

# British Dressage Operational Plan for the resumption of activity – May 2020

13.05.20

## Overview



On 17 March all British Dressage affiliated training and competition activity was suspended in order to protect the health and safety of all participants and stakeholders, in line with government measures introduced the following week to help collectively contain the coronavirus outbreak. Initially, the suspension was put in place to cover a four week period until 16 April, which was then extended on 1 April to cover a further six weeks, up to and including 31 May.

The Board and Senior Management Team have continued to monitor the situation closely, working with colleagues across the British Equestrian Federation and our partners at UK Sport, Sport England and the Sport & Recreation Alliance, in order to respond to government advice and guidance. As part of this process we have been actively engaging in discussions about the resumption of sporting activity, as and when conditions allow and it is safe to do so. This document provides an overview of our operational phases to manage the impact of the pandemic on the sport of dressage, although there are no specific timings for these at this stage as they will be directed by government.

The **'Response'** phase started in late February when the first UK cases were confirmed and will continue until government eases the lockdown restrictions. The **'Resume'** phase focuses on the sport and training elements of BD, depending on when sporting activity, travel and public gatherings will be permitted, with measures in place to meet any social distancing requirements to protect the health and safety of all participants. In the final phase, we can move to a more proactive approach as we work towards **'Recovery'** of our organisation with a full competition calendar re-instated, financial stability re-established and membership returning to pre-pandemic levels.

## Phases for operational planning



## Stages for the resumption of activity

During each phase, we will aim to provide a roadmap for our members to follow, subject to the government restrictions and ongoing social distancing measures in place.



	RIDE	TRAIN	COMPETE	QUALIFY
<b>RESPONSE</b> > Government impose lockdown restrictions to stay at home, no 'non-essential travel'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Advice to ride only when it is necessary and safe to do so, in order to negate pressure on the NHS and emergency services</li> <li>● Support members/stakeholders with regular communication, updates, advice, content and a comprehensive FAQ document</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● No affiliated ridden training activity, whether face to face or virtual</li> <li>● Advice provided to coaches for providing unmounted support</li> <li>● BD judge and coach training/CPD activity delivered online</li> <li>● Young Horse Forum and Judges Convention cancelled</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● All shows cancelled up to and including 31 May</li> <li>● Other large shows cancelled in June</li> <li>● No online competition activity with BD judges or tests during lockdown</li> <li>● Contingency planning for Resumption phase with modelling</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Winter Championships, incorporating Area Festival Championships, cancelled</li> </ul>
> Government restrictions start to be relaxed, with social distancing measures still remaining in place	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Riding resumes, with continued advice to consider risks carefully</li> <li>● Yards open to horse owners, including ability to exercise horses</li> <li>● Build human and equine fitness levels to be 'competition ready' in preparation for resumption</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Advice for rider fitness in readiness for return to training and competition</li> <li>● Help with goal setting, performance evaluation and out of saddle exercises</li> <li>● Coaches permitted to train online, subject to insurance cover provision</li> <li>● Online BD competitions for approved providers supported with judges, but no link to BD qualification or points</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Framework for safe running of competitions to meet social distancing, public health, hygiene and travel requirements established</li> <li>● Calendar review and formulation</li> <li>● Initial training shows established and scheduled</li> <li>● Standard competitions scheduled, with flexible approach to format</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● National competitions and championships cancelled for remainder of the summer season including Premier Leagues, National Championships, Summer Area Festivals, Regional BD Youth team competitions and Associated Championships</li> </ul>
<b>RESUME</b> > Government restrictions further relaxed > Public gathering allowed within specified limits > Sporting activity permitted to resume	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Riding activity increases in line with ability and fitness levels</li> <li>● Preparation for competitions and campaign planning</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Yards re-open to training, toolkit provided for coaches, lessons to restart</li> <li>● Travel restrictions relaxed, so transport of horses can resume</li> <li>● Regional training activity to resume for all stakeholders (training, test riding, private clinics, flexi training, etc.)</li> <li>● Training shows established regionally</li> <li>● BD Youth activity to get underway</li> <li>● Options for major training events assessed, including National Convention and Principles of Judging</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Tool kit for organisers, venues, officials and competitors detailing safe operating practice for resumption</li> <li>● Risk-assessed shows allowed to run within agreed protocol and regulatory framework to manage restrictions</li> <li>● Revised calendar of competitions</li> <li>● Even spread of activity across regions to minimise travel</li> <li>● Support for all stakeholders to comply with social distancing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Establish a manageable championship structure using various qualification options</li> <li>● Potential for alternative regional shows / competitions</li> <li>● Continue with Quest Regional Championships, Para Bronze &amp; Silver Championships</li> <li>● Revised date for Young Horse &amp; Pony Championships 2020</li> <li>● 1 July winter season begins</li> </ul>
<b>RECOVERY</b> > Return to near normal conditions with some element of social distancing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Normal riding conditions restored, within any remaining social distancing parameters</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Full range of in person training and CPD activity resumed for all – riders, coaches, judges and stewards</li> <li>● Judges examinations resume, implementation of new system</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Competition calendar resumes in full within any continuing social distancing requirements or capacity limits</li> <li>● Membership and horse registration recovered to pre-pandemic levels</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 1 January 2021 summer season underway</li> <li>● Competition structure and championship qualifying returns to normal, within any social distancing constraints</li> </ul>

## Home countries – current status

England	Northern Ireland	Scotland	Wales
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