

# Coronavirus (COVID-19) – Member Q&A

Update: 17 April 2020



## Membership and horse registration

### *What are the benefits of having a membership when I can't compete?*

At this time, your continued support for British Dressage is valued and welcome, as it will help to safeguard our organisation during this crisis period and ensure we all have a healthy sport to return to. Even though you might not be able to compete, there are still plenty of other benefits you will continue to enjoy.

Most importantly, as a member you have public liability insurance that covers you and all horses you own, as well as personal accident cover for a variety of equestrian pursuits from Shearwater. The insurance cover alone is worth £80-£100, so it's a great benefit to have. If you have questions on the cover you automatically receive as a member, contact the team at Shearwater on 01992 707316. See the insurance section below for further detail.

There's also the free legal helpline available to members via Harrison Clark Rickerbys, which will be extremely beneficial during these times of uncertainty. Members are entitled to 30 minutes of free advice on any matter and there are special fixed fee packages and discounts for BD members with HCR.

The BD magazine will continue to be published every six weeks, with training content and tips, and we'll be adding more features to keep members interested, engaged and entertained during the shutdown period. We are also looking at creating more on-line content that members will be able to access exclusively on our website, so you'll still get value from your membership over coming weeks.

Most importantly, continued membership also ensures that any qualifications you've gained to date are maintained and remain valid. Once the sport is able to resume, these qualifications will still count towards any future or rescheduled competitions.

Supporting BD costs a Full member 25p per day, a Premier Club member 16p per day and Club member just 10p per day. During this time we will be continuing to work on a number of important projects, including our new judge education system, youth development pathways, online content for youth and coach education, to ensure your sport is in great shape to come back to.

### *Can membership and/or horse registrations be suspended or extended?*

We're considering a number of different options at the moment, although as members will appreciate we simply don't know how long the current uncertainty will last. Most importantly, we need to make sure that there is a viable sport to come back to when restrictions are lifted and life returns to normality. That said, we are mindful of the financial impact this is having on everyone and we will certainly look to make further concessions as and when we can afford to do so. We'll keep you updated on any developments over coming weeks.

To put this into context, a three-month suspension of membership fees and horse registrations would cost BD in excess of £575,000. This is before the substantial lost income from competitions, training, events, starter levies and sponsorship. Depending on how long this goes on for, the financial losses from this crisis could well run into seven figures by the end of the year. As we don't yet know what the full impact will be, it would be irresponsible to make any decisions at present, as our cash reserves would diminish rapidly without prudent planning. This continues to be reviewed regularly by the Board and Finance & Business Development Committee on a weekly basis and we will make further announcements when the long term impact becomes clearer.

## **Member insurance**

### ***What insurance do I get with my membership?***

Full (including Life, Trial and Winter memberships), Premier Club and Club members receive two forms of cover from our insurance providers Shearwater. Public Personal Liability, up to £30 million in any one occurrence, as well as Personal Accident Insurance, which covers accidental death, loss of limb or sight and permanent disablement as a consequence of any horse related accident.

### ***What's covered under the Public Personal Liability insurance?***

The member, any horses owned by the member when ridden with the member's permission, and a groom engaged in working for the insured member, are all covered for payment of sums awarded under civil law due to accidental death or injury to third parties or damage to third party property. Some exclusions apply, please see the 2020 Members' Handbook, page 198.

### ***Am I only covered for BD activities?***

No, both insurances cover a member while engaged in any horse related activity while your membership is valid. There are a few specific provisions in each of the insurance policies, but essentially you're covered for most equine activities – even when not competing or training.

### ***Am I still covered as BD/BEF are recommending we don't ride?***

This is only advice provided by your governing body, at this stage it remains your decision whether or not to ride, where it is deemed safe and appropriate to do so within government guidelines. The Personal Public Liability and Personal Accident cover that Shearwater provides to British Dressage members offers cover for the duration of your membership.

Please note that if the government puts restrictions on the riding of horses, yet you decide to ride anyway, then insurance cover would not be available in the event of an accident. However, until the Government specifies that riding is not permitted your insurance cover will continue as normal.

### ***Do I get this cover under my other insurances – like horse or home?***

Possibly, but you'd need to check carefully with the terms and conditions applied by your insurance providers. It is unlikely that the same provisions would be available under general home insurance. The insurances you get as a member have been developed in line with member needs by experienced insurance professionals to provide specific cover.

## **British Dressage**

### ***Can BD still function as an organisation with the country in lockdown?***

Following government advice, the decision was taken to close the office on Friday 20 March – and employees have been working from home since the lockdown was imposed. Obviously the health and well-being of our staff remains a top priority during this crisis, so we will continue to work remotely until it is safe to return to the office.

Everything can still be managed effectively using the range of technologies available. Fortunately we have invested a significant amount in our IT over the past three years, so our new BD Online portal allows us to have remote access to our sport operations and membership systems. We are also connected through file sharing and team communication applications, while our telephony system is also a digital platform and can operate remotely. So, it continues to be 'business as usual' throughout the suspension period and you will still be able to [contact us by email and phone](#) as normal.

On 1 April, we furloughed around half our staff under the government Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme. We are now working with skeleton staffing levels in each department, so please be patient if it takes slightly longer than normal to respond to your query. Please note that as we are unable to fulfil orders, our online shop service has been suspended until further notice.

### ***Is BD in danger of going bankrupt if there is a prolonged period of inactivity?***

We are fortunate that our prudent financial planning and fiscal responsibility has put us in a reasonably secure position. Our reserves currently stand at around £2.2million which should provide us with some stability through these uncertain times, but this is an unprecedented situation.

There is certainly no room for complacency as these reserves will be significantly depleted by the current crisis – and of course we will need these reserves during the recovery period to get the sport back up and running again. With this in mind we hope that members will continue to support us through this crisis so collectively we can ensure that there is a strong and viable sport to return to when we are able to resume.

### ***What measures is BD putting in place to cut costs?***

BD has already taken direct action to minimise costs and limit operational overheads. This includes reducing staffing levels significantly, in accordance with the furloughing provisions of the government's Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme. A skeleton team will remain in place across all departments, with employees continuing to work remotely to maintain service and support levels to members.

In addition, a number of projects for 2020 have been put on hold indefinitely, while we focus our resources on those critical areas that will need funding first. The operational plan is being reviewed by the Board and technical committees to re-evaluate our priorities for this year and make savings wherever possible to mitigate the financial impact of this crisis.

## **National competition and events**

### ***How long are BD competitions going to be suspended for?***

The situation continues to evolve and there is no certainty around the timeframes for a resumption of sport as a whole at the present time. We have currently suspended all BD competition and training activity up to and including 31 May and will review this regularly in line with the official advice and guidelines. With the government extending the lockdown period until 7 May we do not see this deadline being brought forward currently, although we would hope that a resumption of activity will be possible at some point in early to mid-June.

We are currently working on various contingency plans and will post updates on our website and social channels when more information becomes available. However, it is important to stress that we activity will only restart when it is safe to do so and within any parameters imposed by the government, including any social distancing restrictions that remain in place.

### ***What BD events have been cancelled so far?***

The following national events have been cancelled to date:

- NAF Five Star Winter Dressage Championships, incorporating the Petplan Equine Area Festival Championships at Hartpury College, 8 – 12 April
- National Judges Convention at Addington, 14 April
- Keysoe Premier League, 24 – 26 April
- Senior Inter Regionals and Para Home International at Keysoe, 2 – 3 May
- Addington Premier League, 8 – 10 May
- Royal Windsor Horse Show, 13 – 17 May
- Somerford Park Premier League, 22 – 24 May
- Wellington Para Gold Semi-Finals and Para Festival of Dressage, 3 – 5 June
- Equerry Bolesworth International Horse Show, 9 – 14 June
- Hickstead International, 24 – 27 June

Regional competitions (normal BD competitions) and affiliated training activity is also suspended up to and including 31 May. The situation will be reviewed on a regular basis and further announcements will be made in due course once the medium to long term impact becomes clearer.

### ***Will the Winter Championships be rescheduled?***

We will continue to explore alternative solutions that may enable the Winter Championships to be run in some form at a later date, or for qualifications to count towards future competitions. However, with continued uncertainty around the duration of the current shutdown period and how a phased resumption of activity will be implemented, it is difficult for all sporting bodies and organisations to plan ahead effectively at present. Once it becomes clearer when competitions may be able to restart, as well as any restrictions that will remain in place, we can assess the overall impact on the dressage event calendar.

It is our preference to reschedule the Winter Championships if at all possible and we will continue to investigate viable options. We will aim to keep everyone informed as we closely monitor the situation over the course of the next four weeks during the shutdown period and provide further updates as soon as they are available.

### ***Will I get a refund for my entries and stabling from the Winter Championships?***

These are currently being processed by the show organisers and will be completed by the end of April. Full refunds will be provided to all competitors that have entered, including entry, stable and hook-up fees. Refunds will be made to the payee, minus the booking and administration fees. Full refunds will also be issued for all Gala Performance admission tickets and hospitality tickets. Please be aware that it may take some time to process these due to the volume of refunds required, but we aim for all payments to be made within 28 days.

### ***Am I entitled to a refund for entries due to the shutdown of all BD events?***

Any shows you have entered which fall in the current cancellation period will provide refunds as per rule 62 of the 2020 Members Handbook. The venue will be able to advise you on the status of your refund.

***What will happen with qualifications or partial qualification gained for Regionals if regular shows are cancelled?***

Work is well underway within the Sports Operations team to review various different scenarios with regards to qualifications, to facilitate a transitional period when the sport is able to resume. We've set up a taskforce of representatives across the sport to help with planning for the resumption of activity. One of the main areas they are looking at is how qualifications can be carried forward to ensure that they still count for future competitions.

The intention is to produce an operational plan that we can share with members, once the situation becomes clearer and a definitive restart date is known. In the meantime there is plenty of work going on to develop contingency plans, which is being reviewed by the BD Board on a weekly basis.

***Will BD consider shortened seasons?***

All options will remain on the table for the time being, but it is impossible to be prescriptive about what this might look like while we still don't know how long the shutdown and any phased recovery period will last. Our winter qualifying season is due to start on 1 July 2020, so this will be one of our main priorities, to ensure that the sport is able to get back on track as soon as possible.

With only a limited window of opportunity available during July / August and some social distancing measures expected to remain in place, it is likely that many of our summer season events will now have to be postponed until 2021. We will do what we can to salvage the season when competition activity can resume, although we also recognise that there will now be some fixture congestion in late summer / early autumn. It is quite a complex jigsaw, which also needs to take international competition into account.

***What happens if Premier Leagues are postponed for direct qualifications to Championships?***

As part of our contingency planning the Sport Operations task force are looking at alternative methods of qualifying for championships, should the remaining Premier League shows in June and July have to be cancelled. Realistically it is likely that the next few months will look quite different from a normal year. We'll keep members updated on progress to allow plenty of time to revise your competition plans and prepare campaigns for your horse.

***Will there be provision to reduce points to qualify for future Championships?***

This could potentially be part of the solution to facilitate championship qualification when the sport can resume, but at this stage it is not possible to determine exactly what will be required.

***Can the Quest finals go ahead off the current placings on the leader board?***

Again, this will be one of the options that will be considered. With our IT system we have the ability to produce leader boards or set alternative qualification criteria, depending on the most suitable and practical solution, but we will certainly work hard to ensure that the championships scheduled for later in the calendar year can still take place.

***What will happen to Para qualification for the summer championships?***

As with all of our competitions, it is not possible to have a definitive response at this stage, but the Sport Operations task force and Para Committee will be working on a number of potential solutions for qualification in readiness for when sport can resume.

### ***Can I still be classified for Para competition?***

Currently, all para classification evaluations have been suspended until further notice. Applications will continue to be accepted to start the process as and when future classification sessions can be scheduled. Further details are available in a [BEF news item](#).

## **International Competition**

### ***Will I still be able to compete internationally?***

In March, the FEI advised National Federations to suspend all international competitions until 10 April 2020, although most NF's have now extended this further. A number of competitions between April and July have already been cancelled or postponed, with others decisions pending. The UK government has extended the lockdown until 7 May 2020 and their advice on travelling internationally remains the same, so riders are unable to travel abroad to compete regardless for the foreseeable future. A link to the current FEI dressage calendar can be found here, which is being updated regularly: <https://www.fei.org/dressage/events/>

### ***Have any British based internationals been cancelled?***

Due to the ongoing crisis, the [Royal International Horse Show at Windsor](#) in May and the [Bolesworth International and Hickstead CDI](#) in June have already announced that they have cancelled their events for this year. Hickstead is aiming to potentially hold a rescheduled show in September 2020, subject to FEI approval.

### ***How will riders aiming for selection for international championships be selected/qualify?***

We now know that the Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics have been postponed for a full 12 months and will now take place in July / August 2021. The FEI Pony European Championships at Strezgom have also been postponed. For the other Under 21 Championships, including the FEI Junior and Young Rider European Championships at Hartpury, we're in regular contact with the relevant organisers and authorities, and will inform riders at the earliest opportunity when a decision has been made as to whether or not these can go ahead.

Inevitably with a large number of international shows being cancelled over the next two to three months, selection policies will need to be reviewed and updated in due course.

### ***Will I still be able to get an FEI passport?***

The BD office in Meriden is currently closed so we're unfortunately unable to process FEI passports at this point.

## **Regional Activity**

### ***Will training and camps be affected in the regions?***

All regional activity has now ceased in line with the suspension of competitions, up to and including 31 May. Full refunds will be given for any regional training or participation activity already booked in that time period.

### ***How will cancellation of regional training impact on my ability to meet eligibility criteria for selection for the regional team competitions later in the year?***

Currently the RDOs and Sport Operations team are considering the impact on timeframes for qualification and selection for the remaining regional team competitions. We will closely monitor and review the situation on a weekly basis, based on the latest information and government advice, and any decisions will be communicated to members at the earliest opportunity.

***When can I expect a refund for my cancelled regional activity?***

We're working to process all refunds and they will be completed by the end of this month. The RDOs have submitted all refund requests, but please note they have to be processed individually, so members should allow up to 28 days for the payment to be returned to their account. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

## **Vaccinations**

***Not all vets are carrying out routine vaccinations. What if my horse goes over the 12 month requirement without a vaccination?***

You'll need to restart your vaccination process from the beginning, as per rule 11 in the 2020 Members' Handbook, before you are able to compete. The initial course of two injections, not less than 21 days and no more than 92 days apart, must be completed again before competing. Please allow seven days before arriving at the competition from your last injection.

***What if I'm in the process of completing the initial course of three injections and I've missed one?***

Vets are advised to complete these injections where possible to give a horse some immunity, but if you're unable to get them completed you'll need to start the process again when vets are able to resume normal practice.

***Which date is my 12 month booster due?***

Once you've completed the initial course, each time you have a booster vaccination the 12 month period starts over again, including six month boosters. So whatever the last vaccination date shows in your horse's passport, the next injection will be due within 12 months. Please note that 12 months refers to calendar months as per usual, rather than 365 days.

***What happens if my horse isn't competing – can he go over one year without having to re-start?***

No, if your horse goes over a year without a vaccination then it would need to restart a programme from the beginning, whether it's currently competing or not.

***What are BD doing about the six month booster requirement?***

There will be some form of transition period when competition resumes to allow members to bring their horse's six monthly booster up to date. This will be communicated before activity recommences, but please note that the 12 month requirement will remain in place regardless.

***If my horse has exceeded the six month booster requirement, do I need to start again?***

No. Rule 11 states that horses must have had a booster injection within six calendar months +21 days of a competition. While there are no competitions, the rule does not apply, but the 12 month requirement remains in place. However, when competition returns, there will be specific guidance issued on the six monthly boosters to allow for a transition period.

***Will there be a vaccination amnesty if my horse goes over the 12 month booster?***

No amnesty period will be provided in these circumstances and your horse will need to restart its vaccination programme from the beginning. This is due to the efficacy of the vaccine, which has a maximum period of 12 months.

### ***It's not my fault my horse can't be vaccinated – why should I have to pay to re-start the vaccinations?***

It's an unfortunate situation, but if the vaccination exceeds 12 months your horse will not have the necessary levels of immunity to Equine Influenza. In order to compete with us, your horse must be compliant with BD rules, which are in place to protect the horse population in the UK. This is based on expert and independent veterinary advice.

It is important to emphasise that while horses are not currently mixing or in competition, a 12 month vaccination is necessary in order to protect against EI. Beyond this point the efficacy of the vaccine is no longer guaranteed. We need to ensure that this requirement remains in place to prevent a resurgence in the number of cases again next winter.

## **General Questions**

### ***Can I still travel to my yard to do my horse?***

At present, yes. However, we'd strongly advise you follow the [current Public Health England guidance on hygiene and social distancing](#). Make your visit as brief as possible and minimise social contact. The [British Equestrian Federation has also issued some guidance](#) in line with the current restrictions.

### ***Are there any restrictions on riding?***

While there is currently no specific Government guidance in relation to riding, our recommendation is that members only ride their horses where it is absolutely necessary and safe to do so. We should all respect the Government's message of 'stay safe, stay home, save lives' and carefully consider the risks associated with riding. As a community, we need to be socially responsible and avoid putting any additional pressure on our NHS and emergency services at the present time.

Personal circumstances will vary and we understand that individual livelihoods and businesses are being adversely affected in this current situation, but we all still need to be mindful of the potential impact of our choices on society as a whole. Our strong advice is to adhere to government restrictions and only leave home once a day to care for your horse's welfare.

We would ask all riders to make an informed decision on whether it is necessary to ride or not. If you do make that choice, we urge you to please ride within your means, wear up-to-standard safety equipment, avoid any high-risk activity and stay within the boundaries of your own yard environment.

### ***Can I still go for lessons or have my coach come to the yard?***

During the current lockdown period travelling for lessons would not be considered as essential. However, the government guidance is that workers who cannot carry out their jobs from home may still work, where it is safe to do so and in accordance with social distancing measures. While there is no specific advice around coaches travelling to yards to undertake lessons, we would ask members to carefully consider our guidance on riding before booking any lessons and ensure that any such activity adheres to Public Health England advice and restrictions.

### ***My coach is offering virtual training – is this acceptable?***

During the current suspension period it is vitally important that we all follow government advice and guidelines wherever possible, if it is practical to do so. While in theory this might seem that 'virtual' or remote activity is a perfect solution for members in isolation, this still actively encourages people to ride – and many of our members are unable



to do so without travelling. The government advice is to stay at home for all non-essential activity, other than the permitted daily exercise, so riding would need to comply with these restrictions.

There will hopefully come a time in the not too distant future where we can responsibly promote this type of virtual and remote riding activity, in accordance with social distancing measures, but this remains a number of weeks away.

### ***What training can I do with my coach during the suspension period?***

Coaches may still want to provide training advice and support to their existing clients remotely, but should first consider whether or not it is appropriate and safe to do so. We would not endorse or support the promotion of training to new clients at this time, while the country remains on lockdown. Any coaches still supporting existing clients should ensure that they are covered by their insurance and conduct a thorough risk assessment.

Coaches can also still help their clients virtually with goal setting and reviewing performance based on previous test sheets, as well as helping to advise on future training activity when horses are able to return to work after their break and how to get 'competition ready' for the resumption of activity.

There are also a number of online fitness activities available on line to help riders stay healthy and active while there are no competitions taking place, including Pilates, Yoga and strength and conditioning exercises. There are also a number of activities that focus on mind set and psychology that can help riders to stay motivated during this period. We would recommend that you check those providing the activities are licenced by the relevant regulatory body to ensure they are fully accredited.

### ***Can I take part in online dressage competitions?***

As above, it is not appropriate to be participating in online dressage competitions at the present time, while the number of hospital admissions and active coronavirus cases remains at its peak. In line with our advice on riding and training, it is our collective responsibility to reduce any extra pressure on the emergency and health services at the present time. We therefore would not advocate, support or endorse any online competition activity at this time, even if it complies with social distancing measures.

### ***Is there any other activity we can do?***

Sport England is encouraging us to keep active during this period, as it's vital for mental health and physical wellbeing – follow #StayInWorkOut on social media for ideas and content to help you feel well while staying safe. There's more information on the [Sport England website](#).

### ***My business/livelihood has really been hit financially due to the crisis, what help is there?***

The [government has set up a website with advice](#) on a range of help available. The [British Equestrian Federation has also outlined](#) some of the assistance on offer, including a [number of grants](#) for those who can't use the government initiatives.

Those who are [self-employed also have a number of options available](#) to them. In addition, the [Equine Employers Association](#) and [British Grooms Association](#) have some good guidance to help and there's no requirement for membership to access this information.

## Judges

### ***Can I judge any unaffiliated competitions which are running?***

While we only have jurisdiction over affiliated dressage competitions, in line with the government guidelines around social distancing and non-essential travel, we would strongly advise against it.

The most important consideration at this point in time is the health and safety of all members, including our officials, some of whom may fall into the 'at risk' category. We would therefore strongly advise that all judges adhere to the latest government restrictions and stay at home. Your health and well-being are of paramount importance at all times, so please stay safe.

### ***What about judging 'virtual' competition activity?***

During the current suspension period, it is vitally important that we all follow government advice and guidelines wherever possible. While in theory it might seem that 'virtual' or remote activity is a perfect solution for members in isolation, this still actively encourages people to ride – and many of our members are unable to do so without travelling. It may also be inappropriate for them to ride without support or supervision.

The government advice is to stay at home for all non-essential activity, so we recommend that BD judges do not undertake any judging, whether in person or remotely. We will continue to closely monitor this situation and when the time comes where we can responsibly promote this type of virtual and remote riding activity, in accordance with social distancing measures, we will inform all our judges.

Those who are FEI judges will have received an update which precludes them from judging national and international online competitions as these fall under 'unsanctioned events'. The same principles apply to all BD judges, whether these are BD or FEI tests. British Eventing and The Pony Club also support this position with their own dressage tests.

### ***I am also a coach, can I provide feedback to my clients?***

Judges that are also coaches should follow the guidance for coaches. If they choose to support existing clients, we advise that you check with your insurer to ensure you are covered by your policy and carry out a thorough risk assessment before undertaking any activity.

### ***What happens if my judge exams get cancelled?***

We will reschedule exams at the earliest possible opportunity, while still providing candidates and examiners with enough notice to attend. Please note that these rescheduled dates will only be available to those already booked on to any cancelled dates, not new applications.

## Coaches

### ***Should I continue my coaching work? Can I have clients visit my yard or travel to theirs?***

Our overall stance is that people should not ride their horses unless absolutely necessary, so having a lesson would not qualify as essential activity at the present time. Ultimately this is down to individual choice and responsibility, but we would strongly advise you to adhere the government advice on social distancing and take the necessary precautions to ensure the safety of yourself and your clients.

During the current lockdown period the government guidance is that workers who cannot carry out their jobs from home may still work, where it is safe to do so and in accordance with social distancing measures. While there is no specific advice around coaches travelling to yards to undertake lessons, we would ask coaches to carefully consider

our guidance on riding before booking any lessons and ensure that any such activity adheres to Public Health England advice and restrictions.

### ***What about 'virtual' or remote training activity?***

During the current suspension period it is vitally important that we all follow government advice and guidelines wherever possible. While in theory it might seem that 'virtual' or remote activity is a perfect solution for members in isolation, this still actively encourages people to ride – and many of our members are unable to do so without travelling. It may also be inappropriate for them to ride without support or supervision.

This decision is again down to individual choice and responsibility, based on the circumstances and level of experience of your clients. There will hopefully come a time in the not too distant future where we can responsibly promote this type of virtual training and remote riding activity, in accordance with social distancing measures, but this is likely to be a number of weeks away.

### ***What training can I do with my coach / clients during the suspension period?***

Coaches may still want to provide training advice and support to their existing clients remotely, but should first consider whether or not it is appropriate and safe to do so. We would not endorse or support the promotion of training to new clients at this time, while the country remains on lockdown. Any coaches still supporting existing clients should ensure that they are still covered by their insurance and conduct a thorough risk assessment.

Coaches can also still help their clients virtually with goal setting and reviewing performance based on previous test sheets, as well as helping to advise on future training activity when horses are able to return to work after their break and how to get 'competition ready' for the resumption of activity.

There are also a number of online fitness activities available on line to help riders stay healthy and active while there are no competitions taking place, including Pilates, Yoga and strength and conditioning exercises. There are also a number of activities that focus on mind set and psychology that can help riders to stay motivated during this period. We would recommend that you check those providing the activities are licenced by the relevant regulatory body to ensure they are fully accredited.

### ***How will my BDCC course be affected?***

We have reformatted the delivery programme for BDCC courses, which will enable us to deliver the theory sections via WebEx. We will then deliver the practical sessions towards the end of the programme, once the social distancing measures have been relaxed. So far the feedback from the Web Ex sessions has been excellent, with candidates continuing to progress through their portfolio work, supported by their Coach Educator via email. We are currently working to get the portfolios online to enable candidates to complete and submit work for marking, via our online learning platform Cloud Trainer.

### ***How will I keep up with my CPD to keep my status?***

All CPD training scheduled to take place during the suspension period, including First Aid and Safeguarding courses, have unfortunately had to be cancelled. We will look to reschedule these activities for later in the year; however, due to the ongoing uncertainty about how long any shutdown period is likely to last we are unable to confirm when this may be at present.

Any coach who needs to renew their safeguarding certificate will be able to do so online. Please contact [officials@britishdressage.co.uk](mailto:officials@britishdressage.co.uk) for further information.

***What will happen if training courses / refresher days get postponed and take me over the stated deadlines to remain eligible?***

In order to support all of coaches through this difficult time, we will extend the deadline for maintaining your first aid requirements until 31 December 2020. Safeguarding can be done on line at any time, please contact [officials@britishdressage.co.uk](mailto:officials@britishdressage.co.uk) for further information.

It would be advisable to check with all course providers to determine whether they can still provide you a refresher course, if your current certificate has expired, or if you need to commence another initial course. It is strongly recommended that you check with your insurance provider to ensure you are still meeting any requirements they may have regarding CPD training compliance.

## **Organisers**

***Will we be charged cancellation fees if we chose to cancel competitions ourselves?***

No, this is covered under 'extreme circumstances' within the terms of your affiliation agreement.

***When will I know when competitions can restart and how can I secure future fixtures?***

The Sport Operations team and RDOs will keep in touch with organisers and venues to advise on when competitions are likely to recommence. This will be very much dependent on government advice and how they manage any phased approach to the resumption of sporting activity. It is also likely that competitions in the short term will have to adhere to ongoing social distancing restrictions.

The Sport Operations task force is currently working on contingency plans, based on various different scenarios, and there will be further consultation with venues and show organisers in due course to ensure that we can take a co-ordinated approach across all regions when dressage competition and training activity is able to restart. In the meantime, we thank you for your patience and understanding.

***What assistance can I get to help my business stay viable during the suspension?***

British Dressage understands and shares the financial concerns you may have for the future of your business and our sport. We are in this together and will be working with our colleagues across the equestrian sector to support our venues, clubs, schools and yards.

We are working closely with the British Equestrian Federation and British Horse Society to provide further advice, in line with government policy, on the financial help and support packages available.

The following links should provide some help assistance for equestrian employers and businesses, as well as employees and the self-employed:

- [Information for Employers and Businesses](#)
- [Information for Employees and the Self-Employed](#)
- [Financial Support for Business](#)

In addition, the [Equine Employers Association](#) and [British Grooms Association](#) have some good guidance to help and there's no requirement for membership to access this information.