

As phase 2 of the Roadmap for Reopening Ireland commences Equestrian Interschools Ireland would like to provide an information update for members.

The committee of Equestrian Interschools Ireland have been closely watching and observing all of the guidelines issued nationally by the Irish Government, Department of Health and Horse Sport Ireland. Per our previous announcement, all championships for 2020 have been deferred. The league final and championship competitions had originally been scheduled for April 2020. It had been hoped that these could have been rescheduled for the start of the 2020/2021 season.

This can only happen if the Department of Health and Irish Government guidelines and HSI and school guidelines would enable them to take place. The decision with regard to running the final at the start of the next school year has been extensively discussed with school representatives. The consensus was that there is still much uncertainty with regard to school sports and what will happen in September. We still await guidelines on school sports and it is likely that any decision about recommencing school sport will have to wait until the commencement of the school year. Therefore, we will not be able to reach a definitive conclusion on the running of the final and the commencement of the 2020/2021 league until there is further clarity with regard to school sports.

We are conscious that a lot of our members and our sponsor for the final are anxious to see the final taking place. But this can only happen when we have clarity with regard to the commencement of school sports. We will continue to monitor the situation. The committee would like to reassure members and officials that their safety is of the utmost concern. We still await guidelines on school sports and it is likely as stated above that any decision about recommencing school sport and thus our Interschools season will have to wait until the commencement of the school year.

Finally, Equestrian Interschools Ireland would like to encourage members to continue to train individually, riding in a safe environment with all safety precautions, adhering to the most current Department of Health and HSI guidelines. Continue to set small achievable goals each day with the knowledge that your adherence to date has assisted Ireland to reach this point where we can resume some activity. We have all travelled a long and challenging road. It is very important that we do not jeopardise the progress achieved to date by failing to continue to adhere to guidelines, social distancing, respiratory etiquette and hand washing procedures. Take every measure possible to manage your safety and the safety of the people around you. With this in mind the committee will do everything within their power to assist all members return to Interschools Activities in a safe, fun and enjoyable manner as soon as we are permitted to do so.

Continue to stay safe and positive.