

Jockey Valet

Race Day Roles

Job Summary

A Jockey's valet role is to prepare the riders' gear before a race. As some jockeys' ride for a number of different owners on a race day this will involve ensuring that the right silks are ready and that boots and breeches are clean and presentable.



Main Duties

- Pre race set out the jockey's breeches and boots in the weighroom making sure they are clean and ready for racing;
- Assign racing silks to jockeys for each race;
- Repeat as needed depending on the number of races;
- Wipe down saddles, polish boots and wash silks ready for the next race meeting;
- At the end of the race meeting, gather all the equipment together ready to be transported to the next event;

Job Level

Entry Level Role

Typical Employer

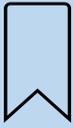
Valet Service Provider;



Case Study

Jockey, Jockey Valet and Jockey Agent
Jockeys, plus their valets and agents, totalled circa 220 in 2016. The vast majority of jockey's will be attached to a yard where they will ride out every day alongside the stable staff. Jockeys are amongst the hardest working and toughest sportspeople in Ireland. Irish jockeys are acknowledged as being amongst the best in the world, with many riding extensively outside of Ireland. Many of the current leading Irish jockeys are RACE graduates.

[Source: Economic Impact of Irish breeding and racing 2017]



Competencies (Behavioural)

- Passion - a love for horses, horse riding or horse racing is the No. 1 motivating factor why people work within the horse racing industry (HRI Education & Training Survey 2020);
- Intrapersonal skills (perseverance; initiative; self-motivation), Critical thinking skills (problem solving), Interpersonal skills (communication; teamwork);

Knowledge & Skills

Equine Knowledge & Skills

Horse care & welfare;
Equine transportation;
Facility management & maintenance;

People Knowledge & Skills

Communication skills;
Health & safety regulations;
Self development;

Racing Knowledge & Skills

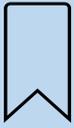
Racing industry knowledge;
Racing rules & regulations;
Integrity of the sport;
Raceday operations;
Racecourses and racing calendar

Business Knowledge & Skills

I.T. / digital skills;

Education

While no specific training is required to start a career as a Jockey Valet, many entrants are former jockey's familiar with life in the weighroom which provides them with an insiders understanding of how individual jockeys like to work.



Career Path (Alternative Careers)

Office Administrator
Jockeys Agent
Raceday Official

Experience

People in this field frequently have extensive experience with horses, with most having been professional jockey's themselves.

Job Availability

Job availability is limited. Follow www.equip.ie for information on job opportunities within the breeding, racing and racing administration.



Certification

Jockey valets are licensed by the Irish Horse Racing Regulatory Board (I.H.R.B.).

Working Conditions

The role requires lots of travel following the Race circuit, bringing gear in and out of the weight room at the Racecourse.

Pay & Benefits

Generally, the amount of pay you receive for working is a matter of agreement between you and your employer. These negotiations normally occur when you receive a job offer.