



**Horse Sport Ireland and Eventing Ireland Meeting**  
**Held at HSI Offices, Naas**  
**On Monday, 24<sup>th</sup> November 2025 at 2pm**

**Present:**

Denis Duggan, CEO – HSI  
Sonja Egan, Head of Breeding, Innovation and Development – HSI  
Triona Connors, HP Operations Manager – HSI *partial attendance*  
Lucinda McClure, Senior Executive Assistant – HSI (Minutes)  
Nikki Potterton, Chairman – EI  
Richard Ames, Director – EI  
Alison Packman, General Manager – EI  
Kieran Connors – EI  
John Lyttle – EI

**Apologies:**

Avalon Everett, COO & General Counsel – HSI

At 14.11hrs DD opened the meeting and welcomed the Eventing Ireland (EI) representatives. Introductions were made.

Head of Performance and Coaching

EI queried progress on the recruitment process for the Head of Sport within HSI and the matter was discussed. HSI confirmed that the process is ongoing with international reach and will conclude once the right candidate for the role has been sourced. HSI reassured EI that High Performance will continue to be overseen by both Avalon Everett and Triona Connors and will not be impacted during the recruitment process.

High Performance Advisory Group (HPAG)

EI requested an update on the formation of the Eventing HPAG, and the matter was discussed. It was noted that during the meeting held on 26/05/2025, EI had been requested to revert to HSI with unconflicted nominees to replace Fleur Creed and take the Chair's slot (in place of NP who is conflicted). **EI to consider potential candidates and revert to HSI with a list of candidates in the coming days.**

RFT – High Performance Eventing Managers

There was a lengthy discussion on the ongoing RFT (request for tender) process. EI highlighted concerns that the process is taking considerable time and the athletes, particularly the young riders, are missing out on training and planning during a crucial period particularly over Christmas break when they have more time around their education commitments. HSI noted that the process had initially been intended to conclude by the end of November and had unfortunately experienced a short delay. It is anticipated that the positions will be confirmed by Christmas.

It was confirmed that DD has recused himself from the interview panel and the panel will consist of an independent Chair, Sport Ireland representative, HSI's COO, an international chef/rider representative, a rider's representative and an owner's representative. HSI also confirmed that the same panel will conduct the interviews for both the Senior and Junior roles. It was noted that

EI confirmed that they would have had no issues with DD sitting on the interview panel but noted that they feel they still do not have representation. It was agreed that **EI will review the names provided as potential owner and rider representatives and highlight those on the lists whom they would also be happy with** which will effectively provide EI with representation on the panel without expanding the panel beyond the maximum of 6 persons.

At 15:00hrs TC left the meeting.

Discussion on the RFT process continued at length.

HP budgets and training budgets were discussed. DD confirmed that no monies will be left unspent and **DD will review the budgets and revert to EI regarding the training allocation from earlier in the year.**

The Owners' Retention Programme and High-Performance contribution were discussed. DD reiterated the conversation from the earlier July meeting, noting that EI were asked to add more detail to their initial skeleton plan for progression and reaffirming that Sport Ireland have long said that the High-Performance financial model needs to change to provide sustainability into the future. **DD to share concept document presented to SJ with EI.**

DD spoke to the High-Performance levy which will be introduced w/c 1<sup>st</sup> December 2025 on all FEI entries. DD clarified that the entry fee to the show will still be paid directly to the show, and this is an FEI, international level levy and will not affect national classes. It was noted entry fees for Nations Cups will be covered.

The levy was discussed at length. Eventing Ireland, whilst agreeing in principal that the initiative was a good idea expressed strong concerns and frustration and noted that the idea should have been socialised before launch/announcement and highlighted that narrative around the delivery of the new initiative to the industry is crucial.

#### AOB

JL noted that he sits on the High-Performance Committee to represent officials and highlighted that HSI currently does nothing to support officials who travel around the world representing Ireland. **JL and DD to liaise further on this topic offline.**

Further discussion took place at length around sponsorship and the HP funding model.

Social licence and coaching were discussed.

JL highlighted that there is currently no phone number displayed on the HSI website. DD to review.

At 17:04hrs the meeting concluded.

Ends.