

Coronavirus (COVID-19) – Wales Q&A



PLEASE NOTE: this guidance is effective from Monday 9 November

Update: 13.11.20

National competition and training

What competition and training restrictions are in place currently?

Following the two week 'firebreak lockdown' in Wales, from Monday 9 November onwards 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.

All activity in Wales must be run in accordance with the following restrictions:

- Up to 15 people can take part in indoor organised activity at any one time
- Up to 30 people can take part in outdoor organised activity at any one time
- All social distancing, hygiene and COVID safety measures must be followed

Anybody who is there to organise or support the activity, whether they are working or providing a voluntary service, can also attend and do not need to be considered within the limit of 30 or 15. Children aged under 11 are also excluded from the maximum number in the gathering.

Unlimited numbers of children under the age of 18 can participate in organised sporting activity, as it is for the development or well-being of children, and the number who can be involved is constrained only by the boundaries of the setting and the need for sufficient adults to be present to facilitate and supervise the activity.

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 vital to safeguard the continued running of BD competition and training 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 a part of the country that is impacted by local lockdowns.

What travel restrictions are in place in Wales?

Travel restrictions within Wales are no longer in place from 9 November onwards. Therefore Welsh members are able to travel to venues and support organised BD competitions and training activity, regardless of where they live in the country. However, please note that riders from England are not permitted to travel into Wales during the England lockdown period (from 5 November to 2 December inclusive).

Can I travel to England to compete and train?

During the national lockdown period in England (from 5 November to 2 December inclusive), travel across the England and Wales border is only permitted under limited circumstances, such as for work and education purposes only. Therefore coaches and judges can continue to travel from Wales into England, or vice versa, to teach their clients individually on a one-to-one basis, providing all other COVID measures and restrictions are adhered to.

However, members should not cross the border to compete or train, as this would not qualify as essential travel. Please see the Welsh government [Coronavirus regulations FAQ](#) and UK government's guidance on [restrictions in England](#) for further information.

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 happens if I live, work, compete or train in an area under local restrictions?

In the event of any additional lockdown restrictions being imposed by your national government or local authority, our advice is as follows:

- Members, organisers and officials who live in any of the areas with local restrictions should strictly adhere to all government regulations that are put in place.
- Where BD organised competition and training activity is permitted to continue, all COVID guidance and protocols must be implemented fully and followed correctly.
- Venues are required to conduct thorough risk assessments to mitigate risks and take all necessary precautions to ensure that activity is run in a COVID secure environment.
- Any venue that falls within an area with travel restrictions in place should not accept entries or bookings from members outside of that area, unless they have put additional mitigations in place and have received local authority approval.
- Organisers should not accept bookings for training or competition entries from members who live in areas with mandatory travel restrictions.
- Judges, stewards or officials who reside within an area with mandatory travel restrictions should only visit venues or clients for work purposes.
- Where activity takes place within an area under local travel restrictions, coaches and judges should only conduct training or test riding for members who reside within that area.
- Members are strongly advised not go into or out of an area with travel restrictions to take part in organised competition, training or test riding activity, while the local lockdown remains in place.
- Staff, contractors and suppliers should only travel to / from venues within restricted areas if deemed essential for work purposes and they are unable to work from home.
- With many areas of the UK subject to different and rapidly changing restrictions, it is the responsibility of individual members to ensure that they check the latest situation in the area they are living in, or travelling to, to ensure that they are complying with all requirements.

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 2020. These will remain valid up until the end of the winter qualification period on 31 December 2020 and count towards qualification for the 2021 Winter Regionals or Winter Area Festivals.

We will continue to monitor the qualification data for the winter qualification period due to the lost competition opportunities during lockdowns – and, if required, any changes to our qualifying criteria will be communicated to those members affected.

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](#).

Judges

Is it safe to judge at competitions where there are permitted?

BD has ensured that all affiliated 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. All organised BD competition and training activity in Wales will continue to operate under these protocols.

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.

Coaches

Can I travel to and from Wales to teach clients?

During the England lockdown (from 5 November to 2 December inclusive) travel across the England and Wales border is permitted for work or education purposes. Coaches and judges can therefore continue to travel to teach their clients individually on a one-to-one basis, providing all other COVID measures and restrictions are adhered to.

Coaches can undertake training and judges can do test riding in accordance with the protocols that were put in place before the Welsh firebreak lockdown and as detailed in our [stakeholder toolkits](#).

Organisers

What restrictions are in place for hosting BD competitions and training?

From Monday 9 November onwards, organised BD competitions and training activity is permitted to resume within the following restrictions:

- Up to 15 people can take part in indoor organised activity at any one time
- Up to 30 people can take part in outdoor organised activity at any one time
- All social distancing, hygiene and COVID safety measures must be followed

Anybody who is there to organise or support the activity, if they are working or providing a voluntary service, can also attend and do not need to be considered within the limit of 30 or 15. Children aged under 11 are also excluded from the maximum number in the gathering.

Unlimited numbers of children under the age of 18 can participate in organised sporting activity, as the purpose is for the development or well-being of children, and the number who can be involved is constrained only by the boundaries of the setting and the need for sufficient adults to be present to facilitate and supervise the activity.

Can I run online dressage competitions?

Remote or virtual training and competition activity using BD tests can continue 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](#).