

Irish Horse Racing & Breeding Industry Child Safeguarding Statement



Horse Racing Ireland (HRI):

Horse Racing Ireland (HRI) is the national authority for thoroughbred racing in Ireland, with responsibility for the governance, development, and promotion of the industry under the Horse and Greyhound Racing Act 2016. As a commercial semi-state body HRI, through its board, reports to the Minister for Agriculture Food and the Marine.

Our mission is: 'to develop and promote Ireland's Horse Racing and Breeding industries to administer and govern the sport of Horse Racing in Ireland, to cultivate and promote the highest standards of integrity and welfare'.

HRI guiding principles to safeguard children from harm:

HRI is committed to upholding the rights of children who access services and believes that the protection and welfare of children is everyone's responsibility.

HRI promotes the key principles that inform best practice in child protection and welfare and acknowledges the rights of children / young persons to be protected from harm whilst either engaged in our industry or availing of services.

Our code of behaviour and legislative compliance apply to everyone in our organisation and all staff/ employees and contractors must behave in a way that upholds the code of behaviour which endorses the protection and welfare of children / young persons under the age of eighteen, at any of our locations, including racecourses, premises – yards or training centres.

When concerns arise, the guiding principles regarding reporting child safeguarding and or welfare concerns may be summarised as follows:

- (i) The safety and well-being of the child must take priority.
- (ii) Where safeguarding concerns are raised, these will be referred formally to TULSA without delay.

Our HRI guiding principles and procedures to safeguard children reflect current national legislation, policy, and guidance. We will review our safeguarding policy every two years.

Risk Assessment

HRI has carried out an assessment of any potential for harm to a child while availing of our services, activities, and events. Below is a list of the identified areas of potential risk identified and procedures in place for managing same.

Risks Identified	Procedure in place to manage risk
Risk of harm to a child from HRI staff members (including contracted workers and volunteers).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Code of Behaviour • Safe recruitment and selection • Probation and performance management • Dealing with allegations against Staff, Volunteers and/or Contractors • Raising Matters of Concern (Whistleblowing) • Disciplinary and Grievance • Information and training • Bullying and harassment protocols • HRI Employing Young People Policy • HRI Lone Working Policy • Event Management (including incident management)
Risk of harm to a child from a safeguarding concern not being recognised or reported.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HRI Safeguarding Policy in situ
Risk of harm to children from others attending HRI facilities/locations (including other children, adults, visitors, or members of the public).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Event Management (including incident management) • Risk assessment and management • Memo of understanding with partner agencies and parental consent protocols in place
Risk of harm to children from non-compliance by organisations/groups funded by HRI.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compliance with HRI Safeguarding Policy by all agencies in receipt of HRI funding.
Risk of harm to children from lack of safeguarding awareness and knowledge within the horseracing and breeding industry.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child safeguarding training programme • DLP appointments

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 and Practice. In addition to the procedures listed in our risk assessment, the following procedures support our intention to safeguard children while they are availing of our services/activities/events:

1. Provision of the HRI Child Safeguarding Policy which details the reporting procedures for child safeguarding and welfare concerns to TULSA for children / young person's attending our premises, on placement, undergoing apprenticeship or training or in any form of employment across the industry.
2. Within the Child Safeguarding Policy, procedure for management of allegations of abuse or misconduct against employees / staff and contractors from children or young persons or concerned persons on their behalf.
3. Provision of a Code of Behaviour within the Child Safeguarding Policy for all staff, contractors and employees across the sectors.
4. Appropriate vetting and security procedures for the safe recruitment and selection of staff across the sectors.

5. Access to child safeguarding training and information.
6. Procedure for dealing with disclosure by a child / young person or concerned person or staff member.
7. Procedure for record keeping and storage of any notified child safeguarding concerns
8. Maintenance of a list of Mandated Persons in employment across the horseracing industry.
9. The appointment of a relevant person at our racecourses and all HRI locations.

Implementation

HRI recognises that implementation is an ongoing process. HRI 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 services. This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed every two years or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

Signed: _____

Provider – Horse Racing Ireland.

Provider's name and contact details:

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