

Young Breeders Programme Child Safeguarding Statement

Section 1 – Organiser information

Teagasc – the Agriculture and Food Development Authority – is the national body providing integrated research, advisory and training services to the agriculture and food industry and rural communities.

Horse Sport Ireland – is the National Governing Body for Equestrian Sport in Ireland.

The Young Breeders Programme is provided as a joint programme between Horse Sport Ireland and Teagasc.

Teagasc and Horse Sport Ireland are committed to safeguarding children and by working under the guidance of Safeguarding Policies of both organisations. Principles and procedures are in place to be observed to ensure, as far as possible, that a child availing of training or participating in competition within the Young Breeders Programme is safe from harm. We seek to create a safe environment for young people to grow and develop within the programme.

A ‘child’ means a person under 18 years excluding a person who is or has been married, as set out in section 2 of the Child Care Act 1991. ‘Harm’ is used as defined in the Children First Act 2015. That definition sets out that ‘harm’ means, in this context: - “(a) 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, or (b) sexual abuse of the child, whether caused by a single act, omission or circumstance or a series or combination of acts, omissions or circumstances, or otherwise”.

Section 2 – Principles to safeguard children from harm

The following set of principles should be adhered to by staff, coaches, and all adults engaging with children in the context of the young breeders programme:

- Importance of childhood – the importance of childhood should be understood and valued by all adults involved
- Needs of the child – all children’s experiences within the programme 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 are in a position of influence. They should always ensure children are treated with integrity and respect, and the self-esteem of young people is enhanced.
- Fair Play – all children’s sport/competition 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 and 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.
- 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 - Best Practice

Teagasc and Horse Sport Ireland officials, and coaches employed to deliver training within the Young Breeders programme will seek to safeguard children by:

- Valuing them, listening to them and respecting them;
- Adopting and encouraging good child protection practices;
- Implementing robust recruitment and selection procedures including required vetting and reference checks, as set out further below;
- Providing effective management for staff through supervision, training and support;
- Reporting concerns to statutory agencies;
- Sharing information about child protection and good practice with children, parents or guardians and staff;
- Ensuring adherence to safety procedures;
- Reporting and recording any incidents or accidents;
- Updating and reviewing policies and procedures regularly;
- Keeping parents or guardians informed of any issues that concern their children;
- Ensuring proper supervision for children.

In interacting with children in the course of their work Teagasc and Horse Sport Ireland officials, and coaches employed to deliver training within the Young Breeders programme should comply with the following guidelines, which are designed to provide general principles:-

- Do not spend excessive amounts of time alone with children;
- Do not use or allow language that is offensive, abusive or sexually suggestive - physical and/or verbal;
- Do not single out a particular child for favouritism, criticism, unwelcome focus or attention;
- Do not hit or physically chastise children;
- Do not socialise inappropriately with children, for example, socialising outside of structured organisational activities.
- Physical Contact
 - Always seek the consent of a child to any physical contact (except in an emergency or a dangerous situation);
 - Avoid horseplay or inappropriate physical contact;
 - Check with children about their comfort when doing activities that might involve physical contact.

- Adults who have to administer first-aid should ensure wherever possible that other children or another adult are present.
- Health and Safety
 - Ensure that supervision is provided where required;
 - Be aware of and follow accident and incident procedures.
 - Adhere to general Health and Safety policies and practices.

Section 4 – Risk Assessment

This Teagasc and Horse Sport Ireland 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 required to alleviate these risks. The list of risks identified and procedures to manage these risks are contained in the following categories:

Risk Identified	Procedure to manage risk identified
<p>Organiser and Coaching Practices</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Inappropriate coach ability/experience ● Supervision issues ● Unauthorised photography and recording activities ● Behavioural issues ● Guidance for travelling and away trips ● Lack of adherence with miscellaneous procedures in child safeguarding policy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Coaches Code of Conduct)/ HSI Safeguarding Training Policy ● Coaches Code of Conduct ● Photography and use of images guidelines and consent ● Codes of conduct/ Complaints and disciplinary procedure ● HSI Travel & away trips guidelines / HSI Safeguarding Training policy / Codes of Conduct ● HSI Safeguarding Training policy/ complaints and disciplinary procedure
<p>Complaints and Discipline</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Difficulty in raising an issue by a child or parent ● Complaints not being dealt with seriously 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Complaints & Disciplinary Procedure ● Complaints & Disciplinary Procedure
<p>Reporting Procedures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Lack of knowledge of organisational & statutory reporting procedures ● Concerns of abuse or harm not reported ● Not clear who young person should talk to or report to 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Reporting procedures/ Codes of Conduct ● Reporting Procedures / HSI Safeguarding Training Policy ● Post the names of DLP and Mandated Person

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Missing or found child on site • Children sharing facilities with adults e.g. dressing rooms, showers etc on away trips 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Missing or found child policy • HSI Safeguarding Training Policy
<p>Communications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of awareness of risk of harm by participants • Unauthorised Photography, Filming or recording • Inappropriate use of social media and communications with under 18's 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child Safeguarding Statement/ HSI Safeguarding Training Policy • Photography & Use of Images policy • HSI Communications Policy/ Codes of Conduct
<p>General Risk of Harm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harm not being recognised • Harm caused by Child to Child Coach to Child Visitor to Child • General behavioural issues • Issues of bullying • Vetting of coaches/staff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HSI Safeguarding Training Policy • HSI Safeguarding Training Policy/ Codes of Conduct • Codes of Conduct • HSI Anti-Bullying Policy • Vetting Policy

This risk assessment was undertaken in April 2020.

Section 5 – 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/training.

Horse Sport Ireland has the following procedures in place as part of their Safeguarding Policies which the Young Breeders Programme will adhere to:

- 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 child protection or welfare concerns to Statutory Authorities

Please note that all procedures listed are available on request

The Mandated/Relevant Person for the Young Breeders Programme is Paul Hayes, Horse Sport Ireland

Section 6 – Implementation

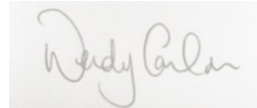
We recognise that implementation is an on-going process. Horse Sport Ireland and Teagasc are committed to the implementation of this Child Safeguarding Statement in relation to the Young Breeders Training Programme and the procedures that support our intention to keep children safe from harm while availing of our activities.

This statement will be displayed in a prominent place relating to the Young Breeders Programme and made available to coaches, parents/guardians, and other members of the public on request.

You can also email safeguarding@horsesportireland.ie if you would like any information sent to you.

This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed on April 2022

Signed



On Behalf Of

Horse Sport Ireland

Teagasc

Name:

Paul Hayes

Wendy Conlon