



**Minutes of the 8TH SPORT AND RECREATION ADVISORY FORUM
of HORSE SPORT IRELAND
held online via MS TEAMS**

Thursday 29th January 2026 at 4pm

Present: Christopher Bogle, NIHB (CB)
Judi Pheysey, TREC Ireland (JP) (**Chair**)
Sue Foley, AIRE (SFo) (*Joined at 16.39*)
Sinead Doyle, Polo Ireland (SD)
Tony O'Donnell IPA (TOD)
Peter O'Carroll, ERE (PO)
Eilidh Hyland, Mounted Games Ireland (EH)
Shirley Finnegan - RDA Ireland (SFi)
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)

Apologies:

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 Dubin 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 16:04hrs JP opened the 8th meeting of the Sport and Recreation Advisory Forum of Horse Sport Ireland, and the apologies were noted.

SR008.1 Minutes of the Previous Meeting & Matters Arising

The minutes of the previous meeting, the 7th Sport & Recreation Advisory Forum, held on 30th October 2025, were agreed, and accepted and will be DocuSigned by the Chair following the meeting.

SR008.2 Topics for Discussion

- JP noted that no affiliates have submitted agenda items and encouraged organisations to put forward items for future meetings.

- Updates to the Garda Vetting process mean members of organisations can now become ID Verifiers, allowing organisations to verify members' identities for the HSI Garda Vetting process internally.
- Organisations were reminded to confirm their Designated Liaison Person (DLP) and Children's Officer. Safeguarding concerns should be reported to these individuals. It is important that the HSI accredited coaches list maintains a consistent standard. HSI can restrict an individual's access if required.
- Safeguarding should remain a standing agenda item for organisations and may need to be acknowledged at board level. Affiliates are encouraged to stay on top of safeguarding requirements.
- AF asked about the Sports Capital Programme. PH confirmed that any sporting organisation can apply directly. HSI are not involved in the application process. Applications can be made through the Sports Capital Programme website.
- AF asked about the criteria for horse breeding establishments. Queries should be emailed to RG, who will forward them to the Breeding Department and revert with a response.
- PH explained that the Get Ireland Active initiative is being rolled out in stages. HSI will initially contact AIRE, AIRC and the IPC, and will reach out to other affiliates within the next 6–8 weeks.
- Several affiliates have already returned the data collection forms. It is understood that some sections may be difficult to complete. The main purpose is to ensure HSI has accurate contact information and is corresponding with the correct people.
- AF had a question relation to contact details, PH advised that constituent bodies should provide the necessary information to HAI, who will pass it on to HSI. HSI only requires HAI board and primary contact details.
- KC advised that 2,500 volunteers are required for the Special Olympics. RG and PH will circulate links and information to affiliates. ^(SR008.1)Volunteers are welcome for roles such as leading ponies and general support.

SR008.3 Any Other Business

- TOD is looking to become better established in coaching and requested further information. RG will pass TOD's details to John, Coaching Manager, who will make contact. ^(SE008.2)
- JP advised that the International Conference on Equestrian Tourism will take place on 16 May. Anyone interested can request further details, and RG will circulate the information.
- For the next meeting, SFi requested that insurance be included as an agenda item. ^(SR008.3)
- SF noted that more underwriters are entering the market, making it easier to secure insurance. AIRE indicated they would be happy to assist if required.

PH and JP thanked the forum members for their contribution and attendance and at 16.44hrs the meeting closed.

Date of the Next Meeting – Thursday 16th April 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	Circulation of Special Olympic Volunteering Information	HSI
SR008.2	RG to pass TOD details to HSI Coaching Manager	RG
SR008.3	Insurance to be included on the agenda for the next meeting	RG