



ShowjumpingIreland

# Child Safeguarding Policy

## Code of Ethics & Good Practice for Youths & Vulnerable Adults in our Sport

Showjumping Ireland 2020:



### Children First Act 2015

“The Children First Act 2015 is an important addition to the child welfare and protection system as it will help to ensure that child protection concerns are brought to the attention of Tusla without delay.

### Children First Legislation

The [Children First Act 2015](#) , which was signed into law on 19 November 2015, puts elements of the Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children on a statutory footing. The legislation was a key Programme for Government commitment, and forms part of a suite of child protection legislation which includes the National Vetting Bureau (Children and Vulnerable Persons) Acts, 2012-2016 and the Criminal Justice (Withholding of Information on Offences against Children and Vulnerable Persons) Act 2012.

The Act provides for a number of key child protection measures, which for Showjumping Ireland are as follows:

- Requirement on organisations providing services to children to keep children safe from harm and to produce a Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment/ Statement/ Policy
- Appointment of child safeguarding officers which include
  - Children’s Officers – National & Regional
  - Designated Liaison Person
  - National Mandated Person – HSI Paul Hayes
- Requirement on defined categories of persons (mandated persons) to report child protection concerns over a defined threshold to the Child and Family Agency
- Requirement on mandated persons to assist the Child and Family Agency in the assessment of a child protection risk, if requested to do so by the Agency
- Putting the Children First Interdepartmental Implementation Group on a statutory footing

The Act also includes a provision which abolished the common law defence of reasonable chastisement in relation to corporal punishment.

The legislation operates in tandem with the existing Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children, which outlines the non-statutory obligations which will continue to operate administratively for all sectors of society.

### Showjumping Ireland 2020:

# Child Safeguarding Policy



## Showjumping Ireland 2020:

**Showjumping Ireland** (SJI) is committed to creating and maintaining the safest environment possible for all young people and vulnerable adults who wish to participate in SJI 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 our **Codes of Conduct**

“A proper balance must be struck between protecting children and respecting the rights, needs and duties of others, such as **Showjumping Ireland's** staff, Officials, Volunteers, parents/carers and families. **Where there is conflict, the child's welfare must come first**”

Within this document, **Showjumping Ireland** has compiled through approval of HSI (our Governing Body) a number of policies which make up **Showjumping Ireland's Child Safeguarding Policy**

These include

- SJI Child Safeguarding Statement & Risk Assessment
- SJI Codes of Conduct (Youths & Vulnerable Persons)
- SJI Codes of Conduct (Officials / Volunteers / Staff / Coaches)
- SJI Codes of Conduct (Parents/Guardians)
- Safeguarding Training Policy
- Complaints & Disciplinary procedure :Reporting: Guidelines/ Procedures /Policy
- Recruitment Policy / Vetting Policy
- Anti Bullying Policy
- Missing or Found Child Policy
- Photography & Use of Images Policy
- Communications / Media Policies
- Supervision / Travel / Away trip Guidelines
- Physical Contact Policy

All of the **Showjumping Ireland** Safeguarding policies are in place to protect our young and vulnerable members. The rights of the child are paramount and children have the right to be protected. National, Regional or Branch Events/ Shows/All Members should adhere to and reference these policies at all times.

These policies are based on the guidelines contained in the [Horsport Ireland Child Welfare and Safeguarding guidance](#) and [Horsport Ireland Code Of Ethics & Good Practice For Youth & Vulnerable Adults In Our Sport](#)

## **Child Safeguarding Policy**

### **The Rights of Children**

**Every Child/Junior SJI Member is entitled to:-**

- ❖ Be safe and to feel safe
- ❖ Be listened to
- ❖ Be believed
- ❖ Have fun and enjoy **Showjumping Ireland** events or activities
- ❖ Have a voice in relation to their activities within **Showjumping Ireland**
- ❖ Be treated with dignity, sensitivity and respect
- ❖ Participate in an equitable and fair manner, irrespective of ability, disability, gender, religion, social class, etc.
- ❖ Experience competition at a level at which they feel comfortable
- ❖ Make complaints and have them dealt with
- ❖ Get help against bullies
- ❖ Say No
- ❖ Protect their own bodies
- ❖ Confidentiality

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## Children First Act 2015

### Definitions of “Harm” in relation to a child

- ❖ **Assault:** ill-treatment or neglect of the child in a manner that seriously affects or is likely to seriously affect the child’s health, development or welfare
  
- ❖ **Bullying:** defined as repeated aggression – whether it is verbal, psychological or physical – that is conducted by an individual or group against others. It is behaviour that is intentionally aggravating and intimidating,
  
- ❖ **Emotional abuse** is the systematic emotional or psychological ill-treatment of a child as part of the overall relationship between a caregiver and a child. In relation to sport, it can be seen as Conditional caregiving in which care/affection/praise of a child depends on his or her behaviours/ actions/ successes
  
- ❖ **Ill-treatment** means, in relation to a child, to abandon or cruelly treat the child, or to cause or procure or allow the child to be abandoned or cruelly treated
  
- ❖ **Neglect:** deprive the child of adequate food, warmth, clothing, hygiene, supervision, intellectual stimulation safety or medical care to the extent that the child is harmed physically or developmentally. It is generally defined in terms of an omission of care, where a child’s health, development or welfare is impaired by being deprived of food, clothing, warmth, hygiene, medical care, or supervision and safety.
  
- ❖ **Physical abuse** is when someone deliberately hurts a child physically or puts them at risk of being physically hurt. It may occur as a single incident or as a pattern of incidents
  
- ❖ **Sexual Abuse:** Sexual abuse occurs when a child is used by another person for his or her gratification or arousal, or for that of others. It includes the child being involved in sexual or exposing the child to sexual activity directly or through pornography

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## Appointed Child Safeguarding Officers:

**National SJI Child Protection Officer:**

Mrs Mary E Ryan  
email: [maryeryan1@gmail.com](mailto:maryeryan1@gmail.com)  
mobile: 087 9890545

**National SJI Designated Liaison Person:**

Mrs Val Joy  
email: [valerie@lisheennursinghome.com](mailto:valerie@lisheennursinghome.com)  
mobile: 086 8654836

**Horsesport Ireland Mandated Person:**

Mr. Paul Hayes  
email: [Phayes@horsesportireland.ie](mailto:Phayes@horsesportireland.ie)  
Phone 045 854524

**Regional CCO**

- ❖ **Connaught:** Ray Halpin 086 3360801  
[eliterosettesandtrophies@gmail.com](mailto:eliterosettesandtrophies@gmail.com)
- ❖ **Leinster:** Gay Parkinson 086 8278338  
[Parkinson.gay@gmail.com](mailto:Parkinson.gay@gmail.com)
- ❖ **Munster:** Mary E Ryan 087 9890545  
[maryeryan1@gmail.com](mailto:maryeryan1@gmail.com)
- ❖ **Ulster:** Catherine Chambers: +44 7522 980261  
[cat.chambersur@yahoo.com](mailto:cat.chambersur@yahoo.com)

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## Roles of Child Safeguarding Officers.

### National SJI Child Protection Officer: (NCO)

The National Children's Officer should be a member of the Executive Committee, or have access to the committee and its accompanying documents, to ensure that children's interests are kept on, and influence the decisions of, the agenda of the Governing Body.

### The role of the National Children's Officer involves:

- Have knowledge of the Safeguarding Code and relevant child protection legislation (Children First Act 2015 (ROI)/ National Vetting Bureau Act 2012-2016, Co-operating to Safeguard Children and Young People in Northern Ireland 2017).
- The NCO should be knowledgeable about child protection and undertake any training considered necessary i.e. Safeguarding 1 & 2
- Commitment to attendance at appropriate training as required in order to act as a resource to members in relation to children's needs
- Co-ordination of Child Safeguarding training.
- The promotion of the values, attitudes and structures which make sport enjoyable for children
- Circulation of all relevant information and resource materials, on children's sport to **Showjumping Ireland**, its Branch/Regional Committees and members
- Communication with Club Children's Officers to ensure the distribution of the Code and the promotion of related education programmes, materials events and **Showjumping Ireland** related codes
- Ensuring that the **Showjumping Ireland** develops an appropriate sport specific policy, which includes
  - a policy statement,
  - codes of conduct,
  - disciplinary procedures,
  - bullying policy,
  - safety statement,
  - recruitment and selection policy
  - reporting procedures
- Assisting in the development of a system of record keeping which maintains confidentiality while allowing for appropriate information to be passed to relevant authorities where necessary

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## **Roles of Child Safeguarding Officers:**

### **National SJI Designated Liaison Person (DPL)**

**Showjumping Ireland** must appoint a National Designated Liaison Person (DLP). This person may or may not also fulfil the role of Children's Officer

### **The role of the National Child Safeguarding DLP involves:**

- The DLP is a resource for volunteers/coaches and should ensure that **Showjumping Ireland's** reporting procedures are followed.
- The DLP reports any suspected cases of child neglect or abuse to Mandated Person (Horsesport Ireland), the Duty Social Worker in Child and Family Agency/Túsla or an Garda Síochána/ Gateway team or PSNI.
- The DLP should also inform the NCO that a report has been submitted without identifying details
- The DLP should be knowledgeable about child protection and undertake any training considered necessary i.e. Safeguarding 1 & 3
- The DLP should familiarise themselves with the statutory and support services within their locality
- Have knowledge of the Safeguarding Code and relevant child protection legislation (Children First Act 2015 (ROI)/National Vetting Bureau Act 2012-2016 (ROI) and Cooperating to Safeguard Children and Young People in Northern Ireland 2017.

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## **Roles of Child Safeguarding Officers:**

### **National Mandated Person**

The Mandated person is a person named under schedule 2 of Children First Act 2015 (ROI). They have a legal responsibility to report concerns or allegations that reach or exceed the threshold of harm of abuse to the Tusla

### **Legal Obligations of a Mandated Person:**

Mandated persons have two main legal obligations under the Children First Act 2015 (ROI). These are:

- To report the harm of children above a defined threshold to Tusla;
- To assist Tusla, if requested, in assessing a concern which has been the subject of a mandated report

As an Affiliate under Horsesport Ireland (Governing Body), **Showjumping Ireland** reports through our National Designated Liaison Person to

- ❖ Paul Hayes Horsesport Ireland

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## **Roles of Child Safeguarding Officers:**

### **Regional SJI Child Protection Officer: (CCO)**

The Regional Children's Officer should be a member of the Regional Committee, or have access to the committee, to ensure that children's interests are kept on, and influence the decisions of, the agenda of the **Showjumping Ireland**. They act as a resource with regard to children's issues. In summary Children's Officers should be familiar with current policies in relation to young people, check that all activities are safe and fun, and inform adults of how to deal with any concerns that may arise in relation to the protection of children and young people. CCO's should be the link between the children and the adults in the Region.

### **The role of the Regional Children's Officer involves:**

- To promote awareness of safeguarding guidelines within the club, among young members and their parents/guardians. This could be achieved by:-
  - the production / distribution of information leaflets,
  - the establishment of children's/age group specific notice boards,
  - regular information meetings for the young people and their parents/guardians
- To influence policy and practice within the club in order to prioritise children's needs
- Establish contact with and report regularly to the National Children's Officer
- To ensure that children know how to make concerns known to appropriate adults or agencies.
- To encourage the appropriate involvement of parents/ guardians in the club activities
- To act as an advisory resource to Sports Leaders on best practice in children's sport
- To report regularly to the Regional Committee.
- To monitor changes in membership and follow up any unusual dropout/ absenteeism
- To ensure that the children have a voice in the running of their Region and ensure that there are steps young people can take to express concerns about their sports activities / experiences.
- Establish communication within Region of the Association e.g. facilitate parent's information sessions at the start of the season
- The CCO should be knowledgeable about child protection and undertake any training considered necessary i.e. Safeguarding 1

**Showjumping Ireland 2020:**

## **Code of Ethics & Good Practice for Youths & Vulnerable Adults in our Sport**

As an Affiliate under Horsesport Ireland (Governing Body), **Showjumping Ireland**, has signed-up to a commitment to adopt the Code of Ethics & Good Practice for Youths & Vulnerable Adults in our Sport.

Horsesport Ireland have published a comprehensive Booklet with invaluable advice, resource information, in-depth Codes of Ethics and can be accessed through

<http://www.horsesportireland.ie/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/Horse-Sport-Ireland-Code-of-Ethics-2017.pdf>

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