

Coronavirus (COVID-19) – England Member Q&A

Update: 30.11.20 – effective from 02.12.20



Separate Q&A documents are available for [Scotland](#) and [Wales](#) to cover the current COVID advice and restrictions in each nation.

General overview

From Wednesday 2 December onwards, England will operate under a [three tier system of local restrictions](#). Organised sport is permitted to continue in all tiers, so BD competitions and training activity will resume from this date, in accordance with our COVID protocols. The overall message is that you should minimise travel to other areas where possible, regardless of their level, although this is advisory, not mandatory.

In summary, the following principles apply in each tier:

Tier 1 – Medium alert

- Organised outdoor sport, physical activity and exercise classes can continue (please note, the use of covered indoor arenas for equestrian activity has previously been classified as outdoor activity in England and Scotland).
- Organised indoor sport, physical activity and exercise classes can continue to take place, providing [the rule of six](#) is followed. There are exceptions for indoor disability sport, sport for educational purposes, and supervised sport and physical activity for under-18s, which can take place with larger groups mixing.
- If you live in a Tier 1 area and travel to an area in a higher tier you should follow the rules for that area while you are there.
- You are advised to avoid travel to or overnight stays in Tier 3 areas, other than where necessary, such as for work, education, youth services, to receive medical treatment, or because of caring responsibilities. You can travel through a Tier 3 area as part of a longer journey.

Tier 2 – High alert, as above, with the following additional points:

- Organised indoor sport, physical activity and exercise classes will only be permitted if it is possible for people to avoid mixing with people they do not live with (or share a support bubble with).
- You cannot socialise with other households indoors.
- You can meet in a group of up to six people outside – including in a garden, or a public place.
- If you live in a Tier 2 area, you must continue to follow Tier 2 rules when you travel to a Tier 1 area.

Tier 3 – Very High alert, as above, with the following additional points:

- You cannot mix with other households indoors, or in private gardens and pub gardens.
- You can meet in a group of up to six in other outdoor spaces, such as parks, beaches or countryside
- You are advised to avoid travelling to other parts of the UK, although you may travel out of a Tier 3 area for individual exercise.

Organised sport and training, operating under BD's COVID Secure protocols, can resume from 2 December onwards in all three tiers.

To find out which tier you and your horse resides in, or the venue you're attending, you can use this [post code checker on GOV.UK](#).

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.

Our guidance on local restrictions will apply from 2 December:

- Members, organisers and officials must abide by the restrictions that apply for that tier, both in terms of where they are travelling to and from. It is important to note that the highest tier restrictions will always take priority when travelling between different tiers.
- While travel restrictions are currently advisory rather than mandatory, it is recommended that members follow government guidance on avoiding unnecessary travel to / from Tier 3 areas.
- Organisers and venues have the right to refuse entry to members from Tier 3 areas; however, entry fees should be refunded in accordance with BD rules.
- 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 in an area with mandatory 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 any mandatory travel restrictions.
- Members are advised to avoid travelling to / from areas with Tier 3 travel restrictions to take part in organised competition, training or test riding activity.
- Judges, stewards or officials who reside within an area with Tier 3 travel restrictions should visit venues or clients for work purposes only.
- Where activity takes place within an area under Tier 3 travel restrictions, coaches and judges are advised to only conduct training or test riding for members who reside within that area.
- Staff, contractors and suppliers should only travel to / from venues within Tier 3 areas if deemed essential for work purposes and they are unable to work from home.

Competition and events

What competitions can I take part in?

In line with the regulations, all BD activity and competition can resume across all tiers on Wednesday 2 December under our COVID protocols. You must abide by the restrictions for your tier at all times, in terms of permitted numbers for gatherings and mixing of households, as well as all associated social distancing and hygiene measures. When travelling to / from different tiers, you must adhere to the restrictions that apply at the higher level. It is recommended that those residing in Tier 3 areas compete at venues within the same local tier where possible. Travel between tiers is allowed where necessary and the travel restrictions are currently advisory rather than mandatory.

I live in Tier 3 – will organisers in Tier 1 or 2 accept my entry?

Those living in Tier 3 areas are advised to avoid travel to other tiers, if possible. Organisers have the right to refuse the entry of competitors who reside in a higher tier area, so please do check with your venue direct before making entries. If an entry is refused then full refunds should be made available, in accordance with BD rules.

Am I allowed to stable away at a show?

Yes, but competitors staying overnight in their lorries or camping areas must continue to adhere to current guidelines for the relevant tier, both from the area they are travelling from as well as the location of the venue. Members in all areas should avoid mixing with other households, adhere to the rule of six and remain within their social bubble.

Those travelling from Tier 3 areas should not mix with any others at the show, remain within their 'competition bubble' and confine themselves to the stables, competition area and lorry/trailer/accommodation with limited interaction where possible.

Will the winter qualification period be extended?

We are currently evaluating the qualification data for those already qualified and assessing the impact of remaining competition dates, but at this stage we would anticipate that competitors will have had adequate opportunity to secure qualifications in the available time since the first lockdown. It is also important to remember that all part and full qualifications for the summer season have already been carried over, providing an extended qualification period.

Can I compete in online competitions?

Yes – it's a great way to continue your training and development by getting in competition practice while 'live' activity may be limited or restricted in your area. Remote or virtual 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.

Regional Activity

Can I travel from a higher tier to a lower one for training? And what about from a lower to higher?

Yes, you may travel between tiers to take part in exercise and training activity, although we do advise members to follow the restrictions that apply in your local area. As ever, please keep interaction with other participants to a minimum and always strictly adhere to all COVID protocols, social distancing and hygiene measures.

My Regional Development Officer has been furloughed, who do I contact?

We currently have three RDOs providing regional cover during the period of furlough leave for staff:

Northern, North West and Eastern - Jo Byrne (07783 791191 or jo.byrne@britishdressage.co.uk)

Wales and South West - Vanessa Archer (07398 763414 or vanessa.archer@britishdressage.co.uk)

Scotland, Southern and Central - Emma Devoy (07584 147258 or emma.devoy@britishdressage.co.uk)

Judges

Can I travel to judge at a competition in a different tier to my home location?

Yes, you may, although it is recommended that you keep interaction with others to a minimum and follow the COVID guidance we have in place for officials. Judges, stewards or officials who reside within an area with Tier 3 travel restrictions should visit venues or clients for work purposes only.

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

Can I coach face to face in all tiers?

You may, but please note that you should not teach in groups of any more than five at any one time, in order to comply with the rule of six. Equestrian covered indoor arenas count as outdoor spaces under the regulations. Please note that the highest tier restrictions will always take priority when travelling between different tiered areas. Make sure to follow all COVID protocols and update risk assessments in order to create a safe workplace and we recommend that you also check with your insurance provider to ensure that you have adequate cover.

I live in a Tier 3 area, can my clients travel to my base for lessons?

If your clients also reside in the same area defined as Tier 3 then this is fine. The current travel restrictions are advisory rather than mandatory, although we recommend that members living within Tier 3 areas should avoid unnecessary travel where possible. Please continue to be vigilant in adhering to all COVID protocols, keeping contact to a minimum and update your risk assessments accordingly.

Organisers

Please refer to the [updated guidance in the COVID Toolkits](#) for the safe running of competitions.

With the BD online shop closed, how do I order score sheets for my forthcoming competitions?

Please email your requirements to [Rachel Smith](#) and a member of the team will send them out to you at the earliest opportunity. However, we would request that you place your orders as early as possible as they may take longer than normal to fulfil – we recommend a two week lead time. You can either process your payment over the phone with a credit card, or we can arrange an invoice to be sent to you directly.

Helpful links:

[GOV.UK – Local restriction tiers: what you need to know](#)

[GOV.UK – find out the restrictions in your area](#)

[GOV.UK – Meeting others safely](#)

[British Equestrian lockdown update](#)