

Racecourse Manager

Sligo Races | Sligo, Ireland | On-site

About Sligo Races

County Sligo Races CLG, trading as Sligo Races, operates Sligo Racecourse, a long-established sporting, social and community venue located in the heart of Sligo Town in Ireland's scenic North West.

Serving a substantial regional hinterland and embedded in the local community, Sligo Races stages a minimum of nine race meetings each year, across National Hunt and Flat racing, from a modern facility which has been significantly developed in recent years.

The Board of Sligo Races now wishes to recruit a Racecourse Manager to fill the vacancy arising due to the scheduled retirement of the existing Racecourse Manager.

Job Purpose

Reporting directly to the Board of Directors, the Racecourse Manager will lead the company at executive level and will have responsibility for the effective day-to-day operation, promotion and future development of Sligo Racecourse.

This is an on-site senior management role requiring strong operational, commercial, organisational and stakeholder management capability. The successful candidate will be given considerable autonomy to contribute to the future development of Sligo Racecourse and to implement agreed strategic, operational and commercial priorities.

Key Responsibilities

Race Day & Operational Management

- Plan, prepare, monitor and control race day activities to ensure the smooth and professional delivery of all race meetings.
- Coordinate staff, contractors, suppliers and race day teams as required.
- Ensure the racecourse, facilities and services are prepared and maintained to a high standard.
- Work effectively under pressure in the dynamic environment of a live race day.

Commercial Development & Promotion

- Promote Sligo Races locally and nationally, with a particular focus on maximising race day attendances.
- Identify opportunities to grow sponsorship, partnerships, hospitality and commercial activity.
- Support the continued development and profile of Sligo Races as a key sporting and community venue in the North West.

Stakeholder Engagement

- Continue and develop relationships with key stakeholders, including race day participants, sponsors, patrons, race industry bodies, suppliers and the wider local community.
- Represent Sligo Races professionally and positively with internal and external stakeholders.
- Build effective relationships that support the ongoing success and reputation of the racecourse.

Governance, Finance & Board Support

- Provide support to the Board and its subcommittees through reporting, planning and implementing agreed priorities.
- Support robust financial management and budgetary control.
- Assist with the oversight of capital projects, facility improvements and development works as required.

Health, Safety & Compliance

- Ensure compliance with health and safety, regulatory and governance requirements.
- Maintain appropriate standards, procedures and records in line with the operational and regulatory needs of the racecourse.

Qualifications

A relevant third-level qualification would be an advantage but is not essential.

Skills and Experience

The ideal candidate will have:

- Prior management experience in racing, hospitality, events, sport, tourism, venue management, facilities management or a comparable operational environment.
- Strong organisational, administrative and IT skills.
- Business acumen and the ability to support sound financial management and commercial development.
- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills.
- The ability to work under pressure and manage multiple priorities.
- A professional approach and positive attitude in dealing with stakeholders.
- Flexibility around race meetings and the operational requirements of the racecourse.
- Strong judgement, initiative and decision-making capability.

An interest in horse racing would be an advantage but is not essential.

Key Competencies

Leadership

- Leads with professionalism, sound judgement and accountability.
- Works effectively with the Board, stakeholders, staff, contractors and race day teams.
- Takes ownership of operational delivery and agreed priorities.

Planning & Organisation

- Plans and manages race day, operational and administrative priorities effectively.
- Maintains high standards of preparation, coordination and follow-through.
- Can manage competing demands in a seasonal and event-led environment.

Commercial Awareness

- Understands the importance of attendance, sponsorship, partnerships and financial sustainability.
- Identifies opportunities to support the growth and profile of Sligo Races.
- Makes practical decisions that support the long-term success of the racecourse.

Stakeholder Management

- Builds and maintains strong relationships with sponsors, patrons, race industry bodies, suppliers, participants and the local community.
- Communicates clearly, professionally and confidently.
- Represents Sligo Races positively at all times.

Resilience & Flexibility

- Remains calm and effective under pressure.
- Adapts to the demands of live race days and event-based operations.
- Demonstrates a practical, solutions-focused approach.

Compliance & Governance

- Understands the importance of health and safety, regulation, governance and risk management.
- Supports clear reporting, record keeping and agreed procedures.
- Maintains high standards of professionalism and accountability.

Salary

A competitive salary and package will be offered, reflecting the seniority, responsibility and scope of the role, together with the experience and skills of the successful candidate.

How to Apply

To apply, please submit your Curriculum Vitae and a detailed cover letter outlining your suitability for the role.

Applications should be submitted by email to: post@coggins.ie

Deadline for applications: 5th July 2026

County Sligo Races CLG is an equal opportunities employer.