



## EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP FOR APPRENTICES August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2026 - Dundalk Stadium, Ireland

The Irish Harness Racing Association (IHRA) is proud to announce that it will host the 2026 European Apprentice Driving Championships on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of August at Dundalk Stadium, marking a significant milestone for the organisation and for Harness Racing in Ireland.

This prestigious international event will bring together some of Europe's most promising young driving talent, showcasing the next generation of competitors in a sport steeped in tradition, skill, and precision. The Championships are expected to attract participants, officials, and spectators from across the continent, further strengthening Ireland's reputation as a leading destination for world-class harness racing.

In the lead-up to the Championships, individual qualifying competitions are currently being held across Europe, with each participating country selecting its own nominees to compete in the final event. Once these selection processes are complete, full details of all confirmed competitors will be officially announced.

Hosting the 2026 Championships reflects the IHRA's ongoing commitment to developing the sport at both grassroots and elite levels. It also highlights the organization's success in delivering high-quality racing events and fostering emerging talent within the industry.

Dundalk Stadium, renowned for its state-of-the-art facilities and vibrant racing atmosphere, provides an ideal venue for this landmark competition. The event will not only deliver thrilling racing action but also offer a platform for cultural exchange and collaboration within the European harness racing community.

An IHRA spokesperson commented: *"We are delighted to welcome the European Apprentice Driving Championships to Ireland in 2026. This achievement is a testament to the hard work and dedication of our team, our partners, and the wider racing community. We look forward to hosting an exceptional event that celebrates young talent and showcases the very best of our sport."*

Tickets will be available via the Dundalk Stadium website in the coming weeks; fans are encouraged to monitor their official social media channels for the formal launch. For those seeking a premium experience, spectators can enjoy the high-octane action from the comfort of Dundalk Stadium's panoramic, glass-fronted 'The View Restaurant'. With its signature tiered seating, the restaurant offers an uninterrupted, panoramic view of the track, combining world-class Harness Racing with exceptional Irish hospitality.

Kind Regards,

Hannah Richardson

*April 29, 2026*

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