

# Training and Education Coronavirus Operational Plan

## May 2020



## Judges

### Phase I – Response

#### Judge Exams

A number of FEI and non-FEI judge examinations have been affected, with some already cancelled, up to and including Kingswood on 19 & 20 May and Somerford FEI exam on 22 & 23 May. Non-FEI exams are run as simulated exams and FEI exams are run at Premier Leagues. The next Para Judge exam is not due to run until the autumn.

#### Judge Education Project

The roll out of non-technical training was due to take place in the summer with the portfolios available by late spring. Due to the current restrictions that prevent in-person training, work is ongoing to restructure and transfer the judge portfolio online to Cloud Trainer. In addition to this, where possible we will aim to restructure and redesign the resources available to enable candidates to start the new judge education programme remotely in the absence of face-to-face courses.

#### Tutor Judge Days

The Tutor Judge days scheduled for 3 & 4 April were cancelled. These were vital for selection of the workforce to deliver the new system, but unfortunately this training could not take place due to the lockdown restrictions. The content will now be reformatted to enable delivery online and competency evaluation development will continue remotely.

#### Judge Training

All regional training has been cancelled during the suspension period. All tutor judges have been contacted and a list of those able to offer remote training has been sent to judges. This will help to facilitate the continuation of their personal development by contacting Tutor Judges directly.

#### Judges Events

The Judges Convention due to be run at Addington on 14 April had to be cancelled, as this was within the suspension period. No operational costs were incurred. Once lockdown restrictions have been lifted we will look to run a similar event online at low cost – and, if possible, live streamed for judges.

#### Judge Seminars

The regional seminars have been cancelled, resulting in many judges not being able to maintain their compulsory CPD. The CPD timelines have therefore been extended until the end of 2020, but this will remain under review, subject to the ability to run seminars later in the year.

## Phase II – Resumption

### **Judges Participating in Sport**

At this stage BD judges will be allowed to officiate for approved online competitions that use BD tests. Further guidance and support will be issued to those judges able to judge competitions in person, once government restrictions have been eased, using favoured options from the recent consultation with judges. This will be subject to whatever social distancing measures and other public health considerations remain in place, with special consideration required for any officials who fall into the 'at risk' category.

Options currently being explored include judging in isolation, with judges writing their own scores and summary comments only on conclusion of tests, judging with family members who have co-habited during lockdown doing the writing, recording of test scores / comments and use of technology to facilitate two-way communication between distanced judges and writers.

### **Judge Exams**

Judge examinations, including Para, are also subject to social distancing measures and will be reviewed regularly. At this stage we would still hope that those exams scheduled for later in the year are able to take place. Those candidates already affected will be allocated slots within the remaining days to accommodate their last attempt in the current exam system. If ongoing social distancing requirements make it difficult to run the exams before the winter period, candidates will be offered an opportunity to sit their final attempt under the old system in 2021.

FEI level exams will either need to be hosted at alternative competitions, providing these can be accommodated within the revised dressage competition calendar, or deferred to 2021 with bookings carried forward.

### **Judge Education Project**

Roll out of online content for tutor judges and judge educators to replace the face-to-face training days that were cancelled in April. As part of this process there will also be a competency evaluation similar to that used by the FEI for potential tutor judges and judge educators to complete. This content has also been restructured so it can be completed remotely via the online learning platform. Once the tutor judges and judge educators have been accredited, the non-technical elements of the judge education project will be delivered using webinars and online platforms where possible to avoid in person contact.

The filming of the rest of the technical content for Judges Education Project was due to take place at the Winter Championships. This will need to be carried out at a later date, using another suitable competition to ensure we have sufficient video content to complete the technical module resources. Workshops covering the technical content could be delivered over webinar, although these elements are best suited to face-to-face delivery and are likely to commence towards the end of 2020.

### **Judge Training**

Initially judge training can continue as self-directed, with judges contacting tutor judges from the current list to undertake training. Training will also be delivered via live and pre-recorded webinars initially, before small group training on a regional basis can begin to resume.

### **Judge Events**

The Principles of Judging Seminar is scheduled to take place at Myerscough in October. Should capacity restrictions or social distancing measures remain in place we would look to deliver the event behind closed doors via live streaming, webinar or similar. If the event cannot be staged in person it can still be used as part of CPD for judges. If the seminar has to be cancelled altogether we will review the CPD policies and look to further extend the expiry date of CPD beyond the end of 2020.

### **Olympia FEI and List 1, 2, 2a Seminar**

The FEI and upper list judge seminar is due to run at Olympia in mid-December, so we are hopeful at this stage that the event can go ahead as planned. This is subject to review, in line with any social distancing measures that may still be in place at that time. If the event cannot be hosted in person it can still be used as part of the CPD for judges. If the seminar has to be cancelled altogether we will review the CPD policies and look to further extend the expiry date of CPD beyond the end of 2020.

## **Phase III – Recovery**

### **Judge Exams**

Non-FEI exams will resume from the spring in 2021, with those that were not able to be examined in 2020 being provided with an opportunity for assessment next year. Those FEI candidates not able to sit a FEI exam in 2020 will be treated as a priority for 2021 assessments.

### **Judge Education Project**

In the event that filming for the technical elements is not possible in 2020, filming will be carried out in early 2021 with technical modules available from the spring onwards and new system assessments rolled out in the summer.

### **Judge Training**

Judge training will recommence as normal during this phase, using the updated tutor judge list for face-to-face training, including regional seminars.

### **Judge Events**

The events due to run in early 2021 include the Young Horse Forums and Judges Convention. At the moment it is anticipated that these will be planned and delivered as normal, once all social distancing restrictions have been lifted.

## **Training (incorporating coaches, stewards and training events)**

## **Phase I – Response**

### **Coaches / Training**

BD coaching courses and CPD activities, including Youth Assessor Coach and Para Courses were suspended due to restrictions on face-to-face delivery. In order to support enrolled coaches to progress on their qualifications we carried out extensive mapping work to restructure the qualification delivery programme.

The new programme entails delivering the theory content first via webinar, with the practical content being delivered later in the year when face-to-face training in small groups can resume.

Coach workforce training and standardisation has been carried out to ensure learners receive a consistent learner experience. This work has been carried out in full consultation with our awarding body 1<sup>st</sup>4Sport.

The creation of online portfolios to support learners is underway using our online learning platform. To further support candidates, we have also restructured our course payment plans to spread the financial cost and make it more manageable for those wanting to continue during lockdown.

Work is underway to review the other CPD days, such as the Youth Assessor Coach and the Para Coach workshops, to restructure for online delivery and enable those that need to complete CPD to do so before the end of 2020.

### **Stewards**

BD steward upgrade and refresher days were suspended due to restrictions on face-to-face delivery. CPD dates have been extended until the end of 2020 and will be subject to review, dependent upon when face-to-face delivery can resume.

### **Events**

The rescheduled Young Horse Forum due to run at Myerscough in March was cancelled due to the lockdown and social distancing measures. This will not be rescheduled for later in the year, but we do hope to continue planning for more Young Horse Forums in the first quarter of 2021.

## **Phase II – Resumption**

### **Coaches**

BDCC courses will continue to be run via webinars while social distancing measures remain in place. Practical coaching days will resume when restrictions are eased and it is safe to do so, where possible using the same dates already scheduled on the course plan. Should social distancing measures remain in place, we will look to reschedule the practical days toward the end of the year as part of intensive training.

Assessment days present less of a problem if social distancing measures are still in place as they only require a candidate, assessor and low attendance of riders (maximum of two) to be present at any one time. This will still be subject to any restrictions on travel and horse transportation.

Any candidates that do not feel ready to come forward can defer to a standalone assessment day or come forward for assessment in early 2021.

### **Stewards**

Dates scheduled for the autumn will remain under review. Should social distancing measures remain in place we will review the options around providing online courses and webinars for steward training and CPD. If this is not possible, we will look to extend CPD deadlines into 2021.

Prior to lockdown, work was underway to review and refresh the current steward education provision, including the development of a pathway for Para stewards. Work will continue on this, with a view to using online delivery via webinars, should face-to-face training not be possible.

## **Training Events**

The National Convention is due to take place at Addington Equestrian on 21 & 22 November 2020. The average footfall per day is between 800-1,000 people. If social distancing measures remain in place until the autumn, we will review the capacity limits and assess the financial viability of operating a live event that complies with social distancing measures. If public gatherings are restricted by government below acceptable numbers permitted to attend, we will explore options to host a convention 'behind closed doors' to be live streamed and recorded for members to view.

## **Phase III – Recovery**

### **Coaches**

Once government restrictions have been removed BDCC and CPD activities (both regional and national) can continue with the original delivery programmes. The coach CPD framework will also be rolled out to support and recognise coach development activities.

### **Stewards**

Steward upgrade and refresher days will be able to resume as normal with face to face delivery.

### **Training Events**

Planning will continue for the Young Horse Forums scheduled for early 2021, which can proceed as normal once social distancing restrictions have been lifted. The National Convention is scheduled to run as normal in November 2021.

## **BD Youth**

## **Phase I – Response**

### **Squadding and Regional Activity**

The remainder of the regional squadding activity was cancelled in line with the suspension of other activities up to and including the 31 May.

### **Horse Care**

Practical horse care training is on hold and will be rolled out when social distancing measures permit. Practical horse care assessments up to Novice level (Tier 3) will commence when regional camps are able to resume and only after an assessor standardisation day has taken place.

### **Development Programmes**

Work with key partners to prepare for the recruitment of YPP, DiSE and AASE programmes, including a review of the entry criteria. This will need to ensure that the criteria is not prohibitive for those that have been unable to meet the performance requirements due to the impact of the crisis.

DiSE and AASE delivery programmes have been adapted to enable virtual camps to take place. The final presentations to win the YPP bursary are due in July, with a provision in place to deliver this online if necessary.

### **Foundation and National Academies**

To date the academies have not been directly affected; however, we have reviewed the application timelines and considered the impact on the achievement of eligibility criteria to ensure that the process is still fair and equitable for all candidates.

### **Youth Assessor Coaches**

Face-to-face delivery has been put on hold during the suspension period. Courses will remain under review, in line with social distancing measures.

## **Phase II – Resumption**

### **Squadding and Regional Activity**

The remainder of the regional squadding activity was cancelled, in line with the suspension of other BD activities up to and including the 31 May. As a result, the Youth Inter Regional on 4 & 5 July and Youth Home International on 3-4 August have now been cancelled for 2020.

### **Horse Care**

The Novice Horse Care (Tier 3) has been completed and launched following the production of content, testing of functionality and quality assurance. We continue to work on the development of a 'Horse Care Learning Zone' on the website to provide revision materials for the Horse Care programme. We are also producing youth rider handbooks to help them prepare for practical assessments when they are able to start.

### **Development Programmes**

Recruitment and delivery to continue in preparation for when courses begin in September. Face-to-face training will only be provided if social distancing measures can be met. Programme delivery can also be carried out online, should restrictions remain in place.

### **Foundation and National Academies**

The National Academy summer sessions will remain under review, as these will be subject to social distancing measures. The 2020 cohort remain on the National Academy programme until the autumn, so any additional training days that cannot take place will be rescheduled for the autumn, where possible, or alternatively delivered online.

Planning for the Foundation Academy, scheduled to take place in autumn 2020 and early winter 2021, will continue as normal, subject to meeting government requirements on social distancing.

### **Youth Assessor Coaches**

Continuation of face-to-face courses when it is possible to do so. If social distancing measures remain in place we will roll out online versions of the training and look to extend the CPD refresher deadlines into 2021.

### **Squadding and Regional Activity**

We hope that BD Youth squadding and regional training will be able to resume as normal in 2021 to enable selection for team events and academies throughout the course of the year.

### **Horse Care**

Horse Care Tiers 4 and 5, both practical and online, to launch in 2021 and rolled out throughout the year. The horse care requirements for regional activities will need to be extended into 2021 to accommodate those who have started the programmes, rather than have completed the relevant Tier, to ensure that riders are not disadvantaged.

### **Development Programmes**

Work with key partners to prepare for the recruitment of YPP, DiSE, AASE programmes, including the review of entry criteria. This will need to ensure that the criteria not prohibitive to those that have been unable to meet the performance requirements due to the impact of the crisis.

### **Foundation and National Academies**

To date the academies have not been directly affected. However, we will review the eligibility criteria to take into account the impact of the crisis, to ensure that the process is still fair and equitable for all candidates.

### **Youth Assessor Coaches**

At this stage we hope that courses will be able to resume in 2021 as normal with face to face delivery. A refresher course will be introduced in mid-2021 for those due to update their CPD.

### **British Dressage**

**Issued: 7 May 2020**