

# Coronavirus (COVID-19) – Member Q&A

Update: 14 May 2020



## General Questions

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

From Wednesday 13 May, if you live in England you can go outside for exercise as often as you wish, as long as you follow social distancing guidelines. You can ride alone, with members of your household, or with one person from a different household, while keeping two metres apart at all times. This includes hacking, schooling and general exercise, as long as you observe social distancing when encountering other riders or the public.

You are also allowed to visit venues like a riding club or yard to exercise, so this includes travelling to ride your horse, as well as transporting your horse for exercise elsewhere. Again, you should only do so alone, with members of your household or with one person from another household, as long as you can remain two metres away from them. You should check ahead to ensure that these facilities are open and prepared to receive visitors.

For members in Scotland and Wales the advice to stay at home remains in place, including restrictions on travel. Therefore riding activity should be within the premises where the horse is kept, if at all possible.

All riders should ride safely and responsibly within their capabilities and means, wear up to standard safety equipment, avoid any high risk activity, and ideally ride in familiar or controlled environments.

### ***Can I still travel to my yard to care for my horse?***

Yes, as long as you have access to the yard or facilities. Please check with the proprietor in advance of your visit. Some yards may still be restricting access or have rotas and fixed time slots in place to manage numbers. You should aim to keep contact with others to a minimum and social distancing should be respected at all times. Please do also continue to follow the [current Public Health England guidance on hygiene](#).

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

In England, the relaxation on restrictions means that members can also travel to yards or venues for one-to-one training activity, providing social distancing is observed at all times. Coaches can now work with their clients outdoors, on an individual basis only, as long as they stay a minimum of two metres apart throughout the lesson. Any individuals involved in the transport of the horse must be from the rider's household.

Additional health and safety measures should also be taken, including cleaning any equipment or shared surfaces rigorously in line with wider guidance on hygiene; for example by using antibacterial spray and washing hands thoroughly before and after use.

In Scotland and Wales, riding is permitted for exercise only at this stage and restrictions on travel remain in place. You may want to consider online training or unmounted sessions with your coach.

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

Yes – please make sure your coach has the appropriate insurance cover in place and has satisfied any additional provisions that may be required by their insurers, including conducting a risk assessment.

### ***I live in Scotland/Wales, what training can I do with my coach during the suspension period?***

Your coach can still provide training, advice and support to their existing clients remotely, although we would not endorse the promotion of training to new clients at this time, while the country remains on lockdown.

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.

Any coaches supporting existing clients remotely should ensure that they are still covered by their insurance and conduct a thorough risk assessment in advance.

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

As part of the first phase in the resumption of activity in England, remote or virtual training and competition activity using BD tests will be allowed to resume for authorised online providers. Members residing in Scotland and Wales would only be able to participate currently if they have access to facilities at home.

Prior approval must be obtained by online providers in order to be granted permission to use BD tests. Criteria sheet and application forms are available on request from our Sport Operations Manager, Lou Jones.

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

There are 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.

Sport England is encouraging us to keep active during this period, as it's vital for mental health and physical wellbeing. There's more information on the [Sport England website](#).

## **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.

Vitality, 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. As detailed in the operational plan that was published on 7 May, we're aiming to carry over any full or part qualifications gained in the summer period to the winter qualification period (1 July – 31 December) and further details will follow in due course.

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. 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.

Unfortunately we don't yet know what the full impact will be, so it would be irresponsible to make any decisions at present and 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 implications become 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 to ride during lockdown?***

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. Riding advice varies between England, Scotland and Wales, so please check with their respective government websites on permitted exercise.

### ***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 specialist 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 half of our staff under the government Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme, and this will continue to be in place until 31 May at the earliest. 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 £2.2 million 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 for the remainder of the year. 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 has been reviewed by the Board and technical committees to re-evaluate our priorities for this year and identify savings wherever possible, in order to mitigate the financial impact of this crisis.

## **National competition and events**

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

All affiliated competition, training and participation activity remains suspended until 31 May 2020, as the UK government has indicated sport itself will not be able to resume until 1 June at the earliest. Based on the government's projected timeframe for the relaxation of restrictions, we would hope to restart organised training activity next month, with the competition calendar provisionally recommencing from 4 July onwards.

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, as it remains dependent on a number of other factors. In terms of competing and qualifying, it would be our aim for all home nations to recommence at the same time, which will be dependent on the decisions taken by governments for the devolved nations.

The recent government updates have enabled riding to fully resume for exercise, now that we are past the peak of the outbreak in the UK, while members in England can also travel for individual lessons with coaches on a one-to-one basis. These are positive steps forward in the right direction, so we would currently be hopeful that a resumption of activity will be possible in June.

### **How is BD planning ahead for the resumption of activity?**

Our [Coronavirus Operational Plan](#), issued on 7 May, outlines our roadmap towards the resumption of activity. The 12-page plan is based on a three-phased approach to manage the short, medium and long term impact of the crisis on the sport; Response, Resumption and Recovery. Our operations currently sit in the Response phase, with England moved to amber status from 13 May, while the devolved nations remain at red for the time being. Once there is further easing of the lockdown restrictions we can progress towards the resumption of organised training and competition activity, operating within public health guidelines and social distancing requirements.

As part of this plan there are four stages for members to follow, as a gradual progression towards the full resumption of activity; Ride, Train, Compete and Qualify, with each step dependent on what government restrictions will allow at that point. Although it is not possible to be prescriptive on the timescales for the implementation of each phase at present, the plan is flexible enough to adapt to the situation as it evolves and will ensure that we are ready to restart as soon as we are given the go ahead.

We are currently working on contingency plans for organised training to begin again in June, with competitions recommencing in July. Updates will be posted on our website and social channels when more information becomes available. However, it is important to stress that any activity will only restart when it is safe to do so and within any parameters imposed by the government, including any social distancing restrictions or limits on numbers that remain in place at that time.

### ***Can I compete in online competitions?***

As part of the relaxation of lockdown restrictions in England, remote or virtual competition activity using BD tests can resume for authorised online providers, from 13 May onwards. Members residing in Scotland and Wales would only be able to participate currently if they have access to facilities at home.

All online providers must obtain prior approval in order to be granted permission to use BD tests. Criteria sheet and application forms are available on request from our Sport Operations Manager, Lou Jones.

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

The following national / home international events have been cancelled to date:

- Winter Dressage Championships & Area Festival Championships, Hartpury, 8 – 12 April
- National Judges Convention, Addington, 14 April
- Keysoe Premier League, 24 – 26 April
- Senior Inter Regionals and Para Home International, 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
- Wellington Premier League, 3 – 7 June
- Equerry Bolesworth International Horse Show, 9 – 14 June
- Sheepgate Premier League, 19 – 21 June
- Hickstead International, 24 – 27 June
- Hartpury Festival of Dressage & Premier League, 1 – 5 July
- BD Youth Inter Regional, Keysoe, 4 – 5 May
- Hickstead Premier League, 8 – 11 July
- BD Youth Home International, Mount Ballan, 3 – 5 August
- All summer Regional Championships, July/August
- Junior & Young Rider European Championships, Hartpury, 27 July – 2 August
- Bishop Burton CEPDI, 10 – 14 August
- Summer Area Festivals and Championships at Arena UK, July - September
- National Championships & Para Gold Championships, Somerford, 24 – 27 September
- Associated Championships – Vale View, 21 – 25 October
- Quest National Championships, 30 October – 1 November
- Associated Championships – Bury Farm, 11 – 15 November

Regional competitions (normal BD competitions) and affiliated training activity is also suspended up to and including 31 May 2020. We anticipate some organised training may restart in June, with competitions provisionally recommencing in July, based on the government's timeline outlined in their recovery strategy published on 11 May. The situation will be reviewed on a regular basis and further announcements will follow in due course.

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

We are continuing to explore alternative solutions that would enable the 2020 Winter Championships to be completed in some form at a later date, or for qualifications to count towards future competitions. It is our preference to reschedule the Winter Championships if at all possible, which may be achievable by splitting it into three smaller competitions; Winter National, Winter Music and Area Festival Championships. This will be dependent upon government restrictions that remain in place on social distancing and public gatherings. We will aim to keep everyone informed as the situation evolves and further details will be published as soon as plans are available.

### ***What will happen with qualifications or partial qualification gained for Summer Regionals and Area Festivals?***

Any combinations who have existing summer qualifications (full and part) will have those carried over into the winter season which starts on 1 July. These will remain valid up until the end of the winter qualification period on 31 December and would count towards qualification for the 2021 Winter Regionals or Winter Area Festivals.

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

All options remain on the table for the time being, but it is impossible to be prescriptive about what the future might look like at present, while we still don't know how long the restrictions 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.

Unfortunately a large part of the summer qualifying period has been lost during the suspension period. As confirmed in our [Coronavirus Operational Plan](#), published on 7 May, the remainder of the 2020 summer season has been abandoned. Inevitably the calendar will have a very different look once competition resumes and riders should use competitions as a measure against their training progress, rather than a method of qualification, as championship opportunities will initially be limited as the sport builds back up to full strength.

With only a limited window of opportunity available during the summer months and social distancing measures expected to remain in place, many of our regular competitions and major events have now had 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 the second half of the year. It is quite a complex jigsaw, which also needs to take international competition into account.

### ***Will Quest Finals still be able to go ahead, as they are later in the year?***

We have unfortunately had to take the decision to cancel the 2020 Quest National Championships in October, due to the numbers involved. Our current plan is to run the eight Quest Regional Finals as individual championships, based on leader board positions at the end of the qualification period, so that our Club members still have a target for the remainder of the season and an opportunity to have their achievements recognised.

### ***Will the Shearwater Young Horse and the BD Young Pony Championships happen in 2020?***

We have cancelled all the qualifiers for the summer season, but are currently working on a revised qualification process to still facilitate a championship final in 2020. Full details will be shared with members in due course.

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

Summer qualification can be carried over and we currently hope that we will be able to run the Para Silver & Bronze Summer Championship at the end of August as planned. We're currently working on plans to incorporate the Gold section into this competition for their summer championships and riders will be contacted in due course. Due to the smaller number of competitor involved, it should be possible to accommodate these championships within any social distancing measures that remain in place.

### ***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 on the [BEF website](#).

## **International Competition**

### ***Are international competitions running?***

The FEI continues to advise National Federations to suspend all international competitions at present. The majority of competitions between April and August have already been cancelled or postponed, with others decisions pending. A link to the current FEI dressage calendar can be found here: <https://www.fei.org/dressage/events/>. This is updated regularly and the FEI Dressage Calendar Task Force is currently working on the process for reallocating fixtures for the remainder of the year.

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

Due to the ongoing crisis, the [Royal International Horse Show at Windsor](#), the [Bolesworth International](#) and [Hickstead International](#) in June, [Hartpury Festival of Dressage](#) in July and Bishop Burton CPEDI in August have confirmed that they have cancelled their events for this year.

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

The 2020 Olympics and Paralympics, due to take place in Tokyo this summer, have been postponed by 12 months and will now take place in July / August 2021. The FEI Pony European Championships at Strezgom and the FEI Junior and Young Rider European Championships at Hartpury have also now been cancelled.

The World Young Horse Championships in Verden have been postponed to 9 – 13 December 2020. Selection policies will be reviewed and updated in due course.

For the remaining international shows, 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. Selection policies will be reissued in order to take into account the disruption caused to the 2020 international calendar and ensure that no riders are disadvantaged when planning ahead for 2021.

### ***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 ceased in line with the suspension of competitions, up to and including 31 May 2020. Full refunds have already been processed for any regional training or participation activity booked in that time period. Organised training and camps will only be able to restart once government restrictions are further relaxed. According to the government's recovery strategy, we anticipate that resumption may be possible from June onwards.

### ***As coaches are now allowed to train clients in England, when will regional activity begin?***

We are currently reviewing the possibility for flexi-training to return for individual outdoor lessons, on a one-to-one basis only. Any group activity will be dependent on further relaxation of restrictions to enable multiple people to participate in training. All training will also have to be fully compliant with social distancing and public health requirements. For Scotland and Wales, all regional activity remains suspended for the time being.

As part of our Operational Plan, we will look to put on test riding days to enable members to practice, improve fitness levels and get 'competition ready', when we move into the resume phase, hopefully in June. We're also developing training shows to help ease everyone back into competing and test all health, safety and hygiene measures ahead of a full resumption of activity.

### ***How will cancellation of regional training impact on selection for regional team competitions this year?***

The Senior Inter Regionals, Para Home International, BD Youth Inter Regional and BD Youth Home International have all now been cancelled due to the pandemic. It is still hoped that we can run the Senior Home International, due to take place later in the year. The Sport Operations team and RDOs are currently reviewing the impact on timeframes for qualification and selection for this event and members will be updated in due course.

## **Vaccinations**

### ***Not all vets are carrying out vaccinations. What if my horse goes over the 12 month requirement?***

You will 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 is 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 independent expert 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.

## **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, public health and hygiene, we would strongly advise against it at the current time. When British Dressage is able to resume competition activity this will be implemented in a regulated and controlled environment to protect all participants. This cannot be guaranteed at unaffiliated competitions.

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, as your personal well-being remains of paramount importance at all times.

We will be providing more detailed guidance and safe working practices for our officials once we have more information on how the competition environment will operate, in order to comply fully with all regulations.

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

As part of the first phase in the resumption of activity in England, remote or virtual training and competition activity using BD tests will be allowed to resume for authorised online providers. Members residing in Scotland and Wales would only be able to participate currently if they have access to facilities at home.

All online providers must obtain permission to use BD tests, so please check this is in place before accepting any judging invitations. If you work with suppliers who would like to apply to be an approved provider, criteria sheets and application forms are available on request from our Sport Operations Manager, Lou Jones.

Judges engaging with non-approved providers should not use BD tests for competitions. Please also be aware that the appropriate data protection, processing and storage measures may not be in place in order to be GDPR compliant. This may mean that you are not adequately protected to receive videos and personal information from competitors.

FEl judges will have received an update which precludes them from judging national and international online competitions as these fall under 'unsanctioned events' if they involve any form of classification. The same principles apply to all BD judges, whether these virtual competitions are using BD or FEl tests.

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

Judges that are also coaches should follow the guidance supplied in the latest newsletter. If you choose to support existing clients in coaching and training, we recommend 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 aim to reschedule exams at the earliest possible opportunity, while still providing candidates and examiners with enough notice to attend. It is likely that these exams may now run into spring 2021. Please note that these rescheduled dates will only be available to those already booked on to any cancelled dates, not new applications.

## **Coaches**

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

From 13 May onwards, coaches in England are now permitted to resume individual lessons to work with their clients, whether at their own yard or another venue. This must be in an outdoor space, providing you are alone and only meeting with one person from outside of your household, staying a minimum of two metres apart at all times.

You can meet with different clients in a single day as long as it is only via one-to-one sessions and you follow all social distancing, public health and hygiene regulations. We recommend you that you carry out risk assessments, review your insurance provision and ensure that safeguarding measures remain in place. Further guidance will be available shortly as part of a coaches' toolkit, to help you resume safely.

You should also enforce strong hygiene practices, including cleaning any equipment or shared surfaces in line with wider guidance, for example by using antibacterial spray and washing hands thoroughly before and after use.

In Scotland and Wales, riding is permitted for exercise only at this stage and restrictions on travel remain in place. You may want to consider online training or unmounted sessions with your clients as an alternative. However, those who are unable to work from home are still permitted to travel, which would include coaches undertaking lessons at their client's private facilities, providing social distancing is maintained at all times.

### ***What is my responsibility in the event of an accident, if I choose to resume my coaching?***

Coaches need to be mindful that they are responsible for the safety of their clients. It is essential that thorough risk assessments are carried out to mitigate risk, as well as checking that they have adequate insurance cover with their provider. Further guidance on administering first aid and resuscitation will be included in the coaches' toolkit.

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

Online training is a good option for coaches in Scotland and Wales and for riders or coaches in England who wish to continue self-isolating / shielding. Please make contact with your insurers before conducting any training as they may have specific requirements. We would also strongly advise conducting a risk assessment in advance before undertaking any lessons remotely and please also refer to the online safety guidance in the coaches' toolkit.

### ***What additional training can I do with my clients?***

Where some clients may not be in a position to ride their horses, coaches may still want to provide training advice and support to their existing clients remotely, if it is appropriate and safe to do so. Coaches should ensure that they hold the required levels of insurance cover and conduct a thorough risk assessment before undertaking activity.

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, including 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. In addition, there are a number of activities that focus on mindset and psychology that can help riders to stay motivated during this period. We would recommend that you check those providing the activities are licensed by the relevant regulatory body to ensure they are fully accredited.

### ***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.

### ***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 government restrictions 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 the government restrictions are 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. Based on the timeline included in the government's recovery strategy, published on 11 May, we currently anticipate that competitions will be able to resume from 4 July. This will be very much dependent on government restrictions that remain in place and how they manage the phased 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 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?***

We understand and share the financial concerns you will inevitably have for the future of your business and our sport. We will be working with our colleagues across the equestrian sector to support our organisers and venues.

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.

### ***Following the latest government advice for England, can I now reopen my venue for hire?***

Any facilities associated with outdoor sports and physical activities are permitted to reopen in England from Wednesday 13 May 2020 onwards, if those responsible for them feel ready to do so and if they can do so safely.

Participation should be restricted to riders exercising outdoors only, either by themselves, with members from their household, or one member from another household, observing social distancing guidelines at all times. One to one training or coaching is permitted outdoors, remaining a minimum distance of two metres apart.

It is vitally important that all facilities and equipment are cleaned regularly, before and after use, to maintain high standards of hygiene. Where possible we recommend that sharing of any tack or equipment is limited. Cleaning protocols should be put in place to limit transmission of the virus and common touch points, such as door handles and gates, should be a particular areas of focus for rigorous and increased cleaning.

Other considerations for venues and organisers include:

- Bookings should be taken in advance, using online payment providers or over the phone
- High hygiene standards must be maintained through handwashing and toilet facilities
- Hand sanitiser should be provide in multiple locations, in addition to washrooms
- Clear signage on social distancing and hygiene should be displayed to visitors on arrival
- All indoor facilities, apart from toilets and their access, should be kept closed at all times
- All food and drink facilities inside the venue must remain closed, apart from take-aways
- Toilets may be kept open, but guidance on hygiene and sanitation should be followed
- Additional space should be provided for parking to adhere to social distancing measures

Full details on the government's guidance can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-on-phased-return-of-sport-and-recreation>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-on-phased-return-of-sport-and-recreation/guidance-for-providers-of-outdoor-facilities-on-the-phased-return-of-sport-and-recreation>

All venues in Scotland and Wales should remain closed due to the ongoing restrictions that are still in place.

### ***Can I run online dressage competitions?***

From 13 May, as part of the first phase in the resumption of activity in England, remote or virtual training and competition activity using BD tests will be allowed to resume for authorised online providers. Members residing in Scotland and Wales would only be able to participate currently if they have access to facilities at home.

All online providers need to have permission to use BD tests. A criteria sheet and application forms are available on request from our Sport Operations Manager, Lou Jones.