

British Harness  
Racing Club



## **The British Harness Racing Club**

### **Coronavirus organised sporting events & grassroots events delivery plan**

April 2021

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## **SECTION A – General Guidance**

### **1. Introduction**

This document contains strict measures which must be undertaken by all attendees and racetracks during race meetings. This document is derived from that published by the BHA and will be updated as government guidance changes, some of these procedures and requirements may change, or vary regionally, and this document may be subject to multiple updates at short notice.

These measures are to safeguard everyone's health and wellbeing during the current and continuing COVID-19 situation, to ensure that racing can continue in a safe environment.

This document uses UK Government guidance as its framework, as well as reflecting any variations in guidance from the Governments of Scotland and/or Wales and interprets and applies that guidance specifically to horseracing.

This document is aimed at all attendees at race meetings, who must follow new and revised protocols. While every effort will be made to ensure the wide distribution of updated versions of this document, it is the responsibility of all persons attending any race day to ensure they are up to date with current procedures.

Employers of anyone attending race meetings will need to ensure that any such employees/volunteers are fully aware and support all protocols.

All personnel should note that government guidance in Scotland and Wales may differ subtly or substantially from guidance in England at any time. Anyone working at a race meeting in Scotland or Wales should ensure they are suitably aware of any differences.

Full cooperation is essential to ensure we work together to maintain a COVID-19 working environment.

If an individual has any specific concerns about returning to racing under the guidance contained in this document they should contact the race track/racing manager in the first instance. If this is not appropriate for any reason, they should contact their BHRC council member.

### **2. General COVID-19 procedures for all permitted attendees at race meetings. Risk and Compliance**

By attending a race fixture, attendees acknowledge and agree that notwithstanding the risk mitigation strategies employed by the BHRC and other industry bodies in accordance with Government guidance, it is impossible to eliminate all risk and there remains the potential for unintended transmission of COVID-19 between race fixture attendees. All race fixture attendees must play their part in minimising the risk to themselves and others by complying with these guidelines.

The BHRC and the racetrack management have the right to remove any attendee for any breach of the COVID-19 requirements. All breaches will be reported to the BHRC Stewards who will also be able to impose alternative sanctions including formal warnings.

Do not come racing if you have symptoms of COVID-19.

Do not touch your face, whether or not you are wearing a face covering and/or gloves

Wash or sanitise your hands as frequently as you can, following the handwashing guidance

Observe social distancing protocols

Observe the recommended cough/tissue etiquette at all times

Follow all racecourse signage and obey the instructions of staff and officials who are enforcing social distancing and other protocols

Avoid areas of the racecourse unrelated to your role

If you become unwell while racing, go immediately to your vehicle, return home and follow government advice. ONLY if you do not have a vehicle, please go immediately to the isolation area.

If you are in an at-risk group, you should follow UK Government guidance

Attendance lists will need to be generated and provided as follows:

- Trainers and stable staff (Via email to BHRC office at least 48 hours in advance of the race day)
- Drivers (Via email to BHRC office at least 48 hours in advance of the race day)
- Owners and guests (Via email to BHRC office at least 48 hours in advance of the race day)
- Racecourse staff and contractors (promotors to inform BHRC office via email)
- Medical, broadcasting staff and photographer (promotors to inform BHRC office via email)

BHRC office to then provide promotors with a collated list of attendees.

## **SECTION B – Medical guidance**

### **3. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and Face Coverings**

The advice from Public Health England (PHE) is that the principal means to reduce transmission of COVID-19 are:

- Social distancing
- Hygiene, both personal (specifically hand hygiene) and appropriate cleaning of workplaces to avoid transmission from surface contamination

The use of PPE and/or face coverings is not a substitute for these two methods but is an adjunct, particularly in clinical areas or where Social Distancing cannot be maintained.

Despite the above, and despite the health screening procedures, individuals with COVID-19 infection may have no symptoms and it cannot be guaranteed that the racecourse will be entirely COVID-19 free. The measures outlined elsewhere in this document are designed to minimise risk, but they cannot eliminate it altogether.

Consequently, to protect participants, appropriate PPE and/or face coverings must be worn within the racecourse by personnel who are unable to maintain social distancing.

### **4. General hygiene**

Track management must do the following:

- Bottles of antibacterial hand sanitiser/hand sanitising stations to be provided at various points throughout the racetrack – please note hand sanitiser must be at least 60% alcohol based.
- Ensure frequent cleaning of work areas and equipment between uses, using usual cleaning products. Therefore provide cleaning products that can be left permanently near each working area. (start car, secretary's office, commentary box, etc).
- Provide additional handwashing facilities or sanitizers, for instance, stewards' areas,

commentary point, secretary's office.

- Put up signs to build awareness of good handwashing technique, the need to increase handwashing frequency, avoid touching your face and to cough or sneeze into a tissue which is binned safely, or into your arm if a tissue is not available.
- Set clear use and cleaning guidance for toilets to ensure they are kept clean and social distancing is achieved as much as possible. (Special care should be taken for cleaning of portable toilets).
- Provide hand drying facilities – either paper towels or electrical driers.

## **5. Health Screening**

Health screening must be carried out by a racecourse COVID-19 dedicated official.

### **SECTION C – Advance preparation prior to race days**

## **6. Attendance restrictions**

Until further notice, access to the racetrack will be strictly limited. The following people only are permitted to attend race meetings:

- BHRC officials and stewards as required to facilitate the race meeting, (as per BHRC governance)
- Medical and ambulance personnel (as required to service the race meeting)
- Racecourse Veterinary Surgeons (as required to service the race meeting)
- Farrier (as required to service the race meeting)
- One racecourse photographer, to be determined by each racecourse
- Race commentator, to be determined by each racecourse
- Camera Operator (as required to provide core broadcast and integrity services)
- One Trainer (or their representative) per yard represented and each trainer can have up to three licensed grooms
- One Owner plus one guest
- Drivers competing at the race meeting
- Horse transport drivers

These restrictions will be regularly reviewed and we will seek to increase the number of attendees aligned to COVID-19 government guidance.

**Driver face coverings** - ALL attendees must wear a face mask/snood to cover the facial area.

## **7. Information required prior to Race Meeting**

Attendance lists will be generated and provided as follows:

- Trainers, grooms, owners and guests (Via email to BHRC office at close of entries or declaration time if this is at least 48 hours in advance of the race day)
- Drivers (Via email to BHRC office at close of entries or declaration time if this is at least 48 hours in advance of the race day)
- Racecourse officials (promoters to inform BHRC office via email)
- Medical, broadcasting staff and photographer (promoters to inform BHRC office via email)

BHRC office to then provide promoters with a collated list of attendees.

#### **8. Maintaining up-to-date staff records (Trainers and stable staff)**

As the BHRC will need to communicate with all individuals who are registered to attend a race day, all trainers are asked to ensure that the stable employee records for any individual who is likely to attend a fixture are up to date. This includes any transportation staff who may be attending the fixture. The key details to check are:

- Full, correct name
- Date of birth
- Contact details (including mobile phone and email address for the individual.)
- Next of kin details
- Ensure that the Grooms have the appropriate License

#### **9. Refusal of access**

In some circumstances, individuals who were expecting to attend a race day might be denied access by the racecourse and/or the BHRC. In relation to the protocols contained in this document, it should be noted that the reasons why access may be denied include (but are not limited to):

- They are not in one of the permitted categories
- Advance documentation required has not been received
- The individual was not on the list to attend
- They did not pass the required racecourse entry screening

#### **10. Selection of horses by trainers (Trainers)**

Trainers are also asked to assist with the smooth running of racedays by avoiding sending any difficult or “fractious” horses. Further information as below. ALL declared horses should be well schooled, to minimise time taken to run the races and to help maintain appropriate social distancing.

**Note that NO companion animals or horses not declared to race will be permitted into the racecourse.**

Trainers are therefore asked to consider not entering horses during initial resumption should they fall into any of the categories set out below;

- Can't be tied up
- Unruly in pre-race
- Unruly at start
- Difficult loaders (horsebox)
- Horses requiring a traveler/companion

#### **11. Preparing the horsebox (Trainers, stable staff and/or transporters)**

The horsebox must be disinfected before and after each transport to a racecourse, or prior to loading any horse(s) and equipment:

Areas to concentrate on for disinfecting include, but are not limited to, all handles, clips, latches, ramps or any other areas where staff may have had, or will have contact.

## **12. Preparing the racing equipment (Trainers and/or stable staff)**

Trainers are encouraged to supply individual pieces of equipment per horse.

It is important that prior to and after handling or transferring any equipment, that hands are washed and/or sanitised to prevent any viral spread

## **13. Checklist**

All personnel attending race days should ensure they have brought the following:

- Food/refreshments if appropriate
- Disinfectant/cleaning materials for wiping down vehicles and equipment
- Battery-operated phone charger (optional)
- Hand sanitiser – while hand sanitiser points will be available on course, all attendees should bring a personal supply. Drivers and stable staff may also wish to bring their own liquid soap and flannel or single use cleansing wipes.
- Face covering

Staff accompanying horses should also bring:

- Racing equipment - prepared, bagged and labelled as per the protocol.
- Buckets, sponges and scrapers for washing down

Please note no race cards will currently be produced, therefore all staff must be aware of the order of racing before arrival.

## **SECTION D – Travelling to the racecourse**

### **14. Considerations for travelling**

Unless there is an emergency or it is unavoidable, cars and horseboxes should travel directly from home/stable yard to racecourse.

Where possible, individuals should travel to the racecourse separately (unless they are from the same household). Where individuals travel together, they must remain in the vehicle together. If one does not pass the required checks, everyone in the vehicle (and the horse, where applicable) will be instructed to leave the site.

## **SECTION E – Arrival at the racecourse**

### **15. Arrival times**

Arrival times for anyone NOT accompanying a horse may vary by racecourse. In most cases, arrival times will be as usual but attendees should allow an additional 15-30 minutes to pass through the checkpoints. If you do arrive early, please avoid congregating with other attendees.

Trainers are encouraged to allow more time upon arrival than usual in order to clear the checkpoints.

### **16. Car parking**

Car parking arrangements will vary by race courses. Please obey any signage or instructions and follow social distancing protocols when using the car parks.

### **17. Withdrawals and non-runners (Trainers, officials)**

Information will be provided to trainers or their representatives on the protocols for notifying

officials of any non-runners or withdrawals. In most cases, track management should be informed, who will then inform the Stewards and commentators.

## **SECTION F – Specific areas of the racecourse**

### **18. Horse box areas**

- Parking will be monitored to ensure adequate social distancing
- Grooms and drivers arriving by car must use the public parking area to reduce congestion in the horse box area. When walking between each area social distancing rules must be adhered to.
- Signage on social distancing must be put up around the parking area.
- Trainers to bring their own water as shared water supplies will not be in use at the track.
- No horses to enter the track until participants in the previous race have all left the track.

### **19. Rails, secretary's office and around**

- When watching the racing social distancing must be adhered to
- After use number cloths should be returned and disinfected using methods supplied by the track. Social distancing measures must be adhered to.
- Toilets must be regularly cleaned
- Hand sanitizer and spray sanitizer must be provided in communal areas.
- Signage on social distancing must be put up around all communal areas.

### **20. Stewards' Room (Officials, trainers, Drivers)**

Access to the Stewards' Room will be strictly limited to relevant BHRC officials and individuals involved in enquiries.

- All furniture and workstations will be arranged so that 2m social distancing can be maintained.

Where this is not possible, an alternative Stewards' Room will be provided. This will:

- Have suitable access
- Have 60% alcohol-based hand sanitiser and/or hand washing station.

Stewards/staff briefings will be conducted remotely.

### **21. Stewards' Enquiries**

Provided social distancing can be maintained in the Stewards' Room, enquiries will be conducted on the racecourse in the usual manner wherever possible.

Stewards enquiries may be considered by telephone.

On rare occasions when enquiries are required and social distancing cannot be maintained, the Stewards will have agreed beforehand how to proceed, finding a solution which maintains the requirement that all parties should be able to hear all the evidence given by all the witnesses. This may require the use of an additional room, using video conferencing facilities and racecourses, which will need to have such a room available. A BHRC Official will be present in this room throughout the enquiry. Other matters may be referred to the BHRC for further consideration at a further date.



## **SECTION G – Racecourse setup and facilities**

### **22. Catering**

Before consuming any food, hands must be washed or sanitised

Drinks must NOT be shared.

People are advised to eat and drink, where possible in their vehicles.

Extra rubbish bins will be provided and must be used by attendees, to maintain site hygiene.

### **23. Betting facilities**

Bookmakers will be permitted in line with the BHA protocols.

### **24. Other equipment**

All equipment being brought on to site to be used by multiple individuals must be disinfected prior to arrival. All contractors will be responsible for disinfection of their own equipment in line with their procedures.

Where an individual brings equipment for their own use (e.g. BHRC officials' laptops, blood gas analyzers), they will be responsible for the disinfection of these to their own satisfaction. Individuals must not use another person's equipment without first ensuring that this has been disinfected.

## **SECTION H – Post race procedures**

### **25. Post-race checks (Drivers, stable staff and officials)**

On completion of the race, the drivers should proceed to the horsebox area (or Winners' Enclosure) and await pick-up by stable staff.

Procedures for the Winners' Enclosure and area(s) for other runners will vary by racecourse.

Access to the Winners' Enclosure will be limited to the horse owner and their guest, the trainer/representative, one member of stable staff and the Driver. The grounds team, vets and drivers, will be on hand in equine areas post-race to assist with cooling/any other issues.

Once the horse is secured, Drivers will get off the horse while stable staff will maintain as much distance as safely possible, including standing on the offside, if safe.

Stable staff should then proceed to the horsebox, or to the sampling unit if directed.

### **26. Equine testing/sampling procedures (Trainers, stable staff, officials)**

The usual race day requirements for equine sampling will remain in place.

Social distancing must be observed where possible when samples are taken.

The sampling process will be as follows:

- Identifies horse using microchip protocol with stable staff on the offside of the horse.
- Stable staff should ideally remain a safe distance away during the sampling process.
- Witnessing should be done from a safe distance
- Stable staff must wash or disinfect their hands as soon as possible after collecting the horse, which in most cases will be when washing down the horse after the race. Tap/bucket handles should be wiped down before and after use.
- The trainer or representative can retrieve any equipment at the designated transfer area, being sure to follow the transfer protocols.

## **27. Trainer and media debriefs (Trainers, drivers, media)**

Ideally, the post-race debrief between the trainer and drivers should take place quickly after the race observing social distancing.

If a media debrief is required, this will take place in a designated area with appropriate equipment to allow remote interviews to take place.

## **SECTION I – Broadcast, media and photographer protocols**

### **28. Broadcast, media & photography protocols (ALL)**

Any member of the media wishing to attend must contact the BHRC/Track management to be placed on the official list of attendees.

## **SECTION J – Leaving the racecourse**

### **29. Departure process (All personnel)**

- On completion of their role, each individual should leave the racecourse as soon as practically possible.
- Individuals who finish at the same time should return to their cars either separately or observing social distancing.
- Any individual who has left the site must complete the arrival procedures again prior to remittance.