



**Minutes of the 7TH SPORT AND RECREATION ADVISORY FORUM
of HORSE SPORT IRELAND
held online via MS TEAMS**

THURSDAY 30TH OCTOBER 2025 AT 4PM

Present: Christopher Bogle, NIHB (CB)
Judi Pheysey, TREC Ireland (JP) (**Chair**)
Sue Foley, AIRE (SFo)
Sinead Doyle, Polo Ireland (SD)
Peter O'Carroll, ERE (PO)
Eilidh Hyland, Mounted Games Ireland (EH)
Karen Coventry, Special Olympics Ireland (KC)
Austin Fitzpatrick, HAI (AF) (*Joined at 16.18*)

In attendance: Paul Hayes – Sport & Recreation Manager (PH)
Robyn Gillespie – General Administration (RG) (Minutes)
Denis Duggan - HSI CEO (DD)

Apologies: Jill Carey- Festina Lente (JC), Shirley Finnegan - RDA Ireland (SFi), Sabrina Barnwell – IEVA (SB), Tony O'Donnell- IPA (TD)

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 16:06hrs JP opened the 7th meeting of the Sport and Recreation Advisory Forum of Horse Sport Ireland, and the apologies were noted.

SR007.1 Minutes of the Previous Meeting & Matters Arising

The minutes of the previous meeting, the 5th Sport & Recreation Advisory Forum, held on 31st July 2025, were agreed, and accepted and will be DocuSigned by the Chair following the meeting.

SR007.2 Topics for Discussion

Coillte

- HSI had no update since the last S&R Forum with regards working with Coillte to establish formal equestrian trail access. The HSI underwriters are currently engaging with Coillte.

Get Ireland Active

- HSI had discussions with Sport Ireland with regards the progress with Get Ireland Active. The HSI Sports Department are engaging with Sport Ireland. HSI will reach out to affiliates in the coming weeks looking for engagement on the Get Ireland Active project. (SR008.1)

Data Sharing

- The affiliation agreement document will define the relationship between HSI and the affiliates. HSI's aim is to capture the membership data which could be valuable for funders. HSI gave the suggestion to the affiliates who are not yet collecting membership data, to start doing so through their 2026 applications. HSI plan to send out data forms to affiliates in mid to end November. (SR008.2)

Garda Vetting

- Garda Vetting webinar will be organised for HSI affiliates which will explain the new procedures introduced earlier in the year. This webinar will be held in the second week of November at 3pm and 7:30pm.

SR007.3 Any Other Business

Strategic Plan

- HSI explained they were very happy with their stake holder consultation day in Naas. 23 affiliates were represented on the day, along with over 500 surveys submitted online.
- It was noted that affiliates will not have the opportunity to view the draft of the HSI Strategic Plan. The plan will be published within Q1 of 2026 once approved by the board.

Special Olympics

- KC provided an overview of the Special Olympics which will be taking place in Ireland from the 18th – 21st June 2026. KC advised that the volunteer portal will launch in January and welcomed everyone's support. It was noted that volunteer enquiries may also be sent to RG, who will forward them to KC. The forum noted this information.

Further Coillte Discussion

- The forum held an open discussion on the topic of Coillte access and the issues around getting the correct insurance to allow for open access. AF explained he will forward a document to HSI which can then be circulated to the forum which might be beneficial regarding insurance. (SR008.2)

PH and JP thanked the forum members for their contribution and attendance and at 16.42 hrs the meeting closed.

Date of the Next Meeting – Thursday 22nd January 2026, 4pm by MS Teams

Signed:

Judi Pheysey, Chairman

Date

Actions to be taken from the minutes of the meeting:

Action	Detail	Assigned to
SR008.1	HSI to reach out to affiliates with regards to the Get Ireland Active Project	HSI
SR008.2	Data forms to be sent out to affiliates towards the end of November	HSI
SR008.2	AF to forward on documents to HSI for circulation within the forum	AF