

Child Safeguarding Statement

Showjumping Ireland is the Governing Body for showjumping in Ireland.

Showjumping Ireland, (*in conjunction with **Horsport Ireland- National Governing Body for Equestrian Sports***) through its Branches/Regions provides various sporting activities, training and opportunities for young people through participation in regional/provincial events at national & local level.

Showjumping Ireland is committed to safeguarding children.

Working under the guidance of **Children First Act 2015**, and our Safeguarding Policies, **Showjumping Ireland**, (Organisation, staff, Officials, volunteers and employed) seeks to create a safe environment for young people to grow and develop within sport and throughout the organisation,

Principles to safeguarding children from harm:

The set of principles as outlined below should be strictly adhered to:

General Principles–

Showjumping Ireland recognises that in accordance with legislation and our Codes & Rules, that the welfare and interests of children are paramount in all circumstances. This statement aims to ensure that all children have a positive, developmental and enjoyable experience, as far as is practicable, in a safe and enjoyable environment.

Integrity in relationships –

Adults interacting with children in sport are in a position of trust and influence. They should always ensure that children are treated with integrity and respect, and the self-esteem of young people is enhanced. Children/Young Persons are entitled to be listened to by Adults interacting with them and to feel safe.

Importance of childhood –

The importance of childhood should be understood and valued by everyone involved in sport.

Quality atmosphere & ethos –

Children's sport should be conducted in a safe, positive and encouraging atmosphere.

Needs of the child –

All children's sport experiences should be guided by what is best for children. This means that adults should have a basic understanding of the emotional, physical and personal needs of young people

Equality –

All children should be valued and treated in an equitable & fair manner regardless of ability, age, gender, religion, social and ethnic background or political persuasion.

Fair Play –

All children's sport should be conducted in an atmosphere of fair play. The principles of fair play should always be emphasised, and organisers should give clear guidelines regarding acceptable standards of behaviour.

Competition –

Competition is an essential element of sport and should be encouraged in an age-appropriate manner. A child centred ethos will help to ensure that competition and specialisation are kept in their appropriate place

Showjumping Ireland 2026:

Risk Assessment

Showjumping Ireland 2026:

In preparing this Statement **Showjumping Ireland** has completed a Risk Assessment of the potential risk of harm to children/Young persons when they are participating in our Events or attending our activities under the following headings,

- | | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|
| • General Risk of Harm | • Communications | • Use of Facilities |
| • Recruitment | • Bullying | • Online Safety |
| • Coaching Practices | • Reporting Procedures | • Complaints & Discipline |

General Risk of Harm Identified

- Harm not being recognised
- Harm caused by
 - *Child to Child*
 - *Official to child*
 - *Coach to Child*
 - *Volunteer to child*
 - *Member to child*
 - *Visitor to child*
- General Behavioural issues
- Missing or found child on site

Procedures/Policies in place

- Safeguarding Training Policy
- *Codes of Conduct*
- *Recruitment Policy*
- *Missing or found child policy*

Recruitment/Appointment/Officials

- Recruitment of inappropriate people
- Lack of Clarity on roles
- Unqualified or untrained people in role
- Vetting of staff/volunteers

Procedures/Policies in place

- Recruitment Policy
- Safeguarding Training Policies

Complaints & Discipline

- Complaints not being dealt with seriously
- Difficulty in raising an issue by child or parent
- Lack of awareness of Complaints & Disciplinary policy

Procedure/Policy in place

- Complaints & Disciplinary procedure
- Safeguarding Training Policies
- Communications procedure

Reporting Procedures

- No DLP Appointed
- Not clear who Y/P should talk to or report to
- Concerns of abuse or harm not reported
- Lack of knowledge or organisational & statutory reporting procedures

Procedure/Policy in place

- Appointment & training organised
- Post names of CCO; DLP & Mandated Person
- Reporting Procedures
- Safeguarding Training Policies
- Coach Education Policy
- Codes of Conduct

Use of Facilities

- Unauthorised access to designated children's playing areas, practice arenas & to changing rooms, showers, toilets etc.
- Unauthorised exit from children's areas

Procedure/Policy in place

- Supervision Policy
- Coach Education Policy
- Safeguarding Policy
- Recruitment Policy

Bullying of a child

- Child to child
- Adult to child

Procedure/Policy in place

- Anti-Bullying Statement
- Anti-bullying Guideline & Training.

Coaching Practices

- Lack of coaching qualification
- Supervision issues
- Unauthorised photography & recording
- Behavioural Issues
- Lack of gender balance amongst coaches
- No guidance for travelling & Away trips
- Lack of adherence with misc. procedures in Safeguarding policy

Procedures/Policies in place

- Coach education guidelines/ recruitment policy
- Safeguarding Training / Supervision Policies
- Photography & Use of Images guidelines
- *Codes of Conduct/Complaints & Disciplinary*
- *Recruitment Policy*
- *Supervision Policy/Travel & Away trip guidelines*
- *Complaints & Disciplinary Policy*

Communications & On-line

- Lack of awareness of "Risk of Harm" with Members & Visitors
- No communication of Child Safeguarding Statement or Code of Behaviour to Members or Visitors
- Unauthorised photography & recording of activities
- Photography/filming/recording in prohibited areas
- Inappropriate use of social media & Communications by under 18's
- Inappropriate use of social media & Communications with under 18's
- Issues of Online Safety

Procedures/Policies in place

- Child Safeguarding Statement – (to be displayed & on web)
- Child safeguarding Training Policy
- Codes of Behaviour (to be distributed & displayed)
- Photography & Use of Images Policy
- Communications Policy
- Codes of Conduct
- Social Media / Online Safety Policy

Procedures

Our Child Safeguarding Statement has been developed in line with requirements under the Children First Act 2015, (the Children First: National Guidance, /Tusla's Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure & Practice and the Children (NI) Order 1995). In addition to our Risk Assessment document described above, there are further procedures that support our intention to safeguard children while they are availing of our activities.

Showjumping Ireland has the following procedures in place as part of our Safeguarding Policies:

- Procedures for the management of allegations of abuse or misconduct by staff, Officials or volunteers against a child availing of our activities
- Procedures for the safe recruitment of staff, Officials and volunteers to work with children in our activities.
- Procedures for access to child safeguarding training and information, including the identification of the occurrence of harm
- Procedure for reporting of child protection or welfare concerns to Statutory Authorities
- Procedure for maintaining a list of the persons (if any) in the relevant service who are mandated persons
- Procedure for appointing a relevant person.

Implementation

We recognise that implementation is an ongoing process. **Showjumping Ireland** is committed to the implementation of this Child Safeguarding Statement and the procedures that support our intention to keep children safe from harm while availing of our activities. Please note the following

- That all staff have been furnished with a copy of this statement.
- This statement is available to parents/guardians, the Agency and members of the public on request.
- This statement will be displayed in a prominent place by **Showjumping Ireland**.

The **Showjumping Ireland** Child Safeguarding Plan including all policies and procedures is available on request or at the following webpage for download:

<https://www.sji.ie/childwelfare-safeguarding>

You can also email childprotection@sjai.ie you would like any information sent to you.

Relevant Persons:

Showjumping Ireland has appointed the following People:

National SJI Child Protection Officer:

Mrs Mary E Ryan
email: childprotection@sjai.ie
mobile: 087 9890545

National SJI Designated Liaison Person:

Mrs Val Joy
email: childprotection@sjai.ie
mobile: 086 8654836

National SJI Designated Liaison Person:

Mr. Ronan Corrigan
email: childprotection@sjai.ie
mobile: 086 8252828

Horsesport Ireland Mandated Person:

Mr. Paul Hayes
email: Phayes@horsesportireland.ie
Phone 045 854524

This Child Safeguarding Statement & Risk Assessment will be reviewed on 10/01/2027

Signed: _____

Date:

(On behalf of Showjumping Ireland Gerard Campbell, SJI National Chairman)

For queries on this Child Safeguarding Statement, please contact Mrs Mary E Ryan.

This Risk Assessment was undertaken on 17/03/2022



Appointed Child Safeguarding Officers:

National SJI Child Protection Officer:

Mrs Mary E Ryan
email: childprotection@sjai.ie
mobile: 087 9890545

National SJI Designated Liaison Person:

Mrs Val Joy
email: childprotection@sjai.ie
mobile: 086 8654836

Mr. Ronan Corrigan
email: childprotection@sjai.ie
mobile: 086 8252828

Horsesport Ireland Mandated Person:

Mr. Paul Hayes
email: Phayes@horsesportireland.ie
Phone 045 854524

Regional CCO

❖ Connaught:

Geraldine Gallagher 086 3933429
geraldine.gallagher@sjai.ie

Ray Halpin 086 3360801
eliterosettesandtrophies@gmail.com

❖ Leinster:

Marion Murphy 087 2615341
leinstershowjumpers@gmail.com

❖ Munster:

Mary E Ryan 087 9890545
childprotection@sjai.ie

❖ Ulster:

Ann Friel 086 8335311
annfriel99@gmail.com

Showjumping Ireland 2026: