



**HORSE SPORT  
IRELAND**



**HSI/TIHA Meeting  
Monday, 9<sup>th</sup> February 2026, 2pm  
HSI Offices, Naas**

**Present:** Sonja Egan (HSI)  
Paul Hayes (HSI) – partial attendance  
Lucinda McClure (HSI) (*Minutes*)  
Kevin Noone (TIHA)  
Louise Leonard (TIHA)  
Joan Bateman (TIHA)  
Liam Lynskey (TIHA)  
John Watson (TIHA)  
Jennifer Haverty (TIHA)

**Notes/Actions:**

SE opened the meeting and welcomed all attendees.

Affiliation Status

It was noted that the TIHA application for affiliation to Horse Sport Ireland was on a probationary status for a period of two years, this period has now expired. A revised affiliation agreement is being prepared, and a formal launch of the affiliation will be arranged to take place at a future event. **PH will share the draft agreement with LLe.**

Anti-Doping

PH spoke to the anti-doping programme and the importance of education in this area. Testing at championships will continue under the Breeding Grant. It is, and was not appropriate to give competitors notice of definite testing. The required wording for conditions of entry is already included within the Breeding Grant details. **JH to action.**

At 14:19hrs PH left the meeting.

Breeding, Foal Numbers and Studbook Discussion

TIH foal numbers for 2025 will be available at the end of March; while there is a reduced number since TIH was established in 2017, there is a trend of breeders registering TIH foals late i.e. as adults.

SE spoke to the Breeding Newsletter which will bring more awareness of Stallions available in Ireland. **SE to check feasibility and layout options for the 2026 Stallion Book to include a list of TIH sires.**

TIHA's confirmed that they had submitted a standalone studbook application. The recognition, operational, financial, and regulatory challenges were discussed.

TIHA requested a letter of support from HSI for the TIH as a recognised breed and studbook. SE advised that this was no longer a matter for her alone and that this would need to be raised with the wider senior management team, as it is now an organisational matter.

Data Access & Recognition Discussion

Further conversation took place around the existing enhancements HSI made in recognition of the TIH, including shamrock and passport visibility, FEI/WBFSH considerations, eventing reports and the TIH genomic designation work. SE advised that she would be happy to discuss TIH marketing with the IHB where the TIHA confirmed what other coverage they would like to see. **TIHA to advise on additional marketing.** A discuss was held on passport cover change, SE will investigate where TIHA advise in colour, SE preference was that it would remain a shade of green. **TIHA to confirm colour.** It was noted that for TIH to become a rare breed, it would have to operate a closed studbook, which would present as a disaster for genetic diversity of the TIH. Due to the definition a TIH, and as it is a type of horse, not a breed, it can always be 'regenerated'

by the foundation breeds. It was outlined that rare bloodlines in the population are different to being a rare breed.

TIHA highlighted difficulties planning without access to mare/youngstock data. SE noted that this was all available on CapallÓir and demonstrated the CapallÓir search functionality. **SE will provide a video explainer.**

Some TIH classifications require correction; **KN will provide a list to SE.**

SE reviewed the actions from the previous meeting minutes:

#### TIHA Plans for 2026

TIHA reported no progress update yet on the Funding Proposal discussed at the previous meeting.

JH noted she had not yet had opportunity to speak to Orla about Stepping Stones. SE noted this may provide a good opportunity for breed recognition; **JH to explore.**

#### DSP Prefix Model

Further discussion on the topic following on from the previous meeting, which provides a further opportunity for breed recognition. KN advised that the matter had not yet been progressed.

#### TIH Genomic Status

Genomic research is progressing well and is expected to significantly support breed identification once. SE noted that rare breed status would not just be relative to numbers, but consideration must also be given to whether the breed can be reconstructed genomically. Rare versus Native population was discussed. Se advised that HSI can genomically identify TIH horses and implementation would require an ISH studbook rule change.

#### WNTR, Democrat

KN confirmed that TIH would have no difficulty in principle, providing there is no warmblood present.

#### Welfare & End of Life

Importance of ongoing engagement was noted, and it was noted that TIH raised the matter with DAFM and the Minister. SE advised that HSI also often raise the matter with DAFM.

#### HSI Transparency Policy (Minute Sharing)

SE outlined HSI's policy noting that meeting reports will be shared on HSI's website.

#### AOB

Foal sample timelines were discussed; SE explained repeat sample requirements can cause delays, where mares are not named foal applications cannot progress, payment timelines, etc. KN provided details of specific case for status check.

KN noted thanks to HSI for their continued support of TIHA and ongoing innovative work for the breeding industry.

At 15:36hrs the meeting closed.

Ends.