



**Minutes of the 10TH SPORT AND RECREATION ADVISORY FORUM
of HORSE SPORT IRELAND
held online via MS TEAMS**

Thursday 16th July 2026 at 4pm

Present: Christopher Bogle, NIHB (CB)
Judi Pheysey, TREC Ireland (JP) (**Chair**)
Sue Foley, AIRE (SFo)
Peter O'Carroll, ERE (PO)
Shirley Finnegan - RDA Ireland (SFi)
Ron Weisz, IQHA (RW)
Karen Coventry, Special Olympics Ireland (KC) (*left at 16.57*)

In attendance: Paul Hayes – Sport & Recreation Manager (PH)
Robyn Gillespie – General Administration (RG) (Minutes)

Apologies: None

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); Riding for the Disabled Association Ireland (RDA Ireland); Garda Vetting (GV);

Meeting Opening/Apologies

At 16:04hrs JP opened the 10th meeting of the Sport and Recreation Advisory Forum of Horse Sport Ireland, and the apologies were noted.

SR010.1 Minutes of the Previous Meeting & Matters Arising

The minutes of the previous meeting, the 9th Sport & Recreation Advisory Forum, held on 16th April 2026, were discussed by the form. RG to make one minor change and the minutes will be approved at the next meeting.

SR0010.2 Topics for Discussion

- Insurance: HSI Freelance Coaching Insurance does not include Therapeutic riding. This insurance will cover BHS stage 3 or above or HSI coaching qualification. There is an application form available if you have a coaching qualification from a different National Federation. If there is a demand from freelance providers of therapeutic riding, they can come to HSI and we will approach the underwriters to work towards a group therapeutic insurance policy.

SF to report back to the forum on the progress with getting cohesion on the therapeutic sector. ^(SR0010.1)

- PH provided an update on the insurance expense issue. It was noted that there is interest among affiliates in exploring insurance through a group package. If a number of affiliates are unhappy with their current insurance arrangements, they are encouraged to come together with HSI to explore the possibility of securing group insurance. HSI are happy to work with brokers on this, but affiliates will need to come forward collectively to progress the opportunity. PH to follow up with DD ^(SR0010.2) SFi is happy for HSI to help RDAI with insurance in the future.

SR0010.3 Any Other Business

- JP & SFi made note of the increase in HSI Affiliate fees.
- PJ & RG to put together a few words of support to HSI on behalf of the forum in relation the Strategic Plan. ^(SR0010.3)
- POC expressed his opinion that HSI Affiliates need to work together and work on having more engagements. SFi noted not many affiliates join our forum meetings, and we need to encourage affiliates to join and get their affiliates representatives involved. PH noted this problem is across all HSI advisory forums. KC suggested the terms of reference for this forum is reviewed and the quorum number is reduced. PH is happy to reach out to affiliates who are not contributing to the forum to encourage a representative to attend forum meetings. ^(SR0010.4) SFi suggested the forum have an in person meeting once a year to form better relationships.
- Meitheal Forum Meeting – JP noted Benny Cullen from Sport Ireland provided the forum with equestrian related data. RG to circulate the Sport Ireland presentation and with the group. ^(SR0010.5)
- ORIS Funding Scheme is available to local authorities and development companies, working in partnership with local community groups, to support the development of trails. Funding is broken down into 4 measures 1) marketing and promotion, 2&3) work around the development of trails, 4) project development which provides funding to analyse potential trails. €50,000 available for Measure 4. DD & MB met with the minister of DRCD. HSI proposed a separate fund for the development of equestrian trails. Every County Council can apply for a project development measure for a trail e.g. walking or cycling trails. County councils can also apply for a second equestrian trail. HSI are encouraging people to approach their county council and ask who is responsible for ORIS funding and set up a meeting with them. If there are no applications for equestrian trails, this special exemption won't arise again. PH to reach out to affiliates with further information. ^(SR0010.6)

PH and JP thanked the forum members for their contribution and attendance and at 17.00hrs the meeting closed.

Date of the Next Meeting – TBC

Signed:

Judi Pheysey, Chairman

Date

Actions to be taken from the minutes of the meeting:

Action	Detail	Assigned to
SR0010.1	SF to report back to the forum on the progress with getting cohesion on the therapeutic sector.	SF
SR0010.2	PH to discuss the possibility of group insurance with DD	PH
SR0010.3	PJ & RG to put together a few words of support to HSI on behalf of the forum in relation the Strategic Plan.	JP & RG
SR0010.4	PH will reach out to affiliates to encourage a representative to attend forum	PH
SR0010.5	RG to circulate Sport Ireland presentation from the Meitheal Forum Meeting	RG
SR0010.6	PH to reach out to affiliates with further information on ORIS funding	PH