

CHILD SAFEGUARDING POLICY



Eventing IRELAND

Grass Roots to Gold Medals

Eventing Ireland

13 January 2024

Section 1 – National Governing Body

Eventing Ireland provides sporting activities and opportunities for adults and young people (aged 12 – 18) through participation in national, home international events and training.

Eventing Ireland

1st Floor

Beech House

Millennium Park, Osberstown

Naas, Co Kildare

- Size (Number of staff 2.5 /adult members: 500 and members U18: 261)
- Activity: Eventing: Horse Trials and Training

Section 2 - Principles to safeguard children from harm

Eventing Ireland is committed to safeguarding children and by working under the guidance of our safeguarding policy, 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 HQ along with Horse Sport Ireland should give clear guidelines regarding acceptable standards of behaviour particularly where children compete alongside and against adults.
- 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, within the pony and junior classes, 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 Eventing 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 require to alleviate these risks. The list of risks identified and procedures to manage these risks are contained in the following categories:

Potential Risks of Harm to Members during activities with Eventing Ireland.	Procedures for the management of Potential Risks of Harm.
Recruitment of instructors and coaches	Utilise HSI High Performance recruitment process in that instructors have Garda Vetting and/or Access NI and Safeguarding 1 as compulsory,
Recruitment of Officials and other volunteers	If a child welfare officer or DLP is not onsite, a confidential contact number must be available either in the Secretary's office at every event and in the EI programme
Recruitment of HO Staff	All staff should have Garda Vetting and Safeguarding 1
Risk of Harm to a child by a member of staff, instructor, coach, official or volunteer	Appreciation of the Children First Act and its application.
Risk of bullying by another child, parent, steward	Anti-Bullying Policy in place
Online abuse through social media	Communications Policy in place
Unauthorised photography/filming	ei filming and photography guidelines.docx in place
Inadequate communication of opportunities	Communications Policy in place

Section 4 – Procedures

Our Child Safeguarding Statement has been developed in line with requirements under the Children First Act 2015, (Children First: National Guidance, and Tusla's Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice). 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.

Eventing 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 or volunteers against a child availing of our activities. [EI Complaints Policy](#)
- Procedures for the safe recruitment of staff and volunteers to work with children in our sport. HSI GUIDELINES FOR TRAINERS

Safety of underage athletes – SAFETY STATEMENT for events

Section 5 – Implementation

We recognise that implementation is an ongoing process. Our organisation 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 event organisers, parents/guardians and members of the public on request.

This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed in March 2026.

Signed:



Eventing Ireland Chairman

Date: 25 June 2024

(On behalf of Eventing Ireland – the Provider)

For queries on this Child Safeguarding Statement, please contact:

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Note:

Access NI is not applicable in ROI so those with just Access NI would have to do Garda Vetting if working in the ROI. This would also apply for someone from the UK or Europe coming over to Ireland, Garda Vetting is legally required.

If a person gets Garda Vetted and there is a NI address on the list of addresses, there is a check for that address with PSNI. Access NI is not legally required, just best practice.