



Irish Shows Association Child Safeguarding Statement

Section 1

The Irish Shows Association is the Governing Body for agricultural shows in Ireland. Agricultural shows provide various activities and opportunities for young people through participation in local, regional and national level.

Affiliate details:

- Name: Irish Shows Association
- Agricultural shows activities include various equine activities, livestock, dogs, home produce
- Activities: Children's games and Amusements.

Section 2 - Principles to safeguard children from harm

The Irish Shows Association is committed to safeguarding children and by working under the guidance of our Safeguarding Policies our volunteers throughout the organisation, seek to create a safe environment for young people to grow and develop. 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 shows.
- **Needs of the child** - All children's activities and experiences in competition 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 shows 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 activities and competitions 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 involvement should be conducted in a safe, positive and encouraging atmosphere.
- **Competition** - Competition is an essential element of agricultural shows 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 Irish Shows Association 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
Agricultural Show Practices <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of awareness of a Child Safeguarding Policy. • Supervision issues. • Unauthorised photography & recording activities. • Behavioural Issues. • Lack of adherence with miscellaneous procedures in Safeguarding policy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education & guidelines. • Volunteer guidelines, keep on meeting agenda. • Photography & Use of Images guidelines. • Codes of Conduct / Safeguarding Training Policy / Complaints & Disciplinary Policy. • Safeguarding Training Policy / Complaints & Disciplinary Policy.
Complaints & Discipline <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.
Reporting Procedures <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 / Stewards Education policy / Codes of Conduct. • Reporting procedures. • Reporting procedures / Safeguarding Training Policy • Post the names of CO and DLP.
Use of Facilities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unauthorised access to designated children's areas, practice areas & to changing rooms, showers, toilets etc. • Unauthorised exit from designated children's areas. • Photography, filming or recording in prohibited areas. • Missing or found child on site. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supervision policy / Stewards Education. • Supervision policy / Stewards Education. • Photography & Use of Images guidelines. • Missing or found child 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. • Volunteers Lack of Awareness of Child Safeguarding Policy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volunteer Recruitment Policy. • Volunteer Recruitment Policy / Safeguarding Training Policy. • Child Safeguarding Policy and Statement Distribute.
<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 or visitors. • Unauthorised photography & recording of activities. • Inappropriate use of social media & communications by under 18s. • Inappropriate use of social media & communications with under 18s. 	<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. ○ Volunteer to Child. ○ Member to Child. ○ Visitor to Child. • General behavioural issues. • Issues of Bullying. • Vetting of staff/volunteers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safeguarding Training Policy. • Safeguarding Training Policy / Recruitment policy / Codes of Conduct. • Codes of Conduct. • Anti-Bullying policy. • Child Safeguarding Policy / Vetting Policy.



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.

Irish Shows Association National Governing Body for shows has the following procedures in place as part of our Safeguarding Policies:

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

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

Section 5 – Implementation

We recognise that implementation is an ongoing process. The Irish Shows Association 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 Shows Association.


The Irish Shows Association Child Safeguarding Plan including all policies and procedures is available on request or at the following webpage for download: www.irishshows.org/rules.

You can also email okeeffe.mary1@mail.com for safeguarding matters if you would like any information sent to you. Also Designated Liaison Person catherinegallagher7@yahoo.ie can be contacted.

Our Child Safeguarding Statement has been prepared in accordance with the legislature requirements contained in the Children's first Act 2015 and the children [NI] 1995 and as required by the ISA.

This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed on March 2026

Signed: 
ISA National Child Safeguarding Officer

Signed: 
ISA President

Date: 14th December 2024

14/12/2024

Date:

14/12/2024

For queries on this Child Safeguarding Statement, please contact **Mary O'Keeffe 0872785819**