

Dressage Ireland CODE OF CONDUCT Officials & Volunteers



These **Codes of Conduct** are issued in conjunction with the **National Rules of Dressage Ireland AND** General Codes of Conduct for all DI Members.

They apply to all activities regarding an Athlete/ Coach/Volunteer(s)/Official(s) involvement with **Dressage Ireland** including but not limited to competitions/Show Organisation/training sessions/clinics/camps/meetings/travel

Dressage Ireland recognises the key role Officials/Judges/Volunteers/Coaches play in the lives of young people in our sport

In the developing of the skills of young people Officials/Judges/Volunteers/Coaches should always encourage enjoyment, fun and participation in our sports. It is vital to remember that children and young people benefit from an ethos that is positive, healthy and encouraging

Through its Policies and Procedures, Dressage Ireland ensures that all Members are respected and recognises that the welfare and safety of young people is paramount.

Children First Act 2015

Schedule 1 of the Children First Act 2015 defines Relevant Services as:

1. Any work or activity which is carried out by a person, a necessary and regular part of which consists mainly of the person having access to, or contact with, children in—

5. Any work or activity which consists of the provision of—
 - (a) educational, research, training, cultural, recreational, leisure, social or physical activities to children,
 - (b) care or supervision of children,

Section 11(1)(a) of the Children First Act 2015 defines risk as

“any potential for harm to a child while availing of a Service.”

Section 2 of the Act defines harm as follows

“harm meaning in relation to a child –

- (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 combinations of acts, omission or circumstances or otherwise”

OFFICIALS/JUDGES/VOLUNTEERS/COACHES HAVE A RIGHT TO:

- Access ongoing training and information on all aspects of their role with young people particularly on Safeguarding.
- Be treated fairly and equitably by **Dressage Ireland**
- Not to be left vulnerable when working with children

Dressage Ireland Code of Conduct (Officials & Volunteers)

Part of Child Welfare & Safeguarding Policies & Procedures

Dressage Ireland

CODE OF CONDUCT

Officials & Volunteers



Officials & Volunteers engaging in any way with children are Required to

- **Uphold and Respect** the Rules and Regulations of **Dressage Ireland**
- **Support all members** of **Dressage Ireland** and applaud **all** athletes
- **Never exert undue pressure** on Young Person under your care or guidance
- **Ensure** all reasonable steps are taken to protect young people from any harm, discrimination or degrading treatment
- **Read & Understand** Code of Conduct for Youths & Vulnerable Persons, and encourage Athletes to follow in practice as well as in spirit.
- **Respect** the rights, wishes and feelings that young people may have.
- **Comply** with **Dressage Ireland's** Recruitment Policy
- **Ensure Garda/Access NI vetting** in place and up to date
- **Ensure Safeguarding 1** is in place and up to date
- **Physical contact** should only occur when necessary and in an open and appropriate way and always be intended to meet the needs of the young person. When touching/supporting/attending a rider, be certain the child and the parent's/guardian is on site and in full view and you have explained what you are doing and why
- **Maintain a positive attitude** to all aspects of **Dressage Ireland** activities ensuring that our young people have an increased level of self-esteem and personal achievement
- **Respect the rights**, dignity and worth of every child regardless of ability, age, gender, social and ethnic background, religion or political persuasion
- **Promote a culture** that ensures all young people are listened to and respected
- **Ensuring skill development** and personal satisfaction have priority over competition
- **Avoid a situation** where you are alone in an arena, stable, car or hotel room with a young rider. It is strongly advised that all coaches require a parent / guardian to remain on site to observe the young athlete during all coaching sessions.
- **Never exert undue** influence over participants to gain personal benefit or reward.
- **Physical punishment** or physical force must never be used
- **Maintain a healthy**, positive and professional relationship with all athletes. Officials/Judges/Volunteers/Coaches and others in positions of authority and trust in relation to athletes aged 16 and 17 years must not engage in sexual relationships with them while that unequal power relationship exists
- Officials/Judges/Volunteers/Coaches and others should **never place themselves in a compromising position** by texting or communicating via social media sites with underage athletes. All such communications should be sent via the parents or guardians of the athlete.
- **Make adequate provision for First Aid** and do not encourage or allow participants to perform while injured. (Keep an accurate record of each injury and ensure that another official is present when a participant is being attended to and can corroborate the relevant details – see **Dressage Ireland** Accident form)
- **Ensure appropriate confidentiality** to all participants, as you may be privy to information about the young person or their family
- **Challenge bullying** in any form i.e. physical or emotional. Bullying is not an accepted behaviour towards anyone in **Dressage Ireland** - child, coach, volunteer, Judge, Official or parent

Any breaches of this Code will be dealt with through DI disciplinary procedures

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DECLARATION

I confirm that as an Official/Volunteer

Please state appointed Role(s)

I have read "Dressage Ireland's Child Welfare and Safeguarding Policies & Procedures" and agree to abide by its contents.

I agree to abide by the "Officials & Volunteers Code of Conduct"

Signature _____

Print Name _____

Date: _____

***A breach of this Code could result in disciplinary action under
Dressage Ireland Safeguarding Disciplinary Rules.***