

Coronavirus (COVID-19) – Member Q&A

Update: 28.09.20



National competition and events

What competition restrictions are in place currently?

Organised sport and training activity can continue to operate under our COVID protocols and procedures detailed in our stakeholder toolkits, which must be strictly adhered to at all times. The situation continues to evolve regularly, particularly with local lockdown restrictions, so members are advised to consult the website for the most up to date information and guidance via the [news feed](#) and [COVID-19 Info Hub](#).

Your support and vigilance is important – vital in fact – to safeguard the continued running of activity. Please follow any additional restrictions that may be in place in your area; we've [put some advice together](#) for those who reside in an area impacted by local lockdowns.

Can I compete in online competitions?

Remote or virtual training and competition activity using BD tests is permitted for authorised online providers only.

There are currently four authorised online providers: [Dressage Anywhere](#), [E-Riders](#), [The Mane Show](#) and [Dressage Online](#). Prior approval must be obtained by all 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.

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 started on 1 July. These will remain valid up until the end of the winter qualification period on 31 December and count towards qualification for the 2021 Winter Regionals or Winter Area Festivals.

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

Our talented four, five and six year old horses will only have one chance to contest their age category and a shot at being crowned a Shearwater Champion, so we've formulated a revised series with qualification running from August to September and a championship final at Keysoe, 3–4 October. This will include a seven year old class in replacement for that announced for the Nationals. Qualification is now complete for all classes.

What about the Under 21 riders who also want a chance to compete in their age group?

It was disappointing to have to cancel the first ever Under 21 classes as part of the National Championships as we know a number of riders, particularly those in the final year of an age group, we're looking forward to this new opportunity. However, the chance is not lost as we have secured an alternative standalone competition for this year only, as part of the Vale View High Profile Show, 29 – 31 October, in Leicestershire. [Read more here](#).

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](#).

General guidance

As of 28 September 2020, the guidance for each of the home nations is as follows:

	England	Scotland	Wales
<p><i>How many can meet?</i></p> <p><i>Please note: local restrictions are in place throughout the UK where these numbers may differ.</i></p>	<p>No more than six people from different households in indoor or outdoor settings.</p>	<p>Two households can meet outdoors, up to six people in total, but social distancing must be maintained at all times.</p> <p>Children under 12 do not count towards the total.</p> <p>When outdoors, 12 to 18 year olds must keep to the limit of six people but are exempt from the two household limit.</p> <p>Two or more households must not meet in a private indoor setting, up to six aged 12+ from two households at other venues.</p>	<p>Outdoors: gatherings of up to 30 people are permitted from different households.</p> <p>Indoors: up to six people from four households can form an extended household.</p> <p>Children under 11 do not count towards the total.</p>
<p><i>Social distancing</i></p>	<p>2m or 1m plus mitigations</p>	<p>2m</p>	<p>2m</p>
<p><i>Wearing of face coverings</i></p>	<p>Compulsory in a number of <u>indoor settings</u> - not required when exercising</p>	<p>Compulsory in a number of <u>indoor settings</u> - not required when exercising</p>	<p>Compulsory in a number of <u>indoor settings</u> - not required when exercising</p>
<p><i>Riders</i></p>	<p>Groups of up to six people from separate households can ride together, or five plus a coach.</p>	<p>Two households can ride together at a time, up to a maximum of six people.</p>	<p>Riders can participate in gatherings of up to 30 people, where activity is organised and supervised.</p>
<p><i>Coaches</i></p>	<p>Can teach groups of up to five people from separate households in a session, with no limit</p>	<p>Organised group coaching can take place outdoors for a maximum of 30 people at any one time, with multiple</p>	<p>May instruct individuals or groups of up to 30 people, with</p>

	England	Scotland	Wales
	<p>on the number of sessions per day.</p> <p>Organised training activity can include groups of up to 30 people, subject to conducting risk assessments.</p>	<p>sessions per day as long as the groups do not mix.</p> <p>Indoor facilities can be used if COVID protocols and procedures are fully implemented.</p>	<p>no limit on the number of sessions per day.</p>
<i>Venues</i>	<p>Groups of up to 30 people are permitted at any one time, in both indoor and outdoor spaces.</p> <p>Maximum occupancy of each indoor facility should be limited by providing a minimum of 100sqft per person.</p>	<p>Up to 30 people can take part in any one outdoor training or competition session in an organised setting.</p> <p>Multiple sessions can take place at any one time throughout the day, as long as the groups do not mix.</p> <p>Indoor facilities can be used if COVID protocols and procedures are fully implemented.</p> <p>No more than 200 people in any one day at competitions/training/events</p>	<p>Organised training and competition activity is permitted for groups of up to 30 people at a time.</p> <p>Sport should be done as locally as possible.</p>
<i>BD Competitions with approved COVID protocols in place</i>	<p>Groups of up to 30 people are permitted at any one time.</p>	<p>Groups of up to 30 people within a defined bubble can compete, with a requirement that multiple groups should not mix.</p> <p>No more than 200 people in any one day at competitions/training/events</p>	<p>Groups of up to 30 people are permitted to at any one time.</p> <p>Sport should be done as locally as possible.</p>
<i>Competition helpers</i>	<p>Rider + one per horse (para or U18 riders are permitted one additional helper).</p>	<p>Rider + one per horse (para or U18 riders are permitted one additional helper).</p>	<p>Rider + one per horse (para or U18 riders are permitted one additional helper).</p>

	England	Scotland	Wales
<i>Covered (indoor) arenas permitted</i>	✓	✓	✓
<i>Affiliated competition</i>	✓	✓	✓
<i>Camps (with COVID measures in place to meet social distancing requirements)</i>	✓	✓	✓

Should I download the NHS test and trace app?

It's a matter of personal preference but a number of venues are displaying QR codes to check in on top of their own contact sheet recording. Read more on the [NHS test and trace](#) app.

International Competition

Are international competitions running?

The FEI published their plans to facilitate the safe resumption of international competitions earlier this summer, although each jurisdiction will continue to differ depending on the current status of the virus, which impact on the travel, testing and quarantine restrictions in place. The vast majority of competitions up to the end of September have been cancelled or postponed, although some territories have now started to host international events again.

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.

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 World Young Horse Championships in Verden has been rescheduled to 9 – 13 December 2020. The selection policy for these championships has been updated and reissued, although participation will be on an individual, self-funded basis.

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 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?

Our International Officer, Lianne Martin, is able to facilitate FEI passport applications on request via email at lianne.martin@britishdressage.co.uk. Please note, however, that due to office working arrangements it may take more time than usual to process paperwork. Therefore, you should allow plenty of time in advance of any travel plans. Your patience and co-operation during this time is appreciated.

Regional Activity

Can training and camps in the regions continue?

From 1 June onwards, outdoor training activity has resumed across England, Scotland and Wales. Dates have been scheduled throughout the summer months and into autumn to offer a range of training opportunities across all eight regions. This is subject to government restrictions on numbers and social distancing, with all necessary public health and hygiene measures in place. There's more information on this in our [COVID-19: returning to restricted activity safely](#), which summarises our standard operating procedures.

Activities include flexi-training, clinics and test riding, as well as online training for all judge levels. Organised camps are also now able to restart, with restricted participation numbers in accordance with the government guidelines. For further information on what activity is currently available, please visit your [region's web page](#).

Vaccinations

What is BD doing about the six month booster requirement?

We previously announced a three month amnesty, effective from 1 July through to the 30 September, to allow members time to bring their horse vaccinations up to date. Please note, however, that the requirement to have an EI vaccination within six months of competition remains in place **from 1 October onwards** to provide adequate protection when competing in the autumn / winter period.

With horses not travelling during lockdown the risk of EI has remained low during the summer months, but it is vitally important that from October the requirement to have an EI vaccination within six months of competition is reinstated to provide adequate protection when competing in the autumn / winter period.

Please note that this temporary amnesty applies to the six monthly requirement only; all annual vaccinations must still be kept up to date. Unfortunately, if your horse has missed the 12 month vaccination renewal date, then you will need to restart the course of injections again before competing, in accordance with BD rules.

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 was 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 were unable to get them completed you'll need to start the process again in line with BD rule 11.

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.

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 this rule does not apply, but the 12 month requirement remains in place regardless. However, when competition returns from 1 July onwards there will be a three month transition period to enable you to get your six monthly boosters up to date by 30 September 2020 at the latest.

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 still necessary in order to protect against EI. Beyond this point the efficacy of the vaccine is no longer guaranteed. Therefore this requirement must remain in place to prevent a resurgence in the number of cases again next winter.

Membership and horse registration

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

All members who maintained their horse registrations during the suspension period have already had a two month extension added to their renewal date. To qualify for this concession, the horse registration and corresponding owner(s) membership must have been valid as of 31 May 2020, with a 28 day grace period applied for renewals. This covers the full months of April and May when there was no training or competition activity during lockdown.

Due to the delay to the resumption of full competition activity in Scotland and Wales, the BD Board agreed that members in the two devolved nations should be granted an additional one month extension to horse registrations, so they received a three month extension in total. This concession has been applied to renewal dates automatically.

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.

As always, the advice from Shearwater to riders, and clients, is to ensure that they are operating within the current Government guidance and are acting lawfully at all times. They would therefore strongly recommend members check with venues whether they have been given written permission to open facilities before attending.

As long as members are following government guidelines and not carrying out illegal acts then insurance cover remains in force as per normal terms/conditions of policy. If anyone is perceived to be breaching lockdown rules/legislation then this could be interpreted as carrying out an illegal act.

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 if there's another lockdown?

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.

Unless the government specifically states 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, especially in the event of any local lockdowns.

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 insurance cover you receive 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 impact of the pandemic?

Everything continued to operate effectively during lockdown, 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' and you can still [contact us by email and phone](#) as normal.

From 1 April, we furloughed half of our staff under the government Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme, which continued to be in place for some employees until 31 July. We returned to full staffing levels from 1 August onwards, although skeleton working arrangements will still apply in the BD head office, so we appreciate your patience if it takes slightly longer than normal to respond to your query.

Is BD in danger of going bankrupt following 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 fully. 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 when we are able to return to life as normal.

What measures did BD put 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 has remained in place across all departments, with employees working remotely to maintain service and support levels to members.

In addition, a number of projects for 2020 have been put on hold, while we focused resources on those critical areas that required funding more urgently. 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.

Judges

Is it safe to judge at competitions?

While we only have jurisdiction over affiliated dressage activity, BD has ensured that all competitions are run in a controlled and regulated environment, in accordance with all social distancing, public health and hygiene regulations, to protect the safety of all participants. Please note, however, that these protocols cannot be guaranteed at unaffiliated competitions as they do not fall under the auspices of the National Governing Body. We have [provided detailed guidance and safe working practices](#) in order to comply fully with all government regulations and would recommend that judges follow these at all shows where they are officiating, both affiliated and unaffiliated.

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 and ensuring fair and standardised exam conditions. Due to the current restrictions and the structure of the exams, it is not possible to run them with the current social distancing measures in place. The exams will be reorganised to run in 2021, subject to any restrictions that remain. Please note that these rescheduled exams will only be available to those already booked on to any cancelled dates, not new applications. Anyone wishing to start on their journey to become a listed judge or wish to upgrade can now register for the new judge education system and access the education programme via the online sessions organised through the regions.

Are there any judge training opportunities available online to help me to meet my CPD requirements?

Following the cancellation of the regional seminars and the Principles of Judging seminar, as an alternative, judges must participate in two zoom sessions at their appropriate level to remain listed. Judges should have completed the updated CPD requirement by the end of March 2021. The training is not just limited to those wishing to meet CPD requirements, there are a range of sessions across the levels covering various movement specific topics as well as full test judging and analysis. The sessions have been very well received and are delivered by a range of tutor judges from across the country, all accessible from your own home. [Zoom sessions can be booked via the judge training calendar.](#)

Coaches

How will my BDCC course be affected?

We have reformatted the delivery programme for BDCC courses, which enable us to deliver the theory sections via WebEx. 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. The remaining practical sessions and assessment days will be delivered in small groups and observing Covid secure protocols

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

All face to face 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.

There are options to continue with some training online including safeguarding and Youth Assessor Coach training which is now available on Zoom details can be found <https://www.britishdressage.co.uk/get-involved/education-and-courses/courses/>

Any coach who needs to renew their safeguarding certificate will be able to do so online. Please contact 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 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

We have produced a [Coronavirus Toolkit for organisers and venues](#) to help with the requirements for the resumption of training and competition activity, which we update regularly based on the latest government advice.

Can I run online dressage competitions?

Remote or virtual training and competition activity using BD tests can now resume in England, Scotland and Wales for authorised online providers. Please note that the affiliation agreement does not extend to online activity and all providers need to obtain permission separately to use BD tests in this format. A criteria sheet and application form is available on request from our Sport Operations Manager, Lou Jones.

What assistance can I get to help my business stay viable?

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

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.