

Operations Manager

Racecourse

Job Summary

A racecourse operations manager is responsible for ensuring a successful racecourse with overall responsibility for health and safety, and the day to day operation of a racecourse working closely with ground staff, sales and hospitality and catering teams and all service providers on race day.



Main Duties

- Direct and control the staff of the department to ensure that are appropriately trained and motivated and carry out their responsibilities to the required standards;
- Maintain regular contact with members to obtain feedback about their needs and their opinions of the services provided by the Racecourse;
- Develop and control the budget for the operations department required to meet its objectives and at the right times;
- Develop all necessary policies and procedures to ensure that a safe and healthy working environment is maintained;
- Act as the racecourse's main adviser on all issues relating to operations and keep abreast of the latest developments to ensure the racecourse maintains its competitive position;

Job Level

Management

Typical Employer

Racecourses

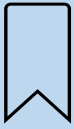


Case Study

Ireland's Racecourses

Many racecourses are owned by local bodies, including companies, trusts and charitable organisations, meaning their objectives are not concentrated solely on profit maximisation. Four racecourses – Leopardstown, Navan, Fairyhouse and Tipperary – are owned by HRI, with the remainder independently owned. The majority of racecourses host both jump and flat racing with some prominent exceptions, including the Curragh - Ireland's premier flat racing venue and Punchestown, which hosts the leading Jumps festival. The only all-weather racecourse is at Dundalk, which enables flat racing to take place all year round.

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



Competencies (Behavioural)

- 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);
- Critical & innovative thinking (problem solving; reasoned decision making; reflective thinking; entrepreneurship;) & Interpersonal Skills (communication; teamwork);

Knowledge & Skills

Equine Knowledge & Skills

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

People Knowledge & Skills

Leadership & management skills;
Communication skills;
People management skills;
Staff training & development;
Health & safety regulations;
Staff welfare including safeguarding;

Racing Knowledge & Skills

Racing industry knowledge;
Racing rules & regulations;
Integrity of the sport;
Raceday Operations;
Race planning/Racecourses and racing calendar;

Business Knowledge & Skills

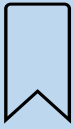
Business planning;
Finance & taxation;
Admin, compliance & law;
Marketing, PR & networking;
I.T. / digital Skills;
Environmental standards;

Education

While no specific qualification is required to become a racecourse manager, many new entrants to the industry have a level 8 bachelors degree in business studies. See www.qualifax.ie for a list of business courses available through the university and college network nationwide.

Post graduate opportunities include Godolphin Flying Start - www.godolphinFlyingstart.com;

CPD: The Association of Irish Racecourses (A.I.R.) is a non-profit making organisation and its membership is comprised all Irish Racecourses. Through regular meetings and contact with racecourse executives the AIR advise and assist members regularly on issues relating to the promotion and development of racecourses.



Career Path (Alternative Careers)

- Racecourse Manager;
- Business Executive;
- Commercial Manager;

Experience

An operations manager will have experience working on a Racecourse or other large site open to the public.

Job Availability

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



Certification

No certification is required.

Working Conditions

The role is mainly office based as primary duties include overseeing the accounts, business planning and staff management.

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.