

IHSGB Safeguarding Policy 2019 (due to be reviewed in/or before 2021). Revised: 22/01/2019

The Icelandic Horse Society of Great Britain (IHSGB) fully accepts its legal and moral obligation under The Children's Act (1989) and (2004), to provide a duty of care to protect all children and safeguard their welfare, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, parental or marital status, pregnancy, religion or belief, creed, sexual orientation and gender reassignment.

A child/young person is defined as a person under the age of 18 (the Children's' Act 1989 and 2004).

The IHSGB fully re-affirms its adoption of this Safeguarding Policy (Children, Young People and vulnerable adults), the full policy can be read below (*updated from the 2011 version*).

As at January 2019, Philippa Pringle becomes the nominated IHSGB member to lead on the Safeguarding Agenda for the Society, reporting to Peter Heathcote, Chairman of the Board of Trustees.

The aims of IHSGB Safeguarding Policy are:

- To ensure robust safeguarding arrangements and procedures are in operation to provide children and young people with appropriate safety and protection, allowing them to participate in a fun, safe environment and in an atmosphere of fair play.
- To take all reasonable, practical steps to protect children from harm, discrimination and degrading treatment and respect their rights, wishes and feelings.
- To ensure everyone understands their roles and responsibilities in respect of safeguarding and are provided with appropriate learning opportunities to recognise, identify and respond to signs of abuse, neglect and other safeguarding concerns relating to children and young people.
- To ensure appropriate action is taken in the event of incidents/concerns of abuse and support the individual/s who raise or disclose the concern. All concerns or allegations of poor practise or abuse are taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately.
- To ensure that confidential, detailed and accurate records of all safeguarding concerns are maintained and securely stored.
- The policy and procedures are mandatory for everyone involved with IHSGB. Failure to comply with the policy and procedures will be addressed without delay and may ultimately result in dismissal/exclusion from IHSGB.

Review:

The policy will be reviewed every three years, or in the following circumstances:

- Changes in legislation and/or government guidance
- As a result of, any other significant change or event.



IHSGB Safeguarding Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults:

IHSGB and those involved in IHSGB events have a responsibility to:

- Ensure the health and welfare of children whilst participating in IHSGB activities.
- Respect the rights, wishes and feelings of children.
- Implement procedures to safeguard the well-being of children and to protect them from harm, abuse or radicalisation.
- Ensure that the Director of Youth is trained to safeguard and protect children from abuse and to minimise the risk to themselves.
- Ensure that an appointed person is identified for Children, Young People and vulnerable adults to raise concerns in confidence with at all IHSGB events.
- Respond to all allegations of misconduct or abuse of children, young people and vulnerable adults with discretion, thoroughness and confidentiality through the appropriate channels without judgement.
- All incidents of alleged poor practice, misconduct and abuse must be taken seriously and responded to in a timely manner.
- The privacy of all persons involved must be respected.

In Practice:

The IHSGB takes child safeguarding very seriously.

By promoting good practice and addressing the subjects of bullying, emotional, physical and sexual abuse, all members of IHSGB are working to ensure that children, young people and vulnerable adults will be able to pursue their chosen sport in a safe, happy and enjoyable environment.

- It is the responsibility of child protection experts (within local authorities) to determine if the alleged abuse has taken place.
- It is the responsibility of all IHSGB members to report concerns.

At IHSGB Events:

At IHSGB events delegation of the responsibility for delivering the Safeguarding Agenda is devolved to the Event Organiser. All IHSGB event organisers must be made aware of their responsibilities and the named Safeguarding lead for the Society undertakes to do this. The Event Organiser's responsibilities are summarised in the following extract from the IHSGB's Governance and H&S Policy, dated April 2012 which should be read alongside this Safeguarding Policy:

EXTRACT STARTS: Overview of Child Protection Policy (please refer to detailed guidelines & procedures – published separately)

All sporting organizations which make provision for children and young people must ensure that:

- *the welfare of the child is paramount*
- *all children, whatever their age, culture, disability, gender, language, racial origin religious beliefs and/or sexual identity have the right to protection from abuse*
- *all suspicions and allegations of abuse and poor practice will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately*



- *all staff (paid/unpaid) working in our sport have a responsibility to report concerns to the appropriate officer.*

Staff/volunteers are not trained to deal with situations of abuse or to decide if abuse has occurred.

Our Policy: *IHSGB Ltd has a duty of care to safeguard all children involved in our Society from harm. All children have a right to protection, and the needs of disabled children and others who may be particularly vulnerable must be taken into account. The IHSGB Ltd will ensure the safety and protection of all children involved in our Society through adherence to the Child Protection guidelines adopted by the IHSGB Ltd.*

A child is defined as a person under the age of 18 (The Children Act 1989).

Our Aims: *The aim of the IHSGB Ltd Child Protection Policy is to promote good practice:*

- *providing children and young people with appropriate safety and protection whilst in the care of our Society*
- *allow all staff /volunteers to make informed and confident responses to specific child protection issues.*

*A full copy of our Child Protection Documentation is available in the Youth section of our website.....***EXTRACT ENDS**

Good Practice:

- Ensure that the experience of children, young adults and vulnerable adults is fun and enjoyable.
- Promote fairness.
- Confront and deal with bullying and never condone rule violations or the use of prohibited substances.
- Never promote radical views, always give a reasoned response.
- Be an excellent role model.
- Treat all children, young people and vulnerable adults equally.
- Respect the development stage of the individual and ensure that their development in Icelandic horse sport is appropriate to their needs and not based on those of the parents, instructors or IHSGB.
- Where possible, conduct all training in an open environment, and endeavour to avoid one-to one coaching in unobserved situations.
- Maintain a safe and appropriate relationship with riders.
- Avoid shared sleeping environments with children, young people and vulnerable adults – if unavoidable (i.e. camp / cup / tournaments) ensure that written parental permission is gained first.
 - Allow children to discuss this environment with their parents / guardians prior to the event. And raise any concerns.
- Avoid unnecessary physical contact with children and young people.
- Ensure that all coaching, if using physical contact technique, is neither intrusive nor disturbing and the riders' permission has been given to do so.
- Ensure that if changing facilities are required – that appointed adults work in pairs to supervise if needed.
- Communicate regularly with parents / guardians.



- Have written permission to act in 'loco parentis', if the need arises to give permission for the administration of emergency or medical treatment.
- Be aware of all medical conditions, food intolerances and medical treatments the child is receiving and keep a written record of any treatment required.
- When IHSGB children travel away from home, ensure that written permission is granted by the parent / guardian and that the IHSGB Director of Youth is satisfied with the safeguarding policies of the event attending.
- Where possible, ensure that mixed sexes of teams are accompanied by a female and male member of IHSGB and that children, young people, IHSGB Director of Youth and parents / guardians are satisfied with the accommodation arrangements made by 3rd parties.

Poor Practice:

- Avoid spending excessive amounts of time alone with one child.
- Avoid taking a child, young person or vulnerable adult to your home.
- Never engage in rough, physical or sexually provocative games.
- Never allow or engage in any form of inappropriate touching.
- Never allow children to use inappropriate language unchallenged.
- Never make sexual suggestive comments to a child.
- Never reduce a child to tears as a form of control.
- Never allow allegations made by a child, young person or vulnerable adult to be unrecorded, unchallenged or acted upon.
- Never do things of a personal nature for children or vulnerable adult that they can do for themselves.
- Never take children alone on a car journey.
- Never enforce radical ideas to children, young people and vulnerable adults.

Always avoid working alone with children, young people and vulnerable adults and ensure that written permission from parents / guardians is given for attendance at IHSGB events.

IHSGB will ensure that the safeguarding of children, young people and vulnerable adults is always given.

Version: January 2019

This IHSGB Safeguarding Policy to sit alongside/be underpinned by:



Policy paper

Annex 1: trustee safeguarding duties explained

Updated 6 December 2017

The basic principles

Trustees should proactively safeguard and promote the welfare of their charity's beneficiaries. They should take reasonable steps to ensure that these beneficiaries or others who come into contact with their charity do not, as a result, come to harm. This is a key governance priority.



Trustees are required to act exclusively in the best interests of their charity and have a duty to act responsibly and with reasonable care and skill.

They must make sure that their charity's assets are used only to support or carry out the charity's purposes. This includes avoiding exposing the charity's assets, beneficiaries or reputation to undue risk, and taking clear and reasonable steps to protect its beneficiaries from harm. Trustees should also be clear how incidents and allegations will be handled should they arise.

On occasion charities may be targeted by people who abuse their position and privileges to gain access to vulnerable people or their records for inappropriate or illegal purposes. Trustees must be alert to this risk and the need to manage it. Protecting children and adults from the risk of radicalisation should also be seen as part of this wider safeguarding responsibility.

Charities that fund other organisations, including overseas partners, whose activities involve contact with children or adults at risk, should carry out appropriate due diligence on the recipient body. Trustees should be confident that the partner is capable of delivering the proposed activities or services and has in place appropriate systems of control, including adequate safeguarding policies and procedures.

Trustees who act in breach of their legal duties can be held responsible for the resulting consequences and for any loss the charity incurs. When the Commission looks into cases of potential breach of trust or duty or other misconduct or mismanagement, it may take account of any evidence that the trustees have exposed the charity, its assets, or its beneficiaries to harm or undue risk by not following good safeguarding practice.

Trustees, at their meeting on 28th April 2018, confirmed their awareness of, and compliance with, their safeguarding duties as set out in the principles set out above, and in more detail, on the Charity Commission website.

April 2018

Trustees, at their meeting on 20th January 2019, re-confirmed their awareness of, and compliance with the above. Furthermore IHSGB Member Philippa Pringle took the lead role in delivering the day to day Safeguarding Agenda for the Society reporting to Peter Heathcote, Chairman of the Board of Trustees.

January 2019