



An Roinn Tithíochta,
Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreachta
Department of Housing,
Local Government and Heritage

NATIONAL PARKS AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

WILDLIFE ACT, 1976 (AS AMENDED) – SECTION 34

LICENCE TO CAPTURE LIVE HARES

The Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage (hereinafter referred to as “the Minister”), in exercise of the powers conferred on him by Sections 9 and 34 of the Wildlife Act, 1976 (No. 39 of 1976), as adapted, hereby grants to the IRISH COURSING CLUB, (“the Licensee”), Davis Road, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary a licence to capture live hares by means of nets between 9 August 2024 and 28 February 2025 subject to the conditions specified hereunder. The authority given by the Licence shall be exercisable by the Licensee and by the Coursing Clubs listed in the schedule attached hereto.

Dated this 31 day of July 2024

For the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage

Claire Bowley



CONDITIONS:

1. The Licence shall remain in force for the period beginning on 9 August 2024 and ending on the 28 February 2025 and may be revoked or amended by the Minister.
2. The Licence is issued pursuant to and in accordance with the Wildlife Act, 1976 (Approved Traps, Snares and Nets) Regulations, 2003 (S.I. No. 620 of 2003).
3. A return giving details of the numbers and locations (including tag numbers as requested under condition 4 of the licence issued to ICC under Section 32 of the Wildlife Acts) of the capture of all hares made by the coursing clubs listed in the schedule attached hereto, made on foot of this licence, shall be made available to the Minister and the relevant NPWS Officer, by email to coursing@npws.gov.ie. This should be made available no later than the Monday morning preceding a coursing event held on a Friday or Saturday, for which the hares were captured. In the case of a coursing event held on any other day the return must be made no later than 4 working days in advance. Where a trial is held, then this return must be made 2 working days before the trial.
4. A return giving particulars of; the number of hares coursed at a coursing event and/or trial session each day; other data relating to hare deaths and hares injured or examined for injuries; and the numbers and locations of the releases of hares (including tag numbers as per condition 4 of the licence issued to ICC under S32 of the Wildlife Acts) made by the licensee and by the coursing clubs listed in the schedule attached hereto shall be made to the Minister within 4 weeks of the expiry of the period of validity of the Licence or at the request of the Minister.
5. Nets used to capture hares shall not be placed or operated in a place or in such a way as to endanger farm or domestic animals or other species for which they are not intended.
6. The Licence shall be produced for inspection on a request being made in that behalf by a member of the Garda Síochána or any person appointed by the Minister under Section 72 of the Wildlife Act, 1976 (as amended), to be an authorised person for the purposes of the said Act.
7. If hares become sick or die in advance of or during a meeting, other than while being coursed, they shall be tested by a qualified veterinary surgeon and all hares shall be maintained by the Club until the results of tests are received. The NPWS should be notified immediately of such an event and treatment details as well as results of tests to be submitted immediately upon receipt. This relates to the suspected deaths of hares by a disease unrelated to coursing.

In such circumstances all hare carcasses must be delivered either by NPWS staff who are present at a meeting or by the veterinary surgeon present to the local Regional Veterinary Lab (RVL) uniquely tagged for post-mortem traceability. Should the RVL be closed the hare carcasses should be stored in a refrigerated container and then delivered to the RVL when it reopens. Follow up with the RVL seeking post mortem results is the responsibility of whomever submitted the

carcasses for testing. A copy of all results, as appropriate, must be shared with NPWS staff (coursing@npws.gov.ie) or the ICC.

8. If cause of death of a hare is unexplained then a post mortem will need to be carried out.
9. The Licensee and each of the coursing clubs listed in the schedule attached hereto shall arrange for a qualified veterinary surgeon to be in attendance during all of their coursing and trial meetings, and remain on site for the full duration of each. Should the veterinary surgeon be involved in active coursing at the event they must ensure that they are available at all times when needed to carry out their duties in relation to the health & wellbeing of the hares.

The veterinary surgeon shall prepare a signed report on the general health of the hares and on any injuries or deaths of hares that occur during the meeting, no later than the day following the conclusion of the meeting and before the hares are released back into the wild. Each club shall ensure that the signed veterinary report in respect of its meeting and a signed veterinary report of a trial session is submitted to the NPWS via the Irish Coursing Club within four weeks of the date on which the meeting/trial finished. Details of post mortems of any hares should be submitted with the Report.

In the event of a hare being pinned or injured it should be boxed, brought to the boxing shed and inspected by the vet in the presence of NPWS officer (if meeting is monitored by NPWS staff) at the nearest interval. Any hares that are examined for injuries and after examination treated for injuries, treatment details must be included in the veterinary report.

If the hare release is a different day to the conclusion of the meeting there must be veterinary presence at the time that the hares are being boxed for release and any injured hares examined.

10. Any hare captured pursuant to the Licence may not be coursed or trialled more than once on the same day and all necessary arrangements shall be made to ensure that hares that have been coursed or trialled can be readily identified to ensure that this condition is rigidly observed. No untagged hares shall be coursed.
11. Injured or pregnant hares shall not be taken under the Licence.
12. Hares that become sick or injured or that appear to be pregnant while in captivity shall not be coursed or trialled and details should be included on the Veterinary Report supplied under Condition 9.
13. Adequate escapes must be provided while coursing/trialling hares captured pursuant to the Licence.
14. All hares must be released back into the wild during daylight hours at the conclusion of the meeting or the day after the coursing meeting has concluded, unless otherwise agreed with the relevant National Parks and Wildlife Service staff

beforehand. Any hares released at any stage during the meetings and/or prior to the end of the meeting should be noted, including tag numbers, and reasons given on the Control Stewards Report. Tags should only be removed when hares are being boxed for release and where release is monitored this should be carried out with NPWS staff in attendance.

15. The same numbers of hares must be released back into the wild as far as possible at the same locations from which such numbers were captured, unless otherwise agreed beforehand with the relevant National Parks and Wildlife Service staff.
16. The Licence does not cover the following townlands in Co. Wexford: North East Slob, North West Slob, Big Island, Beggering Island and The Raven.
17. All National Parks and Statutory Nature Reserves within the State are excluded from the provisions of the Licence.
18. This licence covers the capturing of hares in the State. Any club capturing hares outside of this jurisdiction for the purposes of hare coursing or trialling inside the jurisdiction must be able to produce the relevant licenses/authorisation from the appropriate state authorities concerned.
19. The Licensee and the coursing clubs listed in the schedule attached hereto shall cooperate fully with any officer of the Minister and shall comply with any request made by such an officer in the course of their duties.
20. The removal from this jurisdiction of hares captured in this jurisdiction under the terms of this licence is strictly prohibited.
21. In all matters relating to the capture, keeping in captivity, tagging, coursing, trialling, training and release of hares, and the muzzling of greyhounds, there shall be full compliance with the Directives, Instructions and Guidance Notes issued by the Executive Committee of the Irish Coursing Club. Any changes to these Directives, Instructions and Guidance Notes should be notified to the NPWS immediately at coursing@npws.gov.ie for circulation to NPWS staff.

A summary of such changes shall be provided. The ICC shall submit a copy of the current Coursing Rules under the Greyhound Industry Act 1958 as Amended under – ‘A summary of Directives, Instructions and Guidance Notes issued by the Executive Committee of the Irish Coursing Club to Club Secretaries, Control Stewards, Judges and Slippers through the Secretary of the Irish Coursing Club.

22. Any person involved in the capturing of hares must have a written certificate, signed by the Club Secretary or the Secretary of the Irish Coursing Club, certifying that the named bearer is a member of a Club affiliated to the Irish Coursing Club and that certificate must be produced on request to a member of the Garda Síochána or an Authorised Person appointed by the Minister under Section 72 of the Wildlife Act, 1976 (as amended).

23. The Licensee, the Coursing Clubs affiliated to the Irish Coursing Club and the Members of such clubs must comply with Section 44 of the Wildlife Acts and must obtain the permission, either of the person who is the owner or the occupier of the land or, in cases where some other person is entitled to enjoy sporting rights over the land, that other person, prior to entering on any land for the purpose of hunting or catching hares.
24. Trials should only be run for the express purpose of familiarising hares with the most direct route to the escape and no more than one dog should take part in any trial run.
25. With the exception of the National Meeting, which can hold up to two trial sessions, a club may hold no more than one trial session. An authorised officer of the Irish Coursing Club should be in attendance at each such session.
26. All coursing fixture events, including open coursing events by associate clubs, and trials sessions shall be notified by the Irish Coursing Club to the NPWS, by email to coursing@npws.gov.ie, as soon as such details, including starting times and locations, become available to the Irish Coursing Club. Open coursing meetings by associate clubs should be notified to the NPWS at least 2 weeks before the fixture.
27. A return giving particulars of open coursing events, including those run by associate clubs, to include the number of courses, number of hares pinned, hare deaths or hares needing assistance or injured should be submitted to the NPWS within eight weeks of the date on which the meeting finished.
28. National Parks and Wildlife Service staff should be notified immediately via coursing@npws.gov.ie or by contacting the local NPWS office if sick or dead hares are encountered during the netting period or at any time within a hare park/location where hares are penned during coursing, or if hares go missing from hare parks/penned areas and until they are collected and boxed for release back to the wild. Where this is reported to An Garda Síochána, a copy of this report and details of follow-up by clubs must also be forwarded to the NPWS by the ICC within 4 weeks of the incident occurring.

Following Coursing Clubs acquiring hares for their licensed meeting, all hares required for that meeting shall be held over and cared for at a named designated location until post coursing release. The designated location is normally the hare park at the Coursing Club grounds. Any other locations shall be notified to the NPWS.

29. The capturing of hares at night for coursing is prohibited under Section 37 of the Wildlife Acts.
30. The Licencee should immediately adhere to any direction of the Minister in relation to the execution of this licence. Failure to do so may be reflected in changes to conditions of this licence and any future licences

31. Only those coursing clubs listed in the Schedule can hold coursing meetings during the period of the licence.
32. It is an offence under Section 69(6) of the Wildlife Acts to contravene a condition, attached to a licence or permission, granted by the Minister.

Conditions relating to the RHD2 virus

33. Coursing club meetings, including associate club meetings, will be prohibited in areas within a 3km radius of where a wild hare had tested positive for RHD2. The Department will inform the Irish Coursing Club of new restricted areas as new positive tests in new areas become available.
34. No coursing club may capture hares in any restricted area. This prohibition will have immediate effect from the time the ICC has been informed by the Department of new positive tests and the clubs affected.
35. Hares caught in an area where subsequently there is a positive result in a wild hare for RHD2 may be permitted to be coursed provided the following steps are followed:
 - i) Where the Department notifies the ICC of a new positive result and a new restricted area, the ICC shall inform relevant clubs immediately to cease the netting of hares and shall carry out an inspection of the clubs concerned within 24 hours of the notification to determine the number of hares netted at that time and the ICC shall inform the Department immediately of the results of that determination
 - ii) The ICC shall inform the Department as soon as possible when it has determined that sufficient hares have been netted to run a coursing meeting (in these conditions referred to as a restricted meeting)
 - iii) The restricted meeting must be within a four week period or to the nearest weekend thereto, as appropriate, from the date the Department notifies the ICC of a new positive test pursuant to condition No. 34
 - iv) All hares must be certified in writing by a veterinary surgeon as being fit and healthy to course prior to coursing and all hares must be certified in writing by a veterinary surgeon as being healthy and fit for release after coursing with respective reports provided to the Department
 - v) No hare should be coursed more than twice at a restricted meeting
 - vi) A restricted meeting will not run over more than two days.
 - vii) In cases where the ICC determines pursuant to condition 35(ii) that sufficient hares have not been netted by a particular club to run a restricted meeting, then any hares already captured by that club shall be released as soon as possible.



Note: The Licence does not authorise any person to enter on any land without the permission of the owner or occupier of the land.

Schedule of Clubs

Irish Coursing Club

Licence Schedule 2024/2025

Coursing Club Name	County
Carlow	Carlow
Cavan	Cavan
Ennis & Clarecastle	Clare
Killimer & Kilrush	Clare
Liscannor	Clare
Miltown Malbay	Clare
South Clare	Clare
Tradaree	Clare
Bandon & Careys Cross	Cork
Charleville	Cork
Churchtown South Open	Cork
Clonakilty	Cork
Cork	Cork
Cork County Open	Cork
Dromina Open	Cork
Fermoy & Grange	Cork
Glanworth	Cork
Macroom	Cork
Mallow	Cork
Milford Open	Cork
Millstreet	Cork
Mitchelstown	Cork
Rathcormac	Cork
East Donegal	Donegal
Balbriggan	Dublin
Galway & Oranmore	Galway
Loughrea	Galway
Abbeydorney	Kerry
Ballyduff	Kerry
Ballyheigue	Kerry
Castleisland	Kerry
County Kerry	Kerry
Kilflynn	Kerry
Listowel	Kerry
Lixnaw	Kerry
Athy Open	Kildare
Newbridge Open	Kildare
Old Kilcullen	Kildare
Roseberry Open	Kildare
Freshford	Kilkenny
Johnstown & Urlingford	Kilkenny
Mooncoin	Kilkenny

North Kilkenny	Kilkenny
Sevenhouses	Kilkenny
Borris-in-Ossory	Laois
Rathdowney	Laois
Abbeyfeale	Limerick
Ardpatrick & Kilfinane	Limerick
County Limerick (Irish Cup)	Limerick
Doon & District	Limerick
Fedamore Open	Limerick
Galbally	Limerick
Glin	Limerick
Limerick City	Limerick
Newcastle West	Limerick
Rathkeale	Limerick
Regional	Limerick
Dundalk & Dowdallshill	Louth
Westport	Mayo
Duleek Open	Meath
Leinster Open	Meath
Trim	Meath
Ballinagar	Offaly
Edenderry	Offaly
Roscommon United	Roscommon
Tubbercurry - Kilcreevin/Ballymote	Sligo
Borrisoleigh	Tipperary
Cashel	Tipperary
Clonmel & District Open	Tipperary
Clonmel & Kilsheelan	Tipperary
Crohan & Killenaule	Tipperary
Fethard Open	Tipperary
Knockgraffon	Tipperary
Knockgraffon Open	Tipperary
National Meeting (Clonmel)	Tipperary
Nenagh	Tipperary
Templetouhy	Tipperary
Thurles	Tipperary
Tipperary District	Tipperary
Cappoquinn	Waterford
Dungarvan	Waterford
Waterford	Waterford
Westmeath United	Westmeath
Enniscorthy	Wexford
Gorey	Wexford
New Ross	Wexford
Wexford	Wexford