

Irish Pony Society Child Safeguarding Statement

Section 1 – NGB / club information

The Irish Pony Society is the Governing Body for *Pony Showing* in Ireland. *The Irish Pony Society* through their clubs/branches/organisations provide various sporting activities and opportunities for young people through participation in clubs, regional/provincial events and through our representative teams at national level.

Affiliate details:

- Name: *The Irish Pony Society*
- Sport: **Equestrian Sport**
- Location (National/Local level): ***National Level***
- Activities: *Promoting and encouraging the showing of all ponies in ridden and working hunter classes along with the breed and youngstock classes.*

Section 2 - Principles to safeguard children from harm

The Irish Pony Society is committed to safeguarding children and by working under the guidance of our Safeguarding Policies our staff, both volunteers and employed, working with our young people, throughout the organisation, seek to create a safe environment for young people to grow and develop within sport. The following set of principles should be adhered to:

- **Importance of childhood** - The importance of childhood should be understood and valued by everyone involved in sport.
- **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.
- **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.
- **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.
- **Quality atmosphere & ethos** - Children's sport should be conducted in a safe, positive and encouraging atmosphere.
- **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.
- **Equality** - All children should be valued and treated in an equitable and fair manner regardless of ability, age, gender, religion, social and ethnic background or political persuasion.

Section 3 - Risk Assessment

This *The Irish Pony Society* written Risk Assessment document indicates the areas of potential risk of harm, the likelihood of the risk occurring, and gives the required policy, guidance or process documents require to alleviate these risks. The list of risks identified and procedures to manage these risks are contained in the following categories:

Risk Identified	Procedure in place to manage risk identified
<p>Affiliate and Coaching Practices</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of coaching qualification. • Supervision issues. • Unauthorised photography & recording activities. • Behavioural Issues. • Lack of gender balance amongst coaches • No guidance for travelling & away trips • Lack of adherence with misc procedures in Safeguarding policy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coach education guidelines/Recruitment policy. • Supervision policy/Coach education guidelines • Photography & Use of Images guidelines • Codes of Conduct / Safeguarding Training Policy / Complaints & Disciplinary policy. • Coach education guidelines / Supervision policy. • Travel/Away trip guidelines / Safeguarding Training Policy / Codes of Conduct • Safeguarding Training Policy / Complaints & Disciplinary policy
<p>Complaints & Discipline</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of awareness of a Complaints & Disciplinary policy. • Difficulty in raising an issue by child & or parent • Complaints not being dealt with seriously 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complaints & Disciplinary procedure / Communications procedure. • Complaints & Disciplinary procedure / Communications procedure. • Complaints & Disciplinary procedure.
<p>Reporting Procedures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of knowledge of organisational & statutory reporting procedures • No DLP appointed. • Concerns of abuse or harm not reported. • Not clear who YP should talk to or report to. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reporting procedures / Coach Education policy / Codes of Conduct. • Reporting procedures. • Reporting procedures / Safeguarding Training Policy • Post the names of CCO, DLP and Mandated person.
<p>Use of Facilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unauthorised access to designated children’s playing areas, practice areas & to changing rooms, showers, toilets etc. • Unauthorised exit from children’s areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supervision policy / Coach Education. • Supervision policy / Coach Education.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Photography, filming or recording in prohibited areas. • Missing or found child on site. • Children sharing facilities with adults e.g. dressing room, showers etc... 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Photography & Use of Images guidelines • Missing or found child policy. • Safeguarding Training Policy
<p>Recruitment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recruitment of inappropriate people. • Lack of clarity on roles. • Unqualified or untrained people in role. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recruitment policy. • Recruitment policy / Safeguarding Training Policy • Recruitment policy / Safeguarding Training Policy.
<p>Communications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of awareness of ‘risk of harm’ with members and visitors. • No communication of Child Safeguarding Statement of Code of Behaviour to members of visitors. • Unauthorised photography & recording of activities. • Inappropriate use of social media & communications by under 18’s • Inappropriate use of social media & communications with under 18’s. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child Safeguarding Statement / Training Policy. • Child Safeguarding Statement (display) / Codes of Behaviour (distribute). • Photography & Use of Images policy • Communications policy / Codes of conduct • Communications policy / Codes of conduct
<p>General Risk of Harm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harm not being recognised. • Harm caused by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Child to Child. ○ Coach to Child. ○ Volunteer to Child. ○ Member to Child. ○ Visitor to Child. • General behavioural issues. • Issues of Bullying. • Vetting of staff/volunteers. • Issues of Online Safety 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safeguarding Training Policy • Safeguarding Training Policy / Recruitment policy / Codes of Conduct • Codes of Conduct. • Anti-Bullying policy. • Recruitment policy / Vetting Policy. • Social Media / Online Safety policy.

The Risk Assessment was undertaken on (March 2023).

Section 4 – Procedures

Our Child Safeguarding Statement has been developed in line with requirements under the Children First Act 2015, (the Children First: National Guidance, and 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.

The Irish Pony Society has the following procedures in place as part of our Safeguarding Policies:

- Procedures for the management of allegations of abuse or misconduct by staff or volunteers against a child availing of our activities.
- Procedures for the safe recruitment of staff 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.

Please note that all procedures listed are available on request.

The Mandated/Relevant Person for *Horse Sport Ireland* is *Paul Hayes*.

Section 5 – Implementation

We recognise that implementation is an ongoing process. *The Irish Pony Society* 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 *The Irish Pony Society*.

The *Irish Pony Society* Child Safeguarding Plan including all policies and procedures is available on request or at the following webpage for download: [Child Protection & Compliance – Irish Pony Society](#)

You can also email info@irishponysociety.ie if you would like any information sent to you.

This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed on *March 2025*

Signed: *John Dunne*

Date: 13th June 2023

(On behalf of *The Irish Pony Society*)

Name: *John Dunne*

Phone no: *(087-618 6351)*

*For queries on this Child Safeguarding Statement, please contact *(John Dunne)*.*