

Role Of National Children's Officer

All Children's Officer should be child centred in focus and have as their primary aim the establishment of a youth centred ethos. Their role is to represent the children in the Club, to highlight areas where improvements can be made, to ensure that the children's welfare is kept always to the fore of the Club. They also take responsibility for ensuring that all aspects of HSI Code of Ethics & Good Practice are being implemented. As the link between the youth members and the Committee, The Children's Officer should be represented on the National/Club and Branch committee. It is imperative that the Children's Officer has an outlet available to them to liaise with all members of the Affiliate and this can be conducted through a seat on the Board/Committee/Executive.

THE CHILDREN'S OFFICER ROLE WILL INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING FUNCTIONS (*This list is not exhaustive*):

- To influence policy and practice within the Affiliate in order to prioritise children's needs
- Familiarisation with all relevant documents and legislation
- Circulation of all relevant literature within HSI
- Liaise with all levels of the organisation
- To ensure that athletes, coaches, parents/guardians, officials and spectators are aware of and adhere to the 'Code of Ethics & Good Practice for Youth Sport in HSI'
- Ensure all new volunteers must undertake safeguarding training within 6 months of taking up their role (ROI – Code of Ethics and NI – Safeguarding Children & Young People in Sport.)
- Ensure volunteers successfully complete the Garda Vetting or AccessNI vetting process
- Ensure volunteers read and sign up to HSI Club Code of Conduct
- Take responsibility for on-going education of the Code within the Affiliate
- To ensure that all Coaches have the relevant level of coaching accreditation appropriate to the level of the activity
- Hold internal information sessions during the year where required
- Implement a Fair Play Policy for all levels of the Affiliate
- Promote an Anti-Bullying Ethos amongst young members/coaches/parents etc.

It is important to note that Children's Officers do not have the responsibility of investigating or validating child protection concerns within the club and have no counselling or therapeutic role. This responsibility lies with the Health Boards and Gardai.

Link to Garda Vetting Form Payment Page: <https://www.horsesportireland.ie/governance/garda-vetting-form/>