



**Minutes of the 6TH SPORT AND RECREATION ADVISORY FORUM
of HORSE SPORT IRELAND
held online via MS TEAMS**

THURSDAY 31ST JULY 2025 AT 4PM

Present: Christopher Bogle, NIHB (CB)
Judi Pheysey, TREC Ireland (JP) (**Chair**)
Sue Foley, AIRE (SFo)
Sinead Doyle, Polo Ireland (SD)
Austin Fitzpatrick, HAI (AF)

In attendance: Paul Hayes – Sport & Recreation Manager (PH)
Robyn Gillespie – General Administration (RG) (Minutes)
Avalon Everett - HSI Head of Sport, Legal and Governance (AE) (*Left meeting at 16.33*)

Apologies: Denis Duggan (HSI CEO), Eilidh Hyland- Mounted Games Ireland (EH), Jill Carey-Festina Lente (JC), Peter O'Carroll- ERE (PO), Shirley Finnegan - RDA Ireland (SFI), Karen Coventry – Special Olympics Ireland (KC), Sabrina Barnwell – IEVA (SB)

Abbreviations: Horse Sport Ireland (HSI); Microsoft (MS); Association of Irish Riding Establishments (AIRE); Endurance Riding Eireann (ERE); Hunting Association of Ireland (HAI); Irish Polocrosse Association (IPA); Irish Quarter Horse Association (IQHA); Irish Universities Riding Clubs Association (IURCA); Irish Harness Racing Association (IHRA); Northern Ireland Horse Board (NIHB); Irish Equine Veterinary Association (IEVA); Tourism Related Equestrian Competitions (TREC); General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR); Fédération Equestre Internationale (FEI); European Equestrian Federation (EEF); Royal Dublin Society (RDS); Showjumping Ireland (SJI); Sport Ireland (SI); Outdoor Recreational Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS); Horse Source (HS); TREC Ireland (TREC) Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD);

Meeting Opening/Apologies

At 16:05hrs JP opened the 6th meeting of the Sport and Recreation Advisory Forum of Horse Sport Ireland, and the apologies were noted. A meeting quorum was not reached so the meeting became an information sharing event and no decisions were taken. The chairman noted that future affiliate meetings should not be scheduled on bank holidays and requested that affiliate members be surveyed again to find a more suitable meeting time.

SR006.1 Minutes of the Previous Meeting & Matters Arising

The minutes of the previous meeting, the 5th Sport & Recreation Advisory Forum, held on 17th April 2025, were agreed, and accepted and will be DocuSigned by the Chair following the meeting.

SR006.2 Topics for Discussion

Coillte

HSI are working with Coillte to establish formal equestrian trail access. Insurance remains the main obstacle, with full user indemnity required by Coillte. A solution

under consideration would grant access to members of a designated equestrian club, supported by a new broker with equestrian expertise.

HSI met with Forestry England to review their model. HSI will gather further insights ahead of a September follow-up.^(SR006.1) A permit system is being developed, involving an annual fee, insurance verification, and an option for riding centres to opt in. The goal is to align users under HSI-affiliated clubs.

Designated Coillte forests with suitable access for horse boxes will be identified. Engagement with Bord na Móna and Waterways Ireland will form the next phase.

Strategic Plan Update

HSI will have a feedback wall next week at the RDS Dublin Horse Show to collect stakeholder input on the future vision, supported by an online survey. After the Horse Show, a formal nationwide consultation will take place, including full-day, in-person sessions with stakeholders. Stakeholder mapping has been completed. Strategy days are planned to help shape the future direction and purpose of HSI. Affiliates are encouraged to meet independently to align their views before providing feedback to HSI. The HSI Board has approved the Transparency Policy. Going forward, Advisory Forum minutes will be published on the website in bullet point format once approved, to keep stakeholders informed about key discussions.^(SR006.2)

Insurance

A working group has been formed to identify challenges related to insurance and explore how HSI can support affiliates in addressing these issues.

Get Ireland Active

Sport Ireland has developed a new "Get Ireland Active" website, and there is interest in including equestrian activities. A survey has been created for sporting organisations, with consultants assisting in populating the data. The next step involves reaching out to affiliates to complete the forms, including input from the national affiliate body. Affiliate commitment is essential to ensure strong representation. The website will later include equestrian events, although not in the initial launch phase.

Data Sharing

Regarding data sharing, a template will be created to collect participation numbers, member data, and contact information. While participation grants currently don't require baseline data, HSI plans to begin gathering this information. Most affiliates currently do not collect the necessary data. Other sources of grants are available to affiliates if they can provide supportive participant data.

A revised affiliate agreement is expected by the end of August, which will clearly define responsibilities and include data-sharing clauses.

SR006.3 Any Other Business

Changes to Garda vetting procedures are imminent and will include changes to the application form and the requirement for verification to be carried out internally by each affiliate. A webinar will be arranged for mid-August, with a summary to follow next week.^(SR006.3) Affiliates will receive a note in advance of the minutes.

TREC Ireland provided an update on its trail initiative, encouraging members to sign up. The awarded HSI Participation Grant 2025 funding will support the development

of a questionnaire and update to the TTI website aimed at increasing awareness of the need for and lack of long-distance trails. Affiliates will have the opportunity to review the plan and offer input, with the project involving collaboration both within and beyond affiliate organisations. The next phase includes a website redesign and improved social media, with a planned launch by late September. Presentation slides will be shared via email. (SR006.4)

PH and JP thanked the forum members for their contribution and attendance and at 16.58 hrs the meeting closed.

Date of the Next Meeting – Thursday 30th October 2025, 4pm by MS Teams

Signed:

Judi Pheysey, Chairman

_____ Date

Actions to be taken from the minutes of the meeting:

Action	Detail	Assigned to
SR006.1	HSI to gather further insights on Coillte access	PH & AE
SR006.2	HSI to publish forum minutes onto the HSI website in bullet point format.	PH & RG
SR006.3	Garda Vetting webinar will be arranged for mid-August, with a summary email to be sent the first week of August.	PH & RG
SR006.4	JP to share TREC Ireland presentation slides with forum	JP