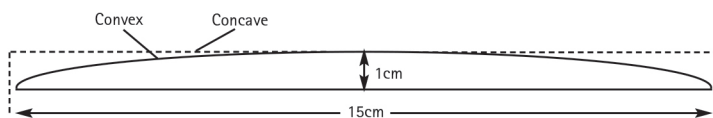


SKETCH OF APPROVED TAILPIECE

Maximum Length and Width



Ratio of Concave or Convex = 1-15



Maximum Overall Length from Mouldboard

