

## BCPS MERIT AWARD SCHEME RULES - 2025

1. The owner applying for a Merit Award for a pony must be an adult, joint or family member of the British Connemara Pony Society at the time of application .
2. The pony must have been registered with the BCPS whilst gaining the necessary qualifications for a Merit Award. Ponies four years old or over must be in Class 1 or Class 2.
3. The pony and all qualifying progeny must be within the height limits laid down in the Rules of the BCPS i.e. 128cm - 148cm.
4. Part-Breds & Overheights are not eligible.
5. It is the responsibility of the claimant to provide detailed proof of qualifications on the Application Form, with supporting evidence where available . Posthumous/ retrospective awards are allowed, but only qualifying events in or after the year 2000 will count towards such awards; in these cases, whilst the onus is still on the claimant to provide proof of qualifications, claimants are encouraged to provide as much information as possible, which will be reviewed by the Merit Awards Team.
6. Where an application is incomplete or lacks sufficient information, it will be returned to the applicant for further evidence to be supplied.
7. All applications will be reviewed by the Merit Awards Team, and their decision will be final.
8. There must be a minimum of three entries forward in any class.
9. Each award can only be gained once by the same pony at any level in each of the seven disciplines, however qualifications used to gain a lesser award may be used again towards the achievement of a higher award, as more qualifications are achieved over time.
10. Applications for awards for the progeny of a stallion/mare who has already received an award for his/her own achievements, can also be made.
- 11.. The Qualifying Shows referred to in the criteria are:
  1. Any County Show
  2. BCPS Breed Show (only classes marked with an asterisk in the schedule and catalogue to count).
  3. Royal Windsor
  4. Royal Highland
  5. RIHS
  6. NPS Summer Championship Show
  7. Any NPS Show holding Connemara-only classes.
  8. BCPS Regional Shows - Silver and Bronze only.  
(Please refer to the criteria for further information)
12. Merit awards will be presented each year at the British Connemara Pony Society Annual General Meeting. The closing time/date for applications in is 5pm on 30th September, 2025 which will be strictly adhered to. Applications received after that time and date will be held on file to be considered for the 2026 AGM.