



## **APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP ON IHRA SUB-COMMITTEES**

Irish Harness Racing Association (IHRA) is the governing body for harness racing on the Isle of Ireland. The mission of the IHRA is to develop a vibrant harness racing industry that promotes participation and racing excellence, the breeding of world class horses whilst maximising returns to its stakeholders.

As the industry governing body, IHRA's function is to:

- Direct
- Control
- Regulate
- Manage
- Promote

the sport of harness racing in Ireland.

IHRA strives for the values of:

- Best-Practice Governance meeting all standards for an efficient and vibrant harness racing industry
- To protect the health, safety and welfare of the horses
- To ensure the safety and welfare of racing participants and officials
- To instil confidence in the general-public through the integrity of harness racing

The Government supported and funded an independent Economic Report into the sport and industry of Harness Racing in Ireland was released in November. This document is the road-map for the development of the sport in the Isle of Ireland going forward.

Through this Report, there is the means for upgrading and new tracks, stabling and equine facilities – in all three regions – Annaghmore, Cork and Dublin

Following the Reports' recommendations will deliver longer-term benefits to all participants and stakeholders including:

- A greater opportunity to race
- Receiving larger prize money
- Being part of bigger race championships
- Enjoying greater industry support for your horse
- Receiving best practice veterinary care
- Increasing the means to purchase and breed horses
- Utilising optimum facilities for both training and on race day

For any organisation to oversee an industry or sport, correct operation and governance structures must be in place.

IHRA is fulfilling this requirement.

Areas of management by IHRA Board will be

- Finance including Budgets, Audit and Risk Committee
- Strategic Planning
- Capital Expenditure
- Nominations and Remunerations
- Marketing, PR & Integration
- Welfare and Veterinary

The following framework has been put in place. The Board has been expanded from six to nine members. It is made up of industry representatives from around the entire country and three non-Executive Directors who bring outside experience in specific areas to the IHRA.

To ensure voices from Members and Stakeholders are heard this structure sees the establishment of sub-committees including:

- Breeding Committee
- Racecourse Committee
- Stakeholders Committee

Sub-Committees will be the key operating component of the sport going forward. Members of these Committees will be instrumental in shaping the future direction of the sport of Harness Racing on the Isle of Ireland.

The purpose of these sub-committees is to act as a collective within the specified area and review the existing practises and identify the needs of future development. Recommendations will then be put to the IHRA Board for approval and implementation.

Committee membership will be made up of the Chief Executive Officer (to be appointed) and will be Chaired by a person who also sits on the IHRA Board. Each Sub-Committee will have up to ten members with a minimum of two IHRA Board representatives.

If you are interested in learning more with the potential of becoming a Sub-Committee Member, please read-on.

#### Stakeholder & Member Opportunities to Join Sub-Committees

The following Sub-Committees are seeking interested persons to become Members.

If you believe you have the skill-set to make a difference in the development of Irish harness racing and the time and dedication, please consider putting yourself forward.

Governance training will be included.

The key requirements are:

- You have a skill-set within that area where you can make a difference
- The ability to promote, develop, listen, identify, report, train and analyse in the positions that are based on relationship management and development within this area
- You will have the time to meet at least once a month at a nominated location
- You will have the time for meetings remotely (using technology) as required
- Working with other Committee Members
- Make yourself available at least quarterly for open member-forums and discussions
- Ability to have ideas and a 'can-do' attitude and approach
- Lending personal expertise
- Believe you can make a positive contribution

Three Sub-Committees have vacancies for Members and Stakeholders. These are:

- Breeding Committee
- Racecourse Committee
- Stakeholders Committee

Their key mandate and functions are as follows:

#### 1. Breeding Committee

The Breeding Committee advises and makes recommendations to the IHRA Board following consultation with breeders in relation to:

- A programme of investment in a Breeders' Premium fund
- Other initiatives to promote breeding
- Ensure the integrity of breeding and quality of the breeding stock is of the highest order
- Attract new domestic breeders to the sport
- Develop international relations to import, breed and raise foals
- Establish a Sales programme both domestically and internationally

#### 2. Stakeholder Committee

Key Function to allow the key industry stakeholders a voice and viewpoint collectively rather than individually.

Issues, concerns and suggestions can then be channelled through this Committee and to the Board. Industry Stakeholders to receive representation are:

- Owners
- Trainers
- Drivers

Open forums are to be conducted quarterly by the Sub-Committee for stakeholders to have an opportunity to raise and discuss issues. These sessions and recommendations will then be presented to the Board.

Other key functions

- Training
  - Ensure best practise within accepted methods
  - Identify and report training trends
  - Training the Trainer programmes
- Drivers
  - Ensure best practise within accepted methods
  - Identify and report driving trends
  - Training the Trainer programmes
- Owners
  - Working with Marketing to identify and promote new owners to the sport

#### 3. Racecourse Committee

With the proposed re-structuring of the racecourses for operational purposes to be under the banner of IHRA this Committee will need to ensure racetracks meet certain standards

- Racing
  - Programming & Race Fields
- Feature Race Planning and Implementation
- Racetracks

- Maintenance
- All Health & Safety Standards are met and kept up to date
- Working in conjunction with the Finance Committee, capital expenditure on racetracks, improvements and upgrades are budgeted and presented to the Board for approval.

### **Applications**

To be considered, please provide an application nominating which Sub-Committee you would like to join along with a brief summary of what you believe you can contribute.

You can apply for multiple Sub-Committees however, if successful must only be a Member of one Sub-Committee.

There is no guarantee your application will be successful, and decisions made will be final.

Applications should be sent to:  
IHRA Company Secretary via email:  
[info@irishharnessracing.com](mailto:info@irishharnessracing.com)

Closing date for Applications is Friday, 5<sup>th</sup> of January 2018.

Should you be appointed to a Sub-Committee, you must be available to attend first meeting in second half of January 2018.