

Vetting & Safeguarding

Introduction

The Association of Irish Riding Clubs (AIRC) is committed to creating and maintaining the safest environment possible for all young people and vulnerable adults who wish to participate in AIRC activities.

We are fully committed to safeguarding the well-being of all athletes. Every person should at all times, show respect and understanding for participants' rights, safety, welfare and conduct themselves in a way that reflects the principles of the organisation and the guidelines contained in Horse Sport Ireland's Code of Ethics and Good Practice for Youths and Vulnerable Persons in Our Sport.

The Association has adopted Horse Sport Ireland's Code of Ethics and Good Practice for Youths and Vulnerable Adults in our Sport ("HSI Code of Ethics"), as may be amended from time to time, and the HSI Code of Ethics shall have effect and be binding upon all persons required to be vetted under the National Vetting Bureau Act 2012 and all persons referred to in the HSI Code of Ethics, and all such persons shall be deemed to have agreed to be bound by and to comply strictly with the HSI Code of Ethics."

The National Vetting Bureau (Children & Vulnerable Persons) Acts 2012-2016 commenced on 29th April 2016 and the Act provides a legislative basis for the mandatory vetting of persons who wish to undertake certain activities relating to children or vulnerable persons.

Definitions

Vetting applies to children and vulnerable adults and are defined as follows:

- Child
means a person under the age of 18 years

- Vulnerable Adult
means a person, other than a child, who -
 - (a) is suffering from a disorder of the mind, whether as a result of mental illness or dementia,
 - (b) has an intellectual disability,
 - (c) is suffering from a physical impairment, whether as a result of injury, illness or age, or
 - (d) has a physical disability,

which is of such a nature or degree—

- (i) as to restrict the capacity of the person to guard himself or herself against harm by another person, or
- (ii) that results in the person requiring assistance with the activities of daily living including dressing, eating, walking, washing and bathing.

Who must be Vetted?

Clubs whose membership includes a child or vulnerable adult must have the following vetted before they can engage in any club activities:

- Club Safeguarding Officer (CSO)
- Club Designated Liaison Person (DLP)
- Instructors engaged on a club activity

Please note that should the activity take place in Northern Ireland, the vetting must be completed by Access NI. Garda Vetting only applies to activities in the Republic of Ireland.

Who must have Safeguarding?

Clubs whose membership includes a child or vulnerable adult must have the following vetted before they can engage in any club activities:

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------|
| • Club Safeguarding Officer | Safeguarding 1 & Safeguarding 2 |
| • Club Designated Liaison Person | Safeguarding 1 & Safeguarding 3 |
| • Instructors engaged on a club activity | Safeguarding 1 |

What Safeguarding courses are accepted?

Sport Ireland and Sport NI safeguarding courses are only accepted. Sport Ireland runs regular safeguarding courses via the local sports partnership network while Horse Sport Ireland also run courses throughout the year. The acceptable course run in Northern Ireland by Sport NI is Safeguarding Children & Young People in Sport (SCYPS).

Vetting Applications

All vetting applications must be processed directly through Horse Sport Ireland.

Exclusions

- This policy only applies to activities involving members under 18 and vulnerable adults and for instructors applying for inclusion on the Register of Instructors.
- Where a club uses an instructor, on a casual basis, such as a high performance rider or foreign based instructor they may do so on a casual basis and this is defined as once in a six-month period within the organisation. In instances such as this, should the lesson involve any members under 18 or vulnerable adults, the trainer may carry out the instruction without being vetted but they must be supervised at all times by a person who has been vetted by HSI and has attained a Safeguarding 1 certificate.

Please note:

When a person seeks vetting through Horse Sport Ireland and is subsequently accepted, the vetting letter they receive covers them for all Horse Sport Ireland Affiliate bodies, EXCEPT the Irish Pony Club (IPC).

Please also be aware, that there is no transportability with any other organisation. We cannot accept vetting from the GAA, FAI, IRFU or any other body. All HSI affiliates, except IPC, can only accept Horse Sport Ireland vetting.

Social Media: Clubs should not have a profile account on Facebook, if your club does, please convert it to a page as this is recommended by our governing body.

Appendix 1

Club Safeguarding Policies

Please visit our website, www.airc.ie/safeguarding for further information about our policies.

A club is required to have the following policies in place should it have 17 year olds or vulnerable adults registered as members of their club:

- Child Safeguarding Statement
- Child Welfare and Safeguarding Risk Assessment
- Travelling Permission Form with Young Participants

Checklist

1. Our club has **appointed a Club Safeguarding Officer** who has completed the following:
 - Vetting
 - Safeguarding 1 and Safeguarding 2 Training
2. Our Club has **appointed a Club Designated Liaison Person** who has completed the following:
 - Vetting
 - Safeguarding 1 and Safeguarding 3 Training
3. Our club has **conducted Vetting** for all our Instructors & Club Safeguarding Officer. *Please note that if using an instructor who is listed on the AIRC Register of Instructors, their Garda Vetting has been completed and verified already.*
4. Our club has completed **the AIRC Child Welfare and Safeguarding Risk Assessment**
 - *We attach this document for your attention, please review at a meeting of your club if you have not already done so. This risk assessment must be reviewed every two years.*
5. Our club has published, signed and publicly **displayed our Child Safeguarding Statement**
 - *Once your club has reviewed the risk assessment at point 3 above, please print the AIRC Child Safeguarding Statement and have it signed by your Chairperson and Safeguarding Officer. This document must be forwarded onto National Office where it will be displayed on the clubs page.*
6. Our club has **communicated confirmation/proof of all of the above to the AIRC National Children's Officer**
– Elaine Dunne