



**MINUTES OF THE 8TH COACHING AND EDUCATION ADVISORY FORUM
OF HORSE SPORT IRELAND
held online via MS TEAMS**

Wednesday 10th June 2026 AT 11AM

Present: Sean Keane, Teagasc (SK)
Colin Hannan, AIRE (CH) (Chair)
Kate Solon, Kildalton Agricultural College (KS)
Niamh O'Sullivan, Maynooth University (NO)
Alan Fahy, UCD (AF)
Gerald Bloomer, Eventing Ireland (GB)
Soraya Morscher, University of Limerick (SM)

In attendance: John Bagnall – Education, Coaching and Training manager (JB) (Joined at 11.11)
Robyn Gillespie – General Administrator (RG) (Minutes)
Denis Duggan – HSI CEO (DD)

Apologies: Jane Elliot, NI CAFRE (JE)

Abbreviations: Horse Sport Ireland (HSI); Chief Executive Officer (CEO); Microsoft (MS); Terms of Reference (ToR); Eventing Ireland (EI); Irish Pony Club (IPC); Irish Pony Society (IPS); Association of Irish Riding Establishments (AIRE); Association of Irish Riding Clubs (AIRC); University College Dublin (UCD); Maynooth University (MU); College of Agriculture, Food & Rural Enterprise (CAFRE); Irish Equine Veterinary Association (IEVA); General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR); Royal Dublin Society (RDS); Irish Horse Board (IHB); Department of Food, Agriculture and the Marine (DAFM); Showjumping Ireland (SJI); Continuous Professional Development (CPD); C&E (Coaching and Education) ; Equine Assistance Services (EAS)

Meeting Opening/Apologies/Quorum

CE008.1 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting, the 7th Coaching & Education Advisory Forum, held on Wednesday 11th March 2026, were approved as a true and accurate record of the meeting, and will be DocuSigned by the Chair following the meeting. The apologies were noted.

CE008.2 New items for discussion

- DD opened the meeting by noting that Dr Siobhán McAuliffe had resigned from both the Board and the Forum, and that the Irish Equine Veterinary Association (IEVA) had withdrawn its current representation. The Board formally thanked Dr McAuliffe for her contribution and wished her well for the future. It was noted that Horse Sport Ireland (HSI) had issued a public statement. The Board discussed the process for appointing a replacement from the Forum, with candidates to be interviewed by a panel before a recommendation is made. DD will revisit the matter in late July or early August, with the appointment process to begin after the next Board meeting in July.
- CH discussed the Strategic Plan and the flow of information between Forums and the Board. It was acknowledged that communication from Forum members to their representative bodies is not always consistent. HSI confirmed that the Chair of each Forum will be invited to attend an in-person Affiliate Collaborative Forum in July 2026 to facilitate information sharing between Forums and provide affiliates with an opportunity to meet in person.
- It was noted that the Advisory Forum minutes are published on the HSI website and circulated to the board.

CE008.3 Any Other Business

- HSI has been awarded funding from Léargas to organise a learning opportunity for volunteers in the equestrian sector. This project will be called the **Equestrian Volunteers Enrichment and Recognition** programme. HSI is currently organising a trip to Europe for a group of volunteer course builders, stewards and judges. This will provide volunteers with the opportunity to learn from their European counterparts, encourage more people to become involved in volunteering, and expand knowledge at the grassroots level of the equine industry. Volunteers from three disciplines, showjumping, dressage and eventing will be selected and will be expected to share their learning with their affiliated organisations. There will be strict selection criteria for the process.
- HSI, Sport Ireland and Joanne Jardin are planning to meet to discuss launching a Level 3 Coaching Course later this year.
- CH advised that AIRE is carrying out research into safety when handling horses. They are currently designing a lightweight helmet for use during the summer while working around horses. CH will provide an update at the next forum meeting. ^(CE008.1)

There was no further business to be discussed, and the meeting closed at 11:35hrs.

Date of the Next Meeting – 11am Wednesday 9th September 2026.

Signed:

Colin Hannan, Chairman

Date

Actions to be taken from the minutes of the meeting:

Action	Detail	Assigned to	Due by
CE008.1	CH to give an update on the research AIRE are carrying out on the safety around handling the horse.	CH	Next meeting