



# Association of Irish Riding Clubs CLG

## Child Safeguarding Statement

### Section 1 – NGB

Association of Irish Riding Clubs CLG (AIRC) is the Governing Body for Riding Clubs in Ireland. Association of Irish Riding Clubs through their clubs and regions provide various sporting activities and opportunities for young people through participation in clubs, regional events and at national level.

Affiliate details:

- Name: **Association of Irish Riding Clubs CLG**
- Sport: **Equestrian Sport**
- Location (National/Local level): **National Level**
- Activities: **Dressage, Show Jumping and Cross Country**

### Section 2 - Principles to safeguard children from harm

AIRC is committed to safeguarding children and by working under the guidance of our Safeguarding Policies our staff, both volunteers and employed, working with our young people, throughout the organisation, seek to create a safe environment for young people to grow and develop within sport. The following set of principles should be adhered to:

- **Importance of childhood** - The importance of childhood should be understood and valued by everyone involved in sport.
- **Needs of the child** - All children's sport experiences should be guided by what is best for children. This means that adults should have a basic understanding of the emotional, physical and personal needs of young people.
- **Integrity in relationships** - Adults interacting with children in sport are in a position of trust and influence. They should always ensure that children are treated with integrity and respect, and the self-esteem of young people is enhanced.
- **Fair Play** - All children's sport should be conducted in an atmosphere of fair play. The principles of fair play should always be emphasised, and organisers should give clear guidelines regarding acceptable standards of behaviour.
- **Quality atmosphere & ethos** - Children's sport should be conducted in a safe, positive and encouraging atmosphere.
- **Competition** - Competition is an essential element of sport and should be encouraged in an age appropriate manner. A child centred ethos will help to ensure that competition and specialisation are kept in their appropriate place.
- **Equality** - All children should be valued and treated in an equitable and fair manner regardless of ability, age, gender, religion, social and ethnic background or political persuasion.

### Section 3 - Risk Assessment

This Association of Irish Riding Clubs written Risk Assessment document indicates the areas of potential risk of harm, the likelihood of the risk occurring, and gives the required policy, guidance or process documents require to alleviate these risks. The list of risks identified and procedures to manage these risks are contained in the following categories:

Risk Identified	Procedure in place to manage risk identified
<p><b>Affiliate and Coaching Practices</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of coaching qualification.</li> <li>• Supervision issues.</li>   <li>• Unauthorised photography &amp; recording activities.</li> <li>• Behavioural Issues.</li>   <li>• Lack of adherence with misc procedures in Safeguarding policy (i.e. mobile, transport)</li> <li>• No guidance for travelling &amp; away trips</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Register of Instructors and/or criteria</li> <li>• Adopt and make available HSI policies on website</li> <li>• Professional photographers attend National Events</li> <li>• Adopted HSI Codes of Conduct / Safeguarding Training Policy / Complaints &amp; Disciplinary policy.</li> <li>• Adopted the HSI guidelines</li>   <li>• Adopted HSI Travel/Away trip guidelines / Safeguarding Training Policy / Codes of Conduct</li> </ul>
<p><b>Complaints &amp; Discipline</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of awareness of a Complaints &amp; Disciplinary policy.</li> <li>• Difficulty in raising an issue by child &amp; or parent</li>   <li>• Complaints not being dealt with seriously</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adopted HSI Complaints &amp; Disciplinary procedure / Communications procedure.</li> <li>• Adopted HSI Complaints &amp; Disciplinary procedure / Communications procedure.</li> <li>• Adopted HSI Complaints &amp; Disciplinary procedure.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Reporting Procedures</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of knowledge of organisational &amp; statutory reporting procedures</li> <li>• No DLP/NCO appointed.</li> <li>• Concerns of abuse or harm not reported.</li> <li>• Not clear who YP should talk to or report to.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NCO &amp; DLP in place with required training.</li>   <li>• NCO &amp; DLP appointed with required training.</li> <li>• NCO &amp; DLP appointed with required training.</li> <li>• NCO &amp; DLP appointed with required training.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Use of Facilities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Photography, filming or recording in prohibited areas.</li> <li>• Missing or found child on site.</li> <li>• Children sharing facilities with adults e.g. dressing room, showers etc.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enforce policy in private changing and wet areas.</li> <li>• Refer to policy and inform Garda.</li> <li>• Plan with facilities management to create a suitable child centred environment in shared facilities.</li> </ul>

<p><b>Recruitment</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recruitment of inappropriate people.</li> <li>• Lack of clarity on roles.</li> <li>• Unqualified or untrained people in role.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All instructors must have been vetting and attain a Safeguarding 1 certificate.</li> <li>• HSI role descriptions available.</li> <li>• Policy in place ensuring relevant volunteers are vetted and attain a Safeguarding 1 certificate.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Communications</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of awareness of ‘risk of harm’ with members and visitors.</li> <li>• No communication of Child Safeguarding Statement or Code of Behaviour to members of clubs.</li> <li>• Inappropriate use of social media and communications by under 18’s</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Child Safeguarding Statement available on website.</li> <li>• Child Safeguarding Statement available on website.</li> <li>• Social media guidelines in place. Restricted access to AIRC social media accounts.</li> </ul>
<p><b>General Risk of Harm</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Harm not being recognised.</li> <li>• Harm caused by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Child to Child.</li> <li>○ Coach to Child.</li> <li>○ Volunteer to Child.</li> <li>○ Member to Child.</li> <li>○ Visitor to Child.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• General behavioural issues.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Relevant volunteers have attained a Safeguarding 1 training where they are taught to recognise harm</li> <li>• The safeguarding code is available to all affiliated clubs with underage members</li> <li>• Code of Conduct</li> </ul>

The Risk Assessment was undertaken on 9<sup>th</sup> March 2018 and reviewed on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2019.

#### Section 4 – Procedures

Our Child Safeguarding Statement has been developed in line with requirements under the Children First Act 2015, (the Children First: National Guidance, and Tusla’s Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure & Practice and the Children (NI) Order 1995). In addition to our Risk Assessment document described above, there are further procedures that support our intention to safeguard children while they are availing of our activities.

Association of Irish Riding Clubs has the following procedures in place as part of our Safeguarding Policies:

- Procedures for the management of allegations of abuse or misconduct by staff or volunteers against a child availing of our activities.
- Procedures for the safe recruitment of staff and volunteers to work with children in our activities.

- Procedures for access to child safeguarding training and information, including the identification of the occurrence of harm.
- Procedure for reporting of child protection or welfare concerns to Statutory Authorities.
- Procedure for maintaining a list of the persons (if any) in the relevant service who are mandated persons.
- Procedure for appointing a relevant person.

***Please note that all procedures listed are available on request.***

The Mandated/Relevant Person for ***Horse Sport Ireland*** is ***Paul Hayes***.

## **Section 5 – Implementation**

We recognise that implementation is an ongoing process. Association of Irish Riding Clubs is committed to the implementation of this Child Safeguarding Statement and the procedures that support our intention to keep children safe from harm while availing of our activities.

Please note the following:

- That all staff have been furnished with a copy of this statement.
- This statement is available to parents/guardians, the Agency and members of the public on request.
- This statement is available to view on [www.airc.ie](http://www.airc.ie).

The Association of Irish Riding Clubs Child Safeguarding Plan including all policies and procedures is available on request or at the following webpage for download: [www.airc.ie/safeguarding](http://www.airc.ie/safeguarding)

You can also email [info@airc.ie](mailto:info@airc.ie) if you would like any information sent to you.

This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed in **2022**.

Signed: 

Date: **2<sup>nd</sup> December 2019**

(On behalf of Association of Irish Riding Clubs)

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*For queries on this Child Safeguarding Statement, please contact **Elaine Dunne**.*