



HORSE SPORT IRELAND

Submission to:

Sport Ireland

**Department of Transport,
Tourism and Sport**

**Department of Agriculture,
Food and the Marine**

Department of Health



**An Roinn Iompair,
Turasóireachta agus Spóirt**
Department of Transport,
Tourism and Sport



**An Roinn Talmhaíochta,
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Chapter 1

Executive Summary

Horse Sport Ireland (HSI) is the centralised national body for the sport horse industry (breeding & sport) in Ireland as recognised by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Sport Ireland, Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport, the Federation Equestre Internationale, Olympic Federation of Ireland, and Sport Northern Ireland.

As part of Horse Sport Ireland's engagement with Sport Ireland and Minister of State for Sport Brendan Griffin TD and respective colleagues at the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport, Horse Sport Ireland has advocated the uniqueness of equestrianism in the context of safe sport return and both Horse Sport Ireland. The sport horse industry are ready to resume safe and controlled sport and rebuild the losses incurred for the entire equestrian community.

It is important to emphasise the intrinsic link between our breeding and sport elements of the sector which requires producers and athletes to have access to regulated activity to ensure the timely production of their young horses in the crucial stages of the training and development cycle.

In developing this submission Horse Sport Ireland consulted the World Health Organisation Interim guidance 14 April 2020. "Considerations for sports federations/sports event organizers when planning mass gatherings in the context of COVID-19". The guidance sets out the key issues and mitigation options for sporting organisations to consider when planning a sporting event.

In the context of the WHO guidance the following should be noted:

-  **EQUESTRIAN SPORT IS DEEMED LOW RISK**
-  **EQUESTRIAN SPORT IS A NON-CONTACT**
-  **EQUESTRIAN SPORT DOES NOT ENJOY LARGE SPECTATORSHIP/
PARTICIPANT BASE ONLY**
-  **EXCLUSIVELY OUTDOOR ACTIVITY**
-  **SPECIFIED EQUESTRIAN VENUES – PRIVATELY OWNED WHICH
WILL COMPLY WITH WHO AND DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
GUIDELINES**
-  **RISK COMMUNICATION IS A PRIORITY AND UNDERTAKEN
BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER EVENTS**
-  **CONTACT TRACING CAN BE SWIFTLY UNDERTAKEN**
-  **MITIGATION MEASURES, WE HAVE RISK ASSESSED OUR SPORT, TO IDENTIFY
SOCIAL DISTANCING ISSUES, AND PUT IN PLACE A MITIGATION PLAN TO REDUCE
THE RISKS OF CONTACT, AND AN APPROPRIATE PROGRAMME FOR CLEANING
AND DISINFECTING.**

The equestrian sector is cognisant of the major public health threat posed by the Covid19 pandemic and the importance of the lockdown measures to reduce transmission of the virus. We realise that Ireland may have to live with this virus for many months, or longer, and there will have to be a new norm for doing business and for social interactions. In preparation for when the public health experts deem the time is right to relax some of the controls the sector has been exploring how equestrian sport could be resumed in a modified way so that the protection of public health would not be compromised. We realise that person to person transmission through close contact, and environmental contamination with viral laden droplets, are the main contributing factors to viral transmission.

We believe our sport is amenable to physical separation and this coupled with environmental sanitation and good hygiene should enable us reduce the likelihood of transmissions. Equestrian sport lends itself to complying with the necessary physical separation to prevent viral transmission.

In anticipation of some relaxation in the lockdown controls, we have developed an initial protocol to address the public health threats due to Corona virus that could present at an equestrian venue when training sessions or competitions are taking place.

We would like our sport to be considered as one to trial in the first wave of sports permitted to resume in a limited fashion.

Horses at this level need to compete at least once a month to keep a routine and maintain competition fitness. Like any athlete the longer they miss the competition environment the more difficult it is to perform at the highest level and the greater the risk of injury.

SUGGESTED PROTOCOLS

It will be made clear at the time of entry that any person displaying symptoms associated with Covid-19 (Fever, Cough, Shortness of Breath or Breathing Difficulties), people who have been in close contact of a confirmed case, people who are considered in a high-risk group, or those caring for somebody in a vulnerable category should not attend.

The new norm will involve greater segregation and physical separation than heretofore. As a result the events will have to be smaller and, to maintain separation, will have to run slower.

Infrastructural changes will be required to toilets, walk ways, carparks, seating areas etc to ensure physical separation is possible but also simple to comply with.

There will be no tolerance of non-compliance and everyone will receive instructions with their entry to inform them of what will be required of them. Any individual found in breach of the guidelines will be asked to leave and will be barred from participation at future events.

This submission is a result of extensive consultation with Olympic affiliate bodies, Showjumping Ireland, Eventing Ireland, Dressage Ireland, Equestrian Venue Owners, the Showjumpers Club representing domestic athletes, High Performance Athletes [Tokyo Bound], High Performance Directors.

Chapter 2

Impact of the COVID-19 Crisis

The impact of COVID-19 on the Sport Horse Industry has been dramatic and far reaching. The impact has been so significant in such a short space of time and is changing almost daily. From widespread cancellations of national events which serve the grassroots and international athletes to achieve Minimum Eligibility Requirements (MER's) for both youth and senior programmes, to cancellation of significant international events which has led to disruption to our athlete's preparation for the Tokyo Games. As a National Federation we are endeavouring to support our athletes, affiliate bodies, and equestrian businesses across Ireland in order to absorb the shock of this crisis. Horse Sport Ireland are endeavouring respond to the issue with a measured approach consulting with all stakeholders. Horse Sport Ireland has three teams qualified for the Tokyo Olympics for the first time in our history. As a National Governing Body we have expended significant resources and effort in our logistical preparation for the Olympic Games. Our preparation has been ongoing for the past 24 months with detailed planning and financial resources. We now find ourselves unable to provide comfort to our athletes that events will be available for the necessary preparation for the upcoming Championships and Games.



DISRUPTION TO THE IRISH EQUESTRIAN SECTOR – INDUSTRY AND SPORT

Our domestic calendar ceased on 13th March and since that date no events have taken place. The domestic calendar is of vital importance for athletes, producers and breeders. Furthermore, the impact on our affiliate bodies, riding schools, pony clubs, show venues, has been immense with loss of show levies and income. The cancellation of domestic events will also have an enormous effect on the progression of up and coming athletes and the lack of opportunities to compete due to ceased activity and likely restrictive activity into the future is cause for concern. There is also significant risk that many of our affiliates and national equestrian establishments will be insolvent by the next quarter of this year due to loss of revenue from membership and entry fees, whilst the costs associated with staff, rent and insurances etc. remain.

EQUINE THERAPY

While many of our stakeholders are resilient, we are aware that the impact of the crisis is having a toll on their well-being and general outlook. We have supports in place to assist our HP athletes however our reach to the wider industry is limited to creating a roadmap for the return to sport that many so rely upon for living, health and happiness. Equestrian Sport is one of a unique bond with an animal that, for many, is an outlet to assist with the many stresses and strains in life. Horse Sport Ireland are well aware that across our pillars [HP & Equestrian Sport & Recreation, Breeding & Production, Coaching & Education] that many stakeholders are becoming restless with the restrictions, which in turn is impacting their well-being.



Chapter 3

The Irish Sport Horse Sector

The Irish Sport Horse Sector contributes an estimated **EUR816 MILLION** to the Irish economy each year and directly supports over 14,000 full time jobs.

The UCD Report "The Contribution of the Sport Horse Industry to the Irish Economy 2017" advised that that breeding accounted for €271 million of all expenditure. The breeding sector accounts for expenditure from the point of covering the mare until the progeny are four years of age, when the animal will enter one of the other sectors of Competition, Leisure or be exported.

Ireland has a significant track record in breeding the world's best event horses, we have won the World Breeding Federation's studbook rankings for 22 of the past 24 years. Since 2017, the Irish Sport Horse studbook has retained this significant accolade. This highlights the importance of the competition sector which accounted €168million of expenditure. There are 10,000 registered horses competing in Show jumping, eventing and Dressage nationally which are produced by over 7,300 competition riders and their support staff.

The success of Irish Sport Horses at Lanaken [the FEI World Breeding Jumping Championships for Young Horses] in recent years, shows a tremendous improvement in terms of competitiveness on the world stage in show jumping. Since 2013, the Irish Sport Horse has won 14 medals (six gold, five silver and three bronze). In 2019 alone Ireland enjoyed huge success at Lanaken when Irish horses and riders claim four of the nine World Championship medals on offer at the Championships. In eventing, the Irish Sport Horse studbook regained its title as the World's leading Studbook in the World. The Irish Sport Horse studbook has been the world's leading studbook for Eventing 23 of the last 25 years.

The success of our young horses has driven an increase in external trade since 2012. Most sport horses are sold privately, unlike Thoroughbreds. The UCD report estimated that 76%, of all sport horse are sold privately, which makes estimating the net export figure more difficult. However, the total value of sport horse transactions in 2016 was in the region of €106 million, of those the value of exports was 48 million in 2017. The sport horse sector also provides opportunities for the whole family to participate from Pony Club and Interschool competitions to the Riding clubs, showing and hunting activities. Expenditure in this leisure sector contributed over €100 million to the overall total, of which hunting and country shows were the most substantial contributors. These activities provide entertainment for participants and supporters alike, with the country shows alone attracted over 286,500 spectators last year with over 5% of those being overseas visitors. The visitors stayed in Ireland on average from 5 to 7 nights and, supported our hospitality sector during their stay.

The Sport Horse industry, is already a significant contributor to the Irish Economy in terms of direct expenditure and employment. It is one of the main areas in the agricultural sector that has huge potential for growth into the future.

With more than 50,000 people involved with sport horses the below statistics provide a snapshot of the scale and economic importance of the sport horse industry in Ireland.

1.

The contribution of the sport horse industry to the Irish economy is more than **€816 million** per annum

2.

There are **14,057 full time job** equivalents in the Irish sport horse industry.

3.

The current sport horse population is estimated at **135,715** animals in Ireland.

4.

Breeding is the largest sector and accounts for a total expenditure of **€217 million** Within the economy and there are **14,830 active breeders** in the sport horse sector

5.

The competition sector accounted for **€168 million expenditure** in the sport horse sector

6.

A total of **€103 million** was spent within the affiliated leisure sector, of which €32 million was expenditure on hunting.

7.

A total of **5,527** sport horses to the value of **€48 million** were exported in 2016, with net exports amounting to €43 million.

8.

There were 144 county shows held in 2016, which attracted over **286,500 spectators,** and **5%** of visitors attended from overseas.

9.

The number of people involved with sport horses was determined by survey and when extrapolated for the entire industry, it amounts to **46,799 people.**



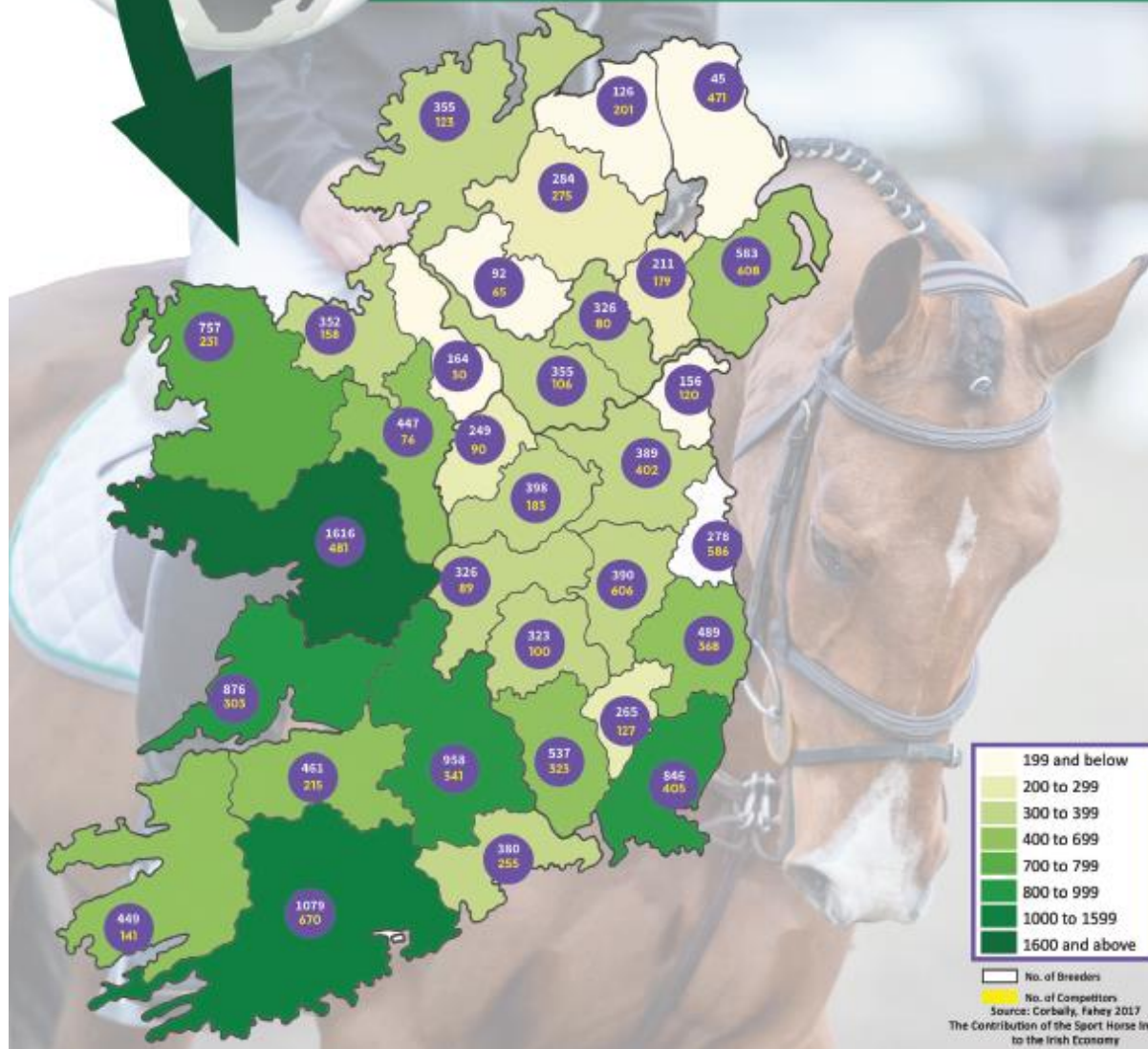
The Sport Horse Industry contributes **€816m** to the Irish Economy (Per Annum.)

Active Participation: 47,000

Sport Horse Population: 136,000

The industry impacts every county in Ireland - see map.

Employment in the Sport Horse Industry throughout Rural Ireland is over **14,000**



145,770 Total number of Affiliates Equestrian Entries in IRELAND



56,038 Total number of Affiliates Equestrian Participants in IRELAND

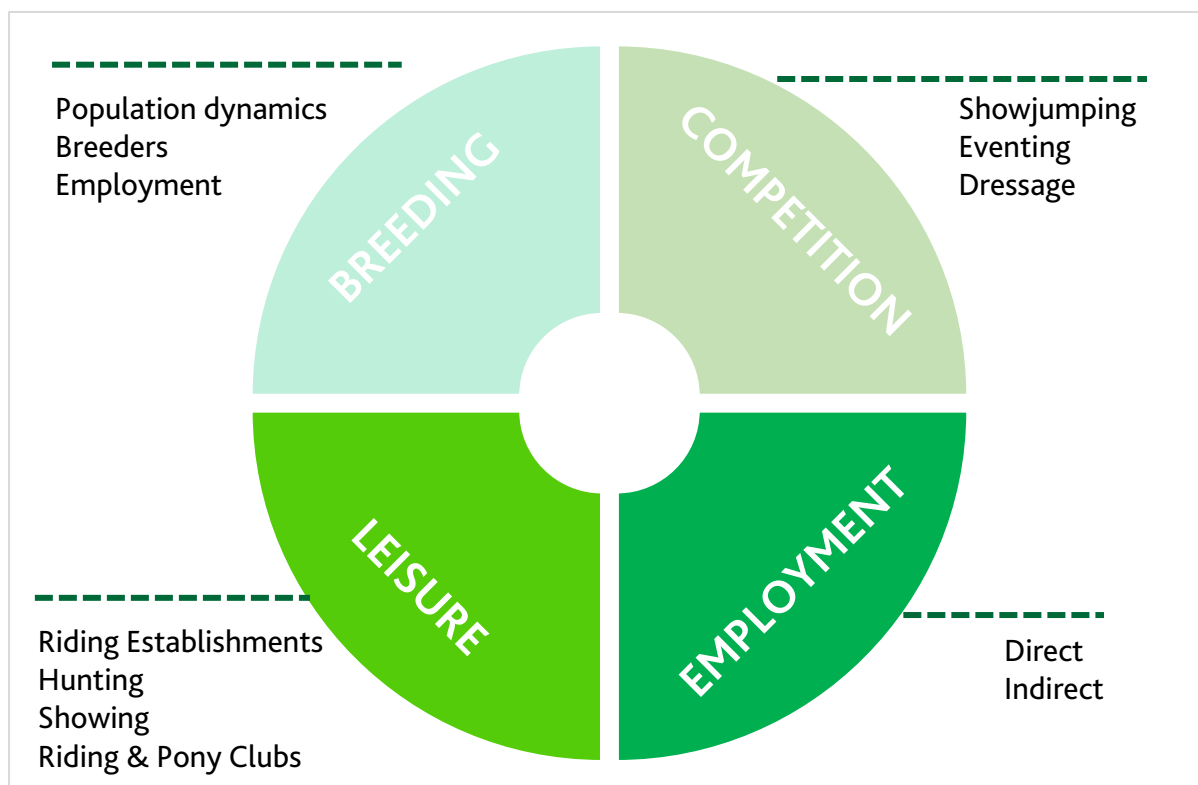


14,562 Largest number of participants by Equestrian Activity: Breeders

OUR SPORT

Horse Sport Ireland as the national governing body for equestrian sport has delivered exceptional results in the past number of years. Our sport is underpinned by the breeding and production within the sport horse industry model. They are mutually exclusive and intrinsically linked.

STRUCTURED ELEMENTS OF THE SPORT HORSE INDUSTRY



Equestrianism has three Olympic disciplines and one Paralympic discipline. Such results are testament to the hard work and effort of all stakeholders in our industry. Our medal success ensures that Ireland is one of the top ranked nations in the world. Our domestic infrastructure and calendar is vital to ensuring and maintaining our medal success and growing participation rates.



HORSE SPORT IRELAND

BY NUMBERS

12 Olympic disciplines where men and women compete together equally



ONE OF THE **TOP 7** EVENTING NATIONS IN THE WORLD



1 EVENTING TEAM & INDIVIDUAL SHOW JUMPING ATHLETE



1 DRESSAGE TEAM EVENTING TEAM SHOW JUMPING TEAM

2 INDIVIDUAL PARA-DRESSAGE ATHLETES



1 EVENTING TEAM & INDIVIDUAL SHOW JUMPING ATHLETE



QUALIFIED COACHES

62 QUALIFIED COACHES INTRO TO COACHING 2018

65 QUALIFIED COACHES INTRO TO COACHING 2019

40 QUALIFIED COACHES LEVEL 1 2019

79 QUALIFIED COACHES LEVEL 1 2018



66% GOLD MEDALS 2019

MEDAL COUNT OLYMPICS
OTHER
INDUSTRY



COACHING
PARTICIPATION
AFFILIATE PARTICIPATION

24,732
25,650

26 AFFILIATES
717 REGISTERED RIDERS
136,000 SPORT HORSES IN IRELAND

INCREASE IN REGISTERED RIDING SCHOOLS **2.8%**

SALES FIGURES



AVERAGE PRICES
PONIES €5,000

HORSES €9,433

FOALS €7,283

IRISH DRAUGHTS €4,444



THE MONART SALE

CLEARANCE RATE **70%**

AVERAGE PRICE INCREASE OF €2,000 FROM €11,000 - €13,000

TOP PRICE €28,500



3-YEAR-OLD AVERAGE PRICE €20,700 CLEARANCE RATE **82%**

4-YEAR-OLD AVERAGE PRICE €21,600 CLEARANCE RATE **67%**



Chapter 4

The Welfare of the Horse

Horse Sport Ireland is recognised by the Fédération Equestre Internationale (FEI) which places major emphasis on ensuring the health and welfare of horses at all times.

All stakeholders are very cognisant of the need for horses welfare managed carefully which includes access to regulated activity and competition throughout the season. Sport Horses are produced for competition and in order to ensure appropriate levels of training are measured, athletes and producers need access to quality-controlled events.

Horse Sport Ireland are concerned that due to the cancellation and cessation of activity sport horse producers and athletes have horses in light work or turned away which in most circumstances have significantly disrupted the training cycle for 2020 and ultimately impacts upon equine welfare. As such, it is imperative that competition is resumed to ensure that any welfare concerns of horses not in full training are mitigated.



Chapter 5

Priorities on returning to sport, key advantages of Equestrianism

INTRODUCTION

Equestrianism in Ireland supports approximately 14,000 jobs in the sport horse sector. Notwithstanding the economical aspect to our sport, equestrianism enjoys three Olympic Disciplines and one Paralympic discipline. For the first time in history Horse Sport Ireland has three teams qualified for the Olympic Games in Tokyo [2021] and as such our domestic Olympic athletes wish to resume regulated activity in order to acquire the needed competition time in advance of the Olympics. Furthermore, the intrinsic link between our breeding and sport elements of the sector requires producers and domestic athletes to have access to regulated activity to ensure the timely production of their young horses in the crucial stages of the training and development cycle.

KEY FEATURES OF EQUESTRIANISM IN THE CONTEXT OF COVID-19 SAFE SPORT



OUTDOOR ACTIVITY

In Ireland, equestrian sport is primarily an outdoor activity with events taking place in large open air specified facilities across the country. The primary reasons are the following:-

- ♣ To ensure sufficient space for equine animals to congregate with optimal biosecurity for animal health and safety of athletes and patrons;
- ♣ Equestrian Disciplines are required to take place in large arenas as per the discipline rules and regulations;
- ♣ Equines are transported in horseboxes and trucks which require sufficient space and ample parking to allow safe unloading and loading of equines at events.



SOCIAL DISTANCING

Equestrian Sport is a non-contact sport. It involves a horse and rider as a combination, either competing in the competition arena or warm-up arena. Furthermore, there is no sharing of equipment between athletes or sharing of transportation. The disciplines focused within this document are the Olympic disciplines of Dressage, Eventing and Jumping which all are individual non-contact sports, however the protocols are applicable to all equestrian disciplines. Furthermore, while mounted [on horseback] social distancing of **4.5 metres** of more is required as horses need to keep a safe distance from each other to avoid accidents from striking or kicking.



GATHERINGS

Ireland's equestrian domestic landscape does not enjoy a large spectatorship attendance in comparison with other sports, with the exception of the Dublin Horse Show, which has been cancelled for 2020. The equestrian events held nationally, regionally and locally are frequented primarily by the following individuals:

- **Event Organiser and the employees/volunteers needed to run the event**
- **Athletes and their grooms (one groom per athlete)**
- **Order of Malta, Red Cross or other medical provider (discipline specific)**
- **Vet/Farrier**
- **Steward and Assistant Stewards**

Equestrian Sport does not rely on gate receipts for the viability of the event. As will be expanded upon below our equestrian facilities and affiliate bodies have the ability to safety manage and account for each person on site at each event and will employ restrictive measures to control the number of participants and attendance. A core feature of this management will be the ability to generate a comprehensive list of patrons in order to undertake swift contract tracing.



INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY IN EQUESTRIAN

Across our Olympic Disciplines the following Information Technology solutions are employed to ensure safety and minimise risks.

SAFETY BENEFITS

- ♣ Online payment in advance
- ♣ Online entry payment
- ♣ Restricted Entries for social distancing
- ♣ Payments direct to shows via Stripe Advance publishing of compete times with safe intervals between riders Live Results
- ♣ No cash, credit cards, or queuing
- ♣ No posting tickets, no handling tickets
- ♣ Staged arrival and departure, remove pressure on parking
- ♣ Payment in advance, less work for staff on the day of the event
- ♣ Easier access to results for all parties

LIVE STREAMING

Horse Sport Ireland and our affiliate bodies work with Irish Sport TV and stream many of the national events. It is intended that our domestic events will be live streamed to ensure restricted participants can enjoy the sport from their own home.

Chapter 6

Specified purpose equestrian venues

Equestrian Sport activities are held in specified purpose facilities throughout Ireland and large outdoor estates for the discipline of Eventing. These venues are privately owned premises and are not public spaces. As such, in the context of management of agreed standards, same are consistently applied before, during and after events in tandem with the specified affiliate disciplines protocols as outlined below.

Horse Sport Ireland have agreed these consistent protocols to

- ♣ **safeguard the health of individuals**
- ♣ **to minimise the amount of time in attendance**
- ♣ **to ensure that minimal contact between attendees at the facilities**
- ♣ **to ensure maximum compliance to the Department of Health and HSE guidelines.**



PREPARATION OF VENUES PRIOR, DURING AND AFTER EQUESTRIAN ACTIVITY

REGARDLESS OF THE AFFILIATE COMPETITION ACTIVITY, THE FOLLOWING MANDATORY STANDARDS WILL BE APPLIED:

- ♣ Venues to undertake an extensive disinfection with the use of disinfectant sprayers and ULV fogging machines.
- ♣ Erection of permanent Official Dept of Health signage posted at entrances and along entrance and exit routes as well as at critical points.
- ♣ It should be made clear at the time of entry that any person displaying symptoms associated with Covid-19 (Fever, Cough, Shortness of Breath or Breathing Difficulties) or people who are considered in a high-risk group should not attend.
- ♣ Temperature checks taken on arrival. An isolation room/space identified to hold any symptomatic person found at the venue while awaiting transport to a medical facility.
- ♣ Entrance and Exit routes clearly marked. A one-way system with separate entrance and exit route would be ideal, however if this is not possible then a stop/go system should be introduced.
- ♣ Parking spaces should be pre-allocated at the time of entry where possible.
- ♣ Parking spaces should be numbered and marked off and participants should be shown to their specific parking space.
- ♣ A minimum distance of 5M should be observed between vehicles.
- ♣ Stables and viewing closed off.
- ♣ Social distancing marks painted on ground at Critical Points eg. Show Office, toilets, catering outlets.
- ♣ Catering facilities will not be made available until further guidance from Department of Health is issued and that participants should be notified of this at the time of entry.
- ♣ Protective Screens placed at office.
- ♣ Hygiene Stations prepared with spray bottles of disinfectant, paper rolls, glove etc.
- ♣ Equipment such as fence material and arena material will be disinfected before and after use.
- ♣ Appointment of **C-19 Compliance Officer** (see below)
- ♣ The **C-19 Compliance Officer** will have the additional responsibilities of policing social distancing and will act with the full authority of the venue owner.
- ♣ Government Health warnings as related to Covid 19 will be played on a continuous loop, every 30 minutes, over the venues PA system.

C-19 COMPLIANCE OFFICER

This section is intended to outline the role and duties of a COVID-19 Compliance Officer ('C-19 Compliance Officer') for all disciplines line with the Government's recommendations to monitor Social Distancing.

It is important that the right candidate is appointed/ selected as a C-19 Compliance Officer.

Affiliates must assess how many C-19 Compliance Officers are required depending on size, environment, number of participants to be monitored. C-19 Compliance Officer's duties should be shared among all Stakeholders.









Social distancing compliance is the responsibility of everyone.

A panel of C-19 Compliance Officers will be created.

Details of the assigned C-19 Compliance Officer to be communicated on the Health and Safety Notices and the Show schedules.



ROLE OF A C-19 COMPLIANCE OFFICER

-  The role of a C-19 Compliance Officer is to monitor activities to ensure social distancing and hygiene rules are being maintained to protect health and reduce the spread of the C-19 virus.
-  These key personnel should be clearly identifiable onsite with a distinguishable high viz vest with C-19 Compliance Officer written on them, similar to the illustration provided above.
-  The person undertaking the role must receive training in what the role will entail.
-  Ensuring compliance to the 2m social distancing rule and good hygiene is not the sole responsibility of the C-19 Compliance Officer.
-  Their role is supported by all organisers and Affiliate Bodies.
-  A C-19 Compliance Officer must not put themselves at risk while carrying out their duties.
-  C-19 Compliance Officers must have a structure or framework to follow within the organisation to be effective in preventing the spread of COVID-19.
-  This structure must be regularly audited and managed to ensure it works and protects all onsite. Failure to take it seriously could result in an outbreak of COVID-19 onsite.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF A C-19 COMPLIANCE OFFICER

C-19 Compliance Officer's responsibilities and duties fall broadly into 2 categories:

1.

PROACTIVE DAY TO DAY DUTIES

2.

REACTIVE EMERGENCY DUTIES





PROACTIVE DAY TO DAY DUTIES OF A C-19 COMPLIANCE OFFICER

- ✓ Being a constant onsite presence to monitor compliance with social distancing of 2 metres between all participants. In instances where there is non-conformance with social distancing the C-19 Compliance Officer is to intervene.
- ✓ Maintain a log of regular monitoring of COVID-19 controls on site.
- ✓ Ensure there is sufficient up to date signage erected onsite to educate all personnel about the COVID-19 controls on site.
- ✓ At all times promote and coach good hygiene practises.
- ✓ Ensure regular cleaning of welfare facilities, handrails, door handles, etc. is undertaken.
- ✓ Ensure hand wash liquid/soap and hand sanitisers are replenished as required.
- ✓ Check hot water and hand drying facilities are available onsite.
- ✓ Make representations to event organisers.
- ✓ With regards any COVID-19 concerns raised by participants to the C-19 Compliance Officer.
- ✓ Ensure site personnel are adhering to staggered.
- ✓ Report any areas of non-compliance to site management and ensure these are addressed.
- ✓ Consider provision of additional controls for exceptional circumstances.
- ✓ Keep up to date on HSE and WHO guidelines.

REACTIVE C-19 COMPLIANCE OFFICER DUTIES

While the main role of the C-19 Compliance Officer is to prevent the spread of COVID-19 onsite, there is the potential where an individual onsite may experience COVID-19 symptoms and where the C-19 Compliance Officer needs to react.

IN A REACTIVE POSITION, THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES INCLUDE:

-  Informing Event Organisers if there is a confirmed case or if they have been made aware of an individual with COVID-19 symptoms.
-  Isolating an individual with symptoms in an isolation room/segregated area away from other personnel.
-  Following site protocol for individuals with COVID-19 symptoms. (i.e. send home, inform them to contact GP).
-  Assisting in contact tracing should there be a confirmed case of COVID-19.

Chapter 7

Olympic Disciplines Specified Protocols on the Return to Safe Sport



**REGISTERED/AFFILIATED SHOWS BEHIND CLOSED DOORS
(NO SPECTATORS WILL BE ALLOWED)**

Showjumping is an Olympic discipline.

COVID-19

Our employees are adhering to the Government preventative measures. The Government Guidelines are published on our website, in a newsletter and on social media for our members.

CONTACT TRACING

Contact tracing is easily done within Showjumping Ireland as all entries and member/support information is online

MITIGATION MEASURES

We have risk assessed our sport, to identify social distancing issues, and put in place a mitigation plan to reduce the risks of contact, and an appropriate programme for cleaning and disinfecting.

Appropriate signage in place.

RESUMPTION OF SPORT

SHOWJUMPING IS AN OUTDOOR SPORT

SHOWJUMPING IS A NON-CONTACT SPORT

EVENTS WILL TAKE PLACE BEHIND CLOSED DOOR AND NUMBER OF PEOPLE ON SITE RESTRICTED

In this proposal for the commencement of Showjumping in **early June**, we cover social distancing, bio security and contact traceability.

SJI & Venues will also ensure that they have C19 Compliance Officers in place.

PHASE 1 (REGIONAL JUMPING):

It is proposed that show jumping will recommence on a regional basis; that is Ulster, Connaught, Leinster & Munster; a member to compete within their own region or within a 50km radius of your home address.

1. Minimising the travel distances of competitors,
2. Competitors only competing within their own region, thus reducing the risk / possibility of any community spread,
3. Allowing leagues within each region is to be setup for all height categories,
4. Ensuring venues are spread throughout the Regions over the weekend with mid-week dates being considered.

RESTRICTIONS IN PLACE FOR HORSE CLASSES INCLUDE;

1. All riders and owners to be members of the SJI with NO exceptions (for COVID-19 traceability purposes).
2. Temporary tickets for horse only

On the re-commencement of show jumping competition, the main focus will be on social distancing in order to protect the health and safety of all our members during this pandemic. This will be applied by using the Risk Assessment Method Statement methodology to cover each activity involved in hosting show jumping. The RAMS methodology will include covering all activities of a show;

1. BEFORE THE SHOW

VENUE PREPARATION

- ♣ Judges Box(es) and ALL Fence materials
 - Enhanced sanitizing of the inside of the judge's box and all show day fence materials.
- ♣ Wash Rooms
 - Enhanced sanitizing of all washrooms.
 - Approved hand sanitizer / soap to be in place alongside the provision of hot running water.
 - Disposable paper towels to be in place - NO hand driers or reusable towels allowed.
 - Bin in place for hygienic disposal of paper towels after use.
 - Wash room attendant to monitor bins and cleaning roaster
- ♣ Catering Facilities – no catering on site will be allowed.
- ♣ Hand Sanitizer KEY contact points;
 - Entrance to the practice area
 - Judges box(es)
 - Parking Areas
 - Entrance to the jumping arena/ starters box
 - Toilets
 - Arena party rest area

Experienced Health and Safety officers or personnel will undertake the responsibility to look at the enhanced cleaning and sanitizing of the sites prior to, during and after a show is completed.

2. DAY OF THE SHOW

ENTRIES

ALL entries & payments will be completed online by our members in advance of the show date. All entries will be on the SJI Live system.

- ♣ Start List will be proof of entry to an affiliated event for any checkpoints
- ♣ No unregistered jumping at show/venue on same day.
- ♣ Timeslots will be allocated on close of entries.
- ♣ At arrival at show, all entries will be checked at gate along with the attendance that is listed to accompany them. No admittance to anyone not on start list, no exceptions.

PARKING

- ♣ Parking attendant(s) in place.
- ♣ Parking slots marked out in accordance with social distancing regulations (minimum of 5m between each slot).

TACKING UP

Designated parking area to be used for tacking up.

COURSE WALK

- ♣ Virtual course walk posted on the SJI Live website, with accurate distances on course plan.

PRACTICE ARENA

ATTENDANT ON ENTRANCE

- ♣ One Fence Steward to be appointed by the venue to man practice jumps at all times (No grooms allowed in practice arena)
- ♣ Only up to 5 horses allowed in the practise arena at any one time. (Numbers appropriate to the size of the arena)
- ♣ Practice fences to be 5m apart. A barrier to be included between the two practice fences with a clockwise 1-way movement from 1 fence to the other.

JUMPING RING (ONE ARENA)

2 competitors to be in the ring at any one time. Where possible the entry (to) and exit (from) points of the arena should be separate locations.

COOL DOWN

Designated area to be provided. Practise arena not to be used for cool down.

FINISHED COMPETING

Return to designated parking area to untack animals and load up prior to leaving the show.

NO prize-giving will take place on the day. Results will be provided on SJI Live website.

Prize money to be posted to competitor or via electronic banking where applicable.

JUDGES BOX(ES)

- ♣ Social distancing to be practised at all times.
- ♣ Suitable PPE to be provided for all judges (where feasible).
- ♣ Judges to be reduced to one judge in the judge's box(es) at any one time at League show for the period of COVID-19.

It is essential that the government guidelines during the COVID-19 pandemic around social distancing are strictly adhered to for the successful continuation of show jumping in Ireland.



Eventing IRELAND

SAFETY PROTOCOLS ON RUNNING NATIONAL EVENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Eventing Ireland is the national governing body for the sport of Eventing in Ireland. Our organisation caters for athletes from the year in which they are 12 years of age. Eventing Ireland is affiliated to Horse Sport Ireland (HSI), the national federation which reports to the FEI (Fédération Equestre Internationale) – the world governing authority on eight equestrian disciplines responsible for rules and regulations and welfare of horse and athlete.

Eventing is an Olympic discipline

COVID-19

Our employees are adhering to the Government preventative measures. The Government Guidelines are published on our website, in a newsletter and on social media for our members.

CONTACT TRACING

Contact tracing is easily done within Eventing Ireland as all entries and member/support information is online

MITIGATION MEASURES

We have risk assessed our sport, to identify social distancing issues, and put in place a mitigation plan to reduce the risks of contact, and an appropriate programme for cleaning and disinfecting.

Appropriate signage in place.

RESUMPTION OF SPORT

EVENTING IS AN OUTDOOR SPORT

EVENTING IS A NON-CONTACT SPORT

EVENTS WILL TAKE PLACE BEHIND CLOSED DOOR AND NUMBER OF PEOPLE ON SITE RESTRICTED

RESUMPTION OF SPORT WILL TAKE PLACE IN TWO PHASES:

- ♣ Initially training events will run for a period of 3-4 weeks, to ensure our mitigation plan is effective.
- ♣ If effective, commence our national eventing season from week 5 after initial training event

Typically, it may encompass 2- 3 events per week on a national basis. Eventing Ireland is very aware that permission to run any sporting event may be retracted at any time if there are risks of further outbreaks of the Covid-19 Virus

HYGIENE PROCEDURES/PRODUCTS

A Compliance Officer (please see 4 Compliance Officer below) will be appointed and responsible for onsite proactive activities to prevent transmission of disease including:

- ♣ Covid-19 Signage will be prominent
- ♣ Athletes/officials wash hands/sanitise hands regularly
- ♣ Ensuring correct record keeping of disinfected areas
- ♣ Ensuring correct record keeping of cleaning and disinfection of communal, toilet areas and high traffic areas
- ♣ Handrails, door handles etc regularly cleaned during the day
- ♣ Waste disposal of cleaning implements and clothes
- ♣ For cleaning use disposable detergent wipes, soap and water
- ♣ For disinfecting use sodium hypochlorite solution mixed appropriately or a 70% Isopropyl alcohol based cleaner
- ♣ Radios and mobile phones will need to be cleaned with disinfectant wipes
- ♣ Judges Boxes/ Scorers/ Commentators offices to be cleaned and disinfected prior to the day and at the end of the day, regular cleaning during the day with disinfectant wipes.

INTRODUCTION TO THE SPORT OF EVENTING

Eventing Ireland is the National Governing body for Eventing in Ireland and administers the sport. Eventing Ireland covers all 32 counties in Ireland and is affiliated to Horse Sport Ireland. Eventing is an Olympic discipline and has significant success in its four High Performance programmes.

Eventing is an equestrian sport consisting of three phases (dressage, show jumping and cross country) which take place on one day. Eventing competitions are held on private property where there is plenty of wide-open spaces for athletes to keep safe distance from each other.

To implement the recommended Government Guidelines at Eventing Ireland events, the following strict measures must be undertaken by all Eventing Ireland Organisers and their officials. Events taking place in the Northern Region must also adhere to the Government Guidelines stipulated by the UK.

Eventing Ireland members have been regularly updated via our website and newsletters on the Covid-19 guidelines and why the restrictions are important and emphasis the need to follow them.

Eventing Ireland is liaising with key personnel (our Chief Medical Officer, High Performance Director, Horse Sport Ireland) for input and direction to ensure that when restrictions are lifted, our events are fully compliant. Our Chief Medical Officer, Dr Mary O'Flynn (GP North Cork) has agreed to oversee, in conjunction with her Public Health colleagues, all medical and safety protocols for our events.

Through the use of our website and its technology, we are cognisant to minimise unnecessary paperwork (and handling of paperwork) and where possible, information will be available electronically.

It will be clearly stated that anyone displaying symptoms such as cough, cold, temperature or shortness of breath must NOT to attend the event. This also applies to anyone who has been in close contact with someone with Covid-19.

In addition, anybody who is symptomatic at the event will be referred immediately to the relevant medical facility.

Risk Assessments have been undertaken to identify contamination and infection hazards and put in place a mitigation programme:

- ♣ Reducing points of contact
- ♣ Putting in place a cleaning and disinfection programme as needed
- ♣ Availability of soap and hot water, and hand sanitising gels
- ♣ An agreed regular cleansing of communal and high traffic areas
- ♣ Our Chief Medical Officer will attend all events

PUBLIC HEALTH

Eventing Ireland is cognisant of the current Public Health and WHO Guidelines. National eventing is not a spectator sport. Those present at the venue are those who either have an interest in the athlete and/or the horse, are acting as officials on the day or are volunteers.

With the online entry system, in operation for over 14 years, the Contact Tracing documentation is simple to manage. Only people directly involved with the event (volunteers, athletes, grooms) will be allowed onsite. Please refer to 9.2 for more information in regards Contact Tracing.

All officials will be furnished with current Government Guidelines links for easy reference.

Biosecurity is key to Horse Welfare and Competition horses, so our members are already familiar with the requirements.

C19 -COMPLIANCE OFFICER

- ♣ An official will be designated to ensure all protocols within this document are taking place and will take action if they are not
- ♣ All cases on non-compliance will be logged and a record of how the issue was made compliant listed

VENUE AND A TYPICAL EVENTING DAY

Eventing Ireland venues are run on private property and in close conjunction with the land owner. Typically, a venue must have a minimum of 60 acres to safely run the event and ensure enough space is given to all three disciplines in addition to the lorry/car parking area and secretary/office areas.

The day will usually start at 8.30am. There are separate dressage arenas for different classes and the start times will be staggered. There is a minimum of two minutes between each athlete entering the dressage arena. Times will be given for show jumping, to allow staggered times also.

The staggered dressage start times ensure that there is enough time between phases for the horse and athlete to recover and to change into the next correct dress code before the next phase.

Normally the dressage phase runs first, followed by show jumping and the final phase is cross country.

EVENTS

Training – One Month before National Eventing

Eventing would require a minimum one month of training activity across the country to enable athletes and their horses to get event fit and focussed on national events. These would be the same protocols we envisage implementing at national competition. (See 9 National Event Protocols)

- ♣ Training events would be run as a short format event combining dressage, show jumping (max 8 show jumping efforts) and cross country (over a shorter xc distance with maximum of 15 jumping efforts).
- ♣ Number of athletes competing will be limited
- ♣ Attendance will be governed by Government Guidelines
- ♣ As soon as the athlete has completed the competition, they will leave the event
- ♣ All entries will be made online and contact details of non-riding person must be recorded at time of making entry
- ♣ Number of classes will be restricted
- ♣ All current HSE, Government and Medical protocols must be adhered to

NATIONAL EVENTING

National Eventing would commence one month after the initial Training competitions. We would be using the same protocols for Training as with National Eventing as a test scenario.

National events enable athletes to gain their 6-month MER (Minimum Eligibility Requirement) which is a mandatory requirement before they can compete at an international event. This is hugely important for those looking to compete for Ireland on the High-Performance programmes.

Eventing Ireland Rules will apply in all national and training events.

NATIONAL EVENT PROTOCOLS

The eventing calendar is limited by the seasons and weather. The current eventing season is from mid-March to mid-October.

The number of entries will be dependant of Government restrictions on Outdoor Social Gatherings. As a starting point, Eventing Ireland is working on 200 entries. This is based on the fact that classes and phases take place at different times of the day (see 6 above).

Pre-Event Administration

- ♣ In agreement with the Event Organiser, the maximum limit on entries will be set along and classes agreed. This may be less than the 200 entries suggested.
- ♣ All Officials and Volunteers will be under 70 years of age and with no underlying illness/conditions (See Officials and Volunteers 9.5)
- ♣ Event Officials will be confirmed (ie: Steward, Scorer)
- ♣ A Compliance Officer will be appointed to ensure that the social distancing and hygiene measures are being adhered to however all officials will be vigilant on these matters
- ♣ The event will then go live on the website
- ♣ Only Eventing Ireland members and registered horses will be able to enter the event at this stage – there will be no day tickets available
- ♣ Online entries only and athletes must provide a name and contact number of the person accompanying them to the event. All changes must be notified to Head Office and Organiser on the Friday before the event. (Contact Tracing See 9.2)
- ♣ Close of entries is 12 noon on the Tuesday before the event (which will be 4 or 5 days prior to the event start dates), ie: the Saturday or Sunday that week
- ♣ Eventing Ireland has been using online entries for over 14 years where all information of members, owners, athletes and horse registrations are all kept online
- ♣ All dressage and show jumping times will be published online on the Thursday afternoon before the event – this minimises the need to produce hard copies of a programme
- ♣ The Event Organiser will observe all the protocols when building fences, dealing with contractors onsite to enable the event to go ahead
- ♣ Eventing Ireland will send an event a box containing dressage sheets, bib numbers and other paperwork required
- ♣ Eventing Ireland will (in conjunction with the event organiser) produce a pdf of the programme which can be downloaded on the website. This minimises handling/ production of paperwork
- ♣ Course Designer must have a cross country plan available for the programme and for the steward, fence judges and medical team
- ♣ There will be no on-site stabling

CONTACT TRACING

- ♣ Eventing Ireland and the organiser will have a full contact list (name, email and contact number) of everyone who will be coming to the event and this will be finalised by noon on the Friday before the event.
- ♣ Contact information of athlete and their support person will be supplied by the athlete when making their entries online
- ♣ Only one person will be able to accompany an athlete to an event
- ♣ Multiple rides will be limited to three horses – and one additional person to help
- ♣ Anyone who is not on the Contact List will not be allowed to enter the venue and will be asked to leave
- ♣ Contact List will be checked by the Car Parking attendant before the persons are allowed onsite
- ♣ All changes to the original information must be notified to Eventing Ireland Head Office and Event Organiser before 12 noon on the Friday before the event.
- ♣ All other Officials and volunteers must have their details recorded with the secretary in advance – this can be done via email. (Please see 9.5 Officials and Volunteers)

EVENTING IRELAND WEBSITE

The Eventing Ireland website has been operating an online entry system for over 14 years. In addition, it has the following features:

- ♣ Online entries
- ♣ Times for Dressage and Show Jumping phases published online on the Thursday prior to the event
- ♣ Live scoring – results published on the website during the day
- ♣ Online Results and historical results going back at least 15 years
- ♣ Membership details
- ♣ Horse registration details
- ♣ Volunteering information

MEDICAL AND VETERINARY

- ♣ The event organiser should liaise with the doctor and ensure all current protocols are being addressed
- ♣ Dr Mary O'Flynn, an experienced GP, will act as doctor for initial events and will supervise all treatment
- ♣ Medical personnel should be trained, equipped and aware of the risks of transfer of the virus and follow the current medical guidance procedures at the time
- ♣ Recommend only one person to treat the injured party – if possible
- ♣ Close contact with any person requiring treatment may be avoided but is not always possible and the risk should be managed by appropriate PPE (mask and eye protection). It may be appropriate to provide the injured party with their own mask to prevent transfer via nose/mouth.
- ♣ The vet may be on call during these restrictive times but must be within 30 minutes of the event in case of an emergency (horse welfare issues must be observed)
- ♣ Farrier may be on call

OFFICIALS AND VOLUNTEERS

- ♣ Officials and volunteers will be under 70 years of age

- ♣ Officials and Volunteers must abide by the current HSE Guidelines and those directed by Eventing Ireland
- ♣ All volunteers must have previous experience at Eventing Ireland events

DAY OF THE EVENT

- ♣ A list of the entrants and non-riding personnel will be checked by the car parking attendant when entering the premises. This complies with the contact tracing protocol (see 9.2 above)
- ♣ Anyone not listed will be prohibited from entering the event
- ♣ All lorries/horse boxes, cars will be parked at a minimum of 10 metres between them to ensure safe social distance protocols are observed – particularly important when loading/unloading/ tacking up horses
- ♣ Athletes or their named representative will collect their number from the Secretary's office.
- ♣ This will ensure that we have a clear record of who is on site in addition, random passport checks can still be carried out by the treating veterinarian
- ♣ The Secretary's office must have a perspex screen or similar to ensure minimum community contact. The screen should have an area at the bottom so paperwork can be passed safely between the secretary and athlete/official
- ♣ On receipt of paperwork, athlete will leave immediately.
- ♣ Distances of 2m will be marked outside the office to ensure social distancing measures are adhered to
- ♣ People will be discouraged from talking to others for more than 15 minutes (risk of droplet contamination), and no less than 2m apart

RADIOS/EQUIPMENT FOR OFFICIALS

- ♣ All equipment being used by officials must be sanitised before being given out with disinfectant wipes
- ♣ Sharing of equipment is to be avoided. If unavoidable (ie: laptops) screens and keyboard to be sanitised with correct disinfectant wipes
- ♣ All radios will be logged to each person
- ♣ All equipment must be sanitised and disinfected on return
- ♣ Disinfectant wipes must also be given to the officials so they can clean equipment during the day - this equipment cannot be shared
- ♣ Cross Country clocks and stop watches to be synchronised and stop watches sanitised before being handed out
- ♣ If whistles are being used, recommend that plastic whistles are purchased and can be disposed of after the event

DRESSAGE PHASE

- ♣ Athletes will have their dressage time published on the website on the Thursday prior to the event
- ♣ Dressage judges would have to provide their own scribe (ideally from their own household) to limit community transfer
- ♣ If no scribe available, either judge will scribe or scribe will sit in another vehicle with direct communication to judge (radio/headset)
- ♣ Pens must be sanitised, and judge/scribe to have their own pens – no sharing of equipment
- ♣ 70% Isopropyl Alcohol sanitiser will be provided for each judge/car
- ♣ Score collector must be given a hand sanitiser when collecting sheets and these must be placed in a plastic folder and placed outside the scoring office

- ♣ Athletes, when mounted, must keep at least 5m apart when warming up for dressage
- ♣ The dressage phase takes no longer than 5 minutes for an athlete to complete
- ♣ Athlete will go straight back to their vehicle and prepare for the next phase

SHOW JUMPING PHASE

SHOW JUMPING WARM UP

- ♣ Hand sanitiser station available at the entrance to warm up area
- ♣ Show jumping arena party must wear/change gloves regularly and sanitise hands often
- ♣ Show jumping warm up area to be managed to ensure no more than 5 mounted athletes are warming up at any one time and that a distance of 5m apart is adhered to
- ♣ Warm up jumps are to be 4m apart
- ♣ Area marked out for show jumping party/officials to stand behind
- ♣ A single steward in show jumping warm up to adjust fences
- ♣ Paper towels, disinfectant, detergent and water available to clean poles and cups (see 10.3 Cleaning Principles)
- ♣ Bin required to dispose of all soiled equipment

SHOW JUMPING ROUND

- ♣ Athletes will have their show jumping time published on the website on the Thursday prior to the event
- ♣ Show jumping times must be used to ensure the event runs smoothly – anyone late for show jumping will be eliminated
- ♣ Show jumping timing equipment must be managed by one person and the timing clock/start sanitised before the judge takes over
- ♣ Only the show jumping commentator should use the microphone, which will be disinfected before, during and after the event
- ♣ Show jumping phase should take no longer than 2 minutes per athlete
- ♣ Show jumping judge should be the only one allowed to use the timing equipment
- ♣ Hand sanitiser to be used regularly
- ♣ Score collector to put score sheets in a plastic wallet for scoring office (as per dressage)

CROSS COUNTRY PHASE

FENCE JUDGE BRIEFING

- ♣ The EI Steward briefs the fence judge briefing approximately one hour prior to start of cross country
- ♣ Depending on the number of fences/fence judges required and to ensure adequate social distancing, the fence judge briefing may need to be done in two phases. If an assistant steward was available, two briefings could be done simultaneously
- ♣ Fence judges information pack can be downloaded from the Eventing Ireland website

CROSS COUNTRY SECTORS

- ♣ In agreement with the Steward and National Safety Officer, fence judges will be positioned in a way they can judge multiple fences. This is to limit the number of people on site but not to compromise safety of athletes.
- ♣ The fence judge will radio scorer if a rider went clear, has penalties or fell

CONTROL/COMMENTARY

- ♣ Control and commentary normally sit in the same area
- ♣ Unless from the same household, social distancing of 2m minimum must be observed
- ♣ There must be no sharing of equipment (ie: radio, microphone)
- ♣ Microphone must be disinfected before, during and after the event

CROSS COUNTRY TIMING

- ♣ Hand sanitiser station available at the Cross Country Timing area
- ♣ Athletes will be limited in the warm up area to five with at least 5m between each horse
- ♣ Athletes will go cross country in strict numerical order
- ♣ Cross country intervals between athletes will be between one – two minutes depending on the class level
- ♣ The length of the cross country course (and optimum time) varies depending on the class but the athlete will have completed this phase in under 6 minutes.

SCORING

- ♣ There will be no main score board at the events to discourage any social gathering. All results will be posted online
- ♣ There is to be one web scorer and one manual scorer. Unless from the same household, social distancing of 2m minimum must be observed
- ♣ It is advised that a window must be open to allow fresh air to circulate
- ♣ Hand sanitiser must be available and used regularly.
- ♣ No sharing of equipment
- ♣ All scoring queries must be raised to the Steward within 30 minutes of the final result of that class being published and before the athlete leaves the event. There will be no changes to results if an athlete has left the event
- ♣ All scoring sheets are to be placed in a plastic wallet outside the scorers office to prevent risk of contamination
- ♣ No dressage sheets will be available for collection after the event

PRIZES/PRIZE GIVINGS

- ♣ There will be no formal prize givings
- ♣ All prizes of monetary value to be sent to the winners of the class by the organiser
- ♣ It is recommended that vouchers are obtained for those who receive prizes in kind
- ♣ No rosettes – limit risk of contamination

GENERAL

- ♣ Event organiser must ensure there are plenty of bins (with bin bags) so all rubbish can be disposed of safely and regularly
- ♣ Soap and water and hand sanitiser, and sanitisers and/or wipes must be available at key areas, (ie: secretary's office, entrance to arenas, warm ups, washrooms etc)
- ♣ It is recommended that Organiser purchases a selection of sanitising products in respect of Covid-19 (see 10 Risk Assessment for Decontamination)
- ♣ All washroom areas must be sanitised regularly throughout the day (and time recorded on hygiene log sheet) (See 10.3 Cleaning Principles)
- ♣ Social distancing measures must be adhered to at all times (ie: use of washroom)

- ♣ If washroom facilities are not permanent, the same hygiene protocols must be observed
- ♣ All handles, hand rails or general communal areas must be regularly wiped
- ♣ No onsite public catering
- ♣ Everyone to bring their own food and drink and to take rubbish/litter home

1 RISK ASSESSMENT FOR DECONTAMINATION OF EQUIPMENT

1.1 CATEGORY OF RISK

Risk	Examples	Method
Low	Items in contact with skin: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Furniture • Washing bowls/buckets • Show jumps • Dressage Arenas 	Cleaning Detergent and warm water Rinse and dry
Medium	Items potentially in contact with mucous/membranes/ bodily fluids: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Radios • Microphones • Stop Watches • Handrails • Counter tops • Washroom/toilet areas • Litter/Waste Bins 	Clean and Disinfect Washer disinfectant or chemical (sodium hypochlorite) Rinse and dry or Disinfectant wipes
High	Item in contact with break in skin: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not applicable 	Single use or clean and sterilise

1.2 METHODS OF DECONTAMINATION

PROCESS	DEFINITION
Cleaning	The process which physically removes contamination but does not necessarily destroy germs. Cleaning using neutral detergent removes germs and the organic material from a surface on which they thrive. First steps for decontamination is adequate cleaning of the device or surface to ensure effective disinfection or sterilisation can subsequently be carried out. Organic residue may prevent the disinfectant from having contact with the item being processed and inactivate chemical disinfectants.
Disinfection	A process used to reduce the number of viable germs to a level where they are unlikely to be a danger to health but which may not necessarily inactivate some agents, such as some viruses and bacterial spores
Sterilisation	A validated process, that is used to render a product sterile by achieving the complete killing or removal of all types of germs including viruses and spores.

1.3 METHODS OF DECONTAMINATION

PROCESS	DEFINITION
Cleaning	<p>The process which physically removes contamination but does not necessarily destroy germs. Cleaning using neutral detergent removes germs and the organics material from a surface on which they thrive.</p> <p>First steps for decontamination is adequate cleaning of the device or surface to ensure effective disinfection or sterilisation can subsequently be carried out. Organic residue may prevent the disinfectant from having contact with the item being processed and inactive chemical disinfectants.</p>
Disinfection	<p>A process used to reduce the number of viable germs to a level where they are unlikely to be a danger to health but which may not necessarily inactivate some agents, such as some viruses and bacterial spores</p>
Sterilisation	<p>A validated process, that is used to render a product sterile by achieving the complete killing or removal of all types of germs including viruses and spores.</p>

1.4 CLEANING PRINCIPLES

The following basic principles should be adhered to:

- ♣ Cleaning is not all in the solution but also with the use of "elbow grease". The actual physical removal of micro-organisms is often as important as the effect of the agent used.
- ♣ The neutral detergent used should also be measured out correctly as per manufacturer's instructions.
- ♣ Change water frequently as dirty water is ineffective for cleaning
- ♣ Buckets should be emptied after use, washed with detergent and warm water and stored dry

OVERALL SUMMARY

The following bullet points summarise:

GENERAL

- ♣ Signage recommended by the Government must be displayed throughout the event premises in strategic areas (gates/entrance, secretary's office, toilet/wash areas, stables etc)
- ♣ Contact details for everyone onsite will be provided IN ADVANCE when the athlete makes an entry
- ♣ Antibacterial gel and/or hand sanitising stations must be provided and readily available
- ♣ Toilet/washroom areas, door handles, handrails and other obvious points of contact must be disinfected at regular intervals
- ♣ Social distancing protocol must be observed at all times, particularly around the Secretary's Office, fence judge briefing or when dealing with an event official
- ♣ Radios/stop watches, microphones and timing equipment to be wiped with anti-bacterial wipes before given to officials
- ♣ Surgical/medical gloves to be available and used as appropriate
- ♣ Observe Risk Assessment Protocol stated in point 10
- ♣ Anyone displaying symptoms such as cough, cold, temperature or shortness of breath are requested in advance NOT to attend the event

- ♣ A designated isolation room must be provided for individual use – should any person present with virus symptoms

Access to the event will be strictly restricted to the following:

- ♣ Event Organiser and the employees/volunteers needed to run the event
- ♣ Athletes and their grooms (one groom per athlete)
- ♣ Doctor
- ♣ Order of Malta, Red Cross or other medical provider
- ♣ Vet
- ♣ Farrier
- ♣ EI Steward and Assistant Steward
- ♣ Dressage Judges and Scribes
- ♣ Show Jumping Arena party
- ♣ Show Jumping commentator and scribes
- ♣ Control and commentator
- ♣ Fence Judges
- ♣ Scorer and manual scorer
- ♣ One official photographer (not priority)

The following guidance is also given:

- ♣ Adhere to social distancing guidelines (minimum of 2m between each person)
- ♣ At least 5m between horse/athletes
- ♣ Regular handwashing
- ♣ Cough etiquette to be adhered to
- ♣ Sneeze etiquette to be adhered to
- ♣ Dispose of used tissues in bins provided or take them home
- ♣ Leave the event litter free – all rubbish to be taken home



Dressage is an Olympic Equestrian discipline.

When riding a dressage test the horse and rider are judged on how they perform a series of movements that are in accordance with the level they are competing in. The degree of difficulty of each level increases from training level through to FEI (Federal Equestrian International) levels. Grand Prix is the highest level that is performed internationally and the Grand Prix Kur is where a series of movements are performed to music

The dressage tests are performed in a 20-meter x 60-meter arena. Within the test there are separate movements that flow from one movement to the next, each movement is marked from 0-10. 10 being excellent, the dressage judge also gives a general impression score for the performance. All the points are then added and a percentage mark for that test performed by horse and rider is allotted. Dressage

is like training a ballet dancer or gymnast, the magic of seeing a horse and rider dance together is truly a beautiful thing to watch.

Dressage Ireland are earnest in their endeavours to comply with the National restrictions and guidelines set down by the Government and Department of Health in the organisation and running of shows / training events.

-  Only venues which have big and spacious car parking areas will be considered with Spacious Warm up arenas and competition arenas. Toilet facilities will
-  All entries and payments will be pre entry through our website only.
-  Each competitor will be able to access their competition number through our website, which ensures they do not have to attend the show office
-  As with our normal shows each competitor will have a Dressage Test start time which will have been posted on social media
-  Competitors will be advised that in such cases whereby they require help at the show only one groom will be allowed with each competitor.
-  Only in exceptional circumstances which will need to be cleared by Dressage Ireland show organisers will a second groom be allowed.
-  No spectators or family members allowed.
-  Government and Department of Health guidelines in relation to COVID-19 will be displayed at the event.
-  A detailed layout of the show, arenas and warm up areas will be posted on social media. Competitions for each arena and warm up will be clearly mapped on the social media post / website. Toilets signs clearly visible on the map.
-  On arrival at the venue, a parking attendant will check competitors against a start list, check the number of passengers/ grooms against the list and then competitors will be guided to a parking place. Only those pre entered will allowed admission.
-  Their arrival will be acknowledged on a starter list by the parking attendant and they will be instructed to strictly adhere to social distancing, coughing / sneezing guidelines and hand washing guidelines.
-  Parking spaces will be 5 metres apart and Dressage Ireland show organisers or volunteers will be enforcing social distancing / Parking distances as with all government and department of health guidelines.
-  All competitors will be advised to leave the venue as soon as possible after their competition.
-  Any Dressage Ireland members, grooms or volunteers will face sanction if they flaunt the restrictions or guidelines.

✓ There will have to have a station outside of the toilets with hand sanitiser, paper towel and a bin, to ensure toilet door handles are kept hygienically clean at all times. Hand washing facilities, liquid soap, paper towel and bins will also be inside the toilet building.

✓ C-19 Compliance Officer will be appointed.

✓ Competitors should not have more than 2 horses and not ride more than 4 tests.

✓ There will be no catering facilities at the event and competitors advised to bring their own snack if same is required for the short time they will be present at the event.

✓ If a competitor is riding more than one test, the tests will be scheduled within 35 to 40 minutes of each other to ensure competitors are at the venue for a short a time as possible.

✓ Warm up arenas will be supervised by a call up steward, who will again enforce social distancing, and ensure all normal safety standards are maintained and they will call competitors for their tests.

✓ Judges will have been given specific times and arena location via phone or email message prior to the show.

✓ Judges will judge tests from their car parked at the competition arena.

✓ A judge may bring a family member as a scribe.

✓ In the event same is not possible, a scribe can be located in a car 3 metres from the judge's car, and they may communicate via a blue tooth device.

✓ In the event same is not possible, a scribe can be located in a car 3 metres from the judge's car, and they may communicate via a blue tooth device.

✓ All tests or class results will be scanned and will be posted on social media.

✓ No results will be available on the day.

✓ Any bills in relation to the event will be paid via bank transfer.

✓ There will be no show office but a show organisers phone number will be posted on the website/ social media with the schedule in case competitors need to contact a show organiser during the event.



Chapter 8

Particular requirements of High-Performance Athletes

Horse Sport Ireland has three teams qualified for the Tokyo Olympic Games and a majority of our eligible athletes are domiciled and based in Ireland. As such, these athletes need to return to high performance training and domestic competition to assist with their preparation for the Games. In respect of HP Training, this is a controlled squad structure either held in one of the designated Equestrian Venues noted above or the National Sport Campus in the National Horse Arena. The proposals as noted above will be implemented.

Horse Sport Ireland's High-Performance programme currently has over 80 athletes between the Tokyo Squad and Development Squads for Eventing, Dressage, and Jumping over senior and youth programmes.

Our performance pathway consists of four squads categorised by age, that compete annually in European Championships; U16 (ponies), CoH (U14) U18 (juniors) and U21 Young Riders and Senior Riders. These squads would comprise of up to 80 athletes attending training and competitions.

National Events organised by Eventing Ireland, Showjumping Ireland, Dressage Ireland are crucial for these programmes work to effectively. They are the first step for every athlete at every level to qualify their horses for FEI International competitions and to attain qualification for their respective championships, including the Olympics. Not only are they part of our qualification process, they are also necessary to provide essential performance runs for the horses, as the intensity of competition cannot be replicated in training, especially in the cross country phase. Fitness to compete at National level is critical to safely competing at International level.

Working back from Tokyo in July 2021, to help our athletes prepare to be competitive, we would need National competitions to commence in June so the potential Olympic horses can safely run in the scheduled Irish Home Internationals in July, August, September and October.

Horses at this level need to compete at least once a month to keep a routine and maintain competition fitness. Like any athlete the longer they miss the competition environment the more difficult it is to perform at the highest level and the greater the risk of injury.

With so much uncertainty for setting targets and dates going forward, we cannot rely on competitions being held in September or October, if restrictions were brought back, or even rely on competitions happening in the Spring of 2021, so it is important that we can get to compete as soon as the opportunity arises.

Ireland is in the fortunate position that 75% of our Eventing Olympic squad are based in Ireland, and we have Events of a world class standard. We can help the squad to prepare for a podium finish at Tokyo by competing in National and Home International (FEI Level) competitions in Ireland in 2020 and 2021.

Chapter 9

Equestrian Community considerations (Volunteers & Officials)

It is intended that a call for volunteers of a younger demographic will be placed within the community to assist with the running of events. Horse Sport Ireland have initiated a process to have a expediate process of ensuring our Officials have achieve the FEI level competency so as to ensure that no foreign stewards are required for domestic home internationals later in the season.

Chapter 10

Relevant guidance and intelligence from International Federations

Horse Sport Ireland and our Affiliate Bodies have reviewed the World Health Organisation **"Considerations for sports federations/sports event organizers when planning mass gatherings in the context of COVID-19"** and accessed the specific additional risks, identifying mitigation activities and making an informed evidence-based decision on running regulated sporting activity. The above protocols were developed in line with that guidance.



World Health Organization



Our International Federation, the FEI has mandated the FEI Medical Committee to work on a protocol that will be provided to National Federations on measures for Organising Committees for when international equestrian events resume after the Covid-19 pandemic.

Horse Sport Ireland have the benefit of recently published academic literature, "Indoor transmission of SARS-CoV-2" Hua QIAN , Te MIAO , Li LIU , Xiaohong ZHENG , Danting LUO , and Yuguo Li. The paper which is peer reviewed shows that there is very little outdoor transmission of SARS-COV-2. This evidence is very supportive of our application to resume Equestrian Sport as it is outdoor and non-contact combined with resuming with suitable precautions and no spectators.





Chapter 11

Images of Equestrian Facilities
in Ireland



WEXFORD EQUESTRIAN CENTRE

OUTDOOR CROSS COUNTRY ARENA



MULLINGAR EQUESTRIAN CENTRE





COILOG EQUESTRIAN CENTRE



MILLSTREET EQUESTRIAN CENTRE THE GREEN GLENS ARENA

(JUMPING, DRESSAGE & EVENTING)



Air Take Photography



CAMPHIRE HORSE TRIALS

(DRESSAGE ARENAS)



NATIONAL SPORTS ARENA ABBOTTSTOWN

