



Guidance for British Dressage competitors and their connections

COVID-19: returning to restricted competition activity safely

Updated 16 July 2021 v.12

Published 24 June 2020

Guidelines for a safe return to competition activity

These guidelines currently apply to members residing in the United Kingdom and have been produced in line with government guidance on public areas, outdoor activities and exercise published in March 2021 which are available on the respective websites, [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk), [gov.scot](https://www.gov.scot) and [gov.wales](https://www.gov.wales).

These procedures are correct at the time of printing; however, they need to be reviewed regularly in accordance with the latest advice provided by government. Operating procedures are based on Public Health England (PHE) guidance, please note that other guidance may apply generally in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. You should refer to the relevant websites for the devolved governments for guidance relating to any other country other than England.

We all have a part to play in making sure that competitions are run under the safest conditions possible and minimise the risk of spreading coronavirus. While venues won't be able to provide the same fun, social environment we usually enjoy for competitions in the immediate future, by working together under the new requirements we will be able to take this important first step towards a return to normality.

The safety of all participants is our over-riding priority and we all need to work within the government guidelines in order to safeguard the health and well-being of competitors, officials and venue staff. We've consulted closely with our organisers, judges and stewards to put protocols in place that will provide a controlled and regulated environment, enabling competitions to return safely while reducing the risks associated with coronavirus.

Organisers and venues have been encouraged to conduct their own thorough risk assessments prior to the resumption of activity. This document is intended to provide guidance and recommendations only, not provide a prescriptive list as each venue will have different requirements depending on their circumstances. Nevertheless, the general principles that underpin our Standard Operating Procedures should still be in place at all venues when competitions restart to ensure that venues are COVID Secure.

The member FAQ document on the [BD COVID-19 hub](#) on our website may offer further help with any questions you may have. These procedures are correct at the time of printing; however, they need to be reviewed regularly in accordance with the latest advice provided by government. Operating procedures are based on [Public Health England \(PHE\) guidance](#); please note that other guidance may apply in [Scotland](#), [Wales](#) and [Northern Ireland](#). You should also refer to the relevant websites for the devolved governments for specific guidance relating to any other country other than England.

As of Monday 19 July in England, the legal requirement for face coverings and two metre social distancing will be removed. In Wales, social distancing will remain until at least 7 August and face coverings indoors will remain requirement by law for the foreseeable future.

BD Community COVID-19 Charter

The following general principles apply to all of our stakeholder groups:

- The health and safety of all of British Dressage members, and those connected with our sport in any way, must remain paramount at all times.
- Government guidelines should be adhered to by all participants, whether you are a competitor, organiser, judge, steward, groom, trainer, owner or other support personnel.
- All training and competition activity will be COVID-19 risk assessed in advance to manage risks and provide a safe, controlled and regulated environment for all involved.
- Regular handwashing, cleaning and hygiene procedures are essential for all activities.
- It is recommended that face coverings are worn in indoor spaces, such as on-site cafeterias or shops, where close contact cannot be avoided, and it is not possible to maintain safe social distancing.
- Flexibility, understanding and support are key to the successful resumption of training and competition activity, therefore compliance with these requirements is essential.
- Good communication is required between all participants to maintain awareness, vigilance and help to control the virus.

Key guidance

The following measures will help to keep yourself and those around you safe by minimising the risk of spreading the virus:

- Vaccination is encouraged for those who can, in order to maximise protection for yourself as well as those around you.
- Take advantage of the free NHS lateral flow tests which help you interact safely and minimise your personal risk.
- Do not travel for competition and training if you have any COVID symptoms.
- Familiarise yourself with the restrictions that remain in place at venues – they are there to protect you, other competitors, staff and officials.
- Spectators at British Dressage competitions can return within permitted numbers, but these should be managed in a way that provides a safe environment for everyone in attendance.
- Face coverings in indoor environments where people are in close proximity continue to be recommended.
- Continue to comply with social distancing where this remains in place – please note that the two-metre rule applies until at least 7 August in Wales and 9 August in Scotland.
- Respect other members and show officials in their choices and follow the guidance in place at all times.
- Do not share tack or equipment and thoroughly clean all items, including clothes, when returning home after competition.

General competition procedures

- The secretary's office and other internal areas can open as normal, but face coverings remain mandatory in Wales and recommended in England.
- Provision will be made by the venue for a first aider with appropriate PPE and knowledge of procedures under COVID-19 provisions.

- The venue may distribute score sheets on the day of competition, providing this is done in a controlled manner avoiding interaction, social distancing can be maintained at all times and the process is fully documented on the venue's risk assessment.
- Soft face coverings that cover the mouth and nose may be worn while riding, although these remain optional for competitors. No face shields are permitted and nothing should attach to the riding hat.
- In Wales & Scotland face coverings will continue to be required by law in most indoor places and continue to be recommended in England, particularly when in close proximity to others.
- Toilet facilities will be open and cleaned regularly. Venues are advised to regularly clean all facilities, particularly common touch points, such as door and gate handles.
- Competitors are advised to bring their own equipment, which should be stored in their own horseboxes or trailers when not in use, not left outside the stable.
- As per DEFRA requirements and BD rules, equine passports should accompany all horses during travel and be made available for inspection if requested.
- Horses must be vaccinated in accordance with BD rules. BD strongly recommends that all horses receive their six month vaccination at the earliest opportunity.
- All safeguarding, horse welfare and anti-doping policies will be followed and monitored as normal.
- Cafes and restaurant facilities can fully open, although it is recommended that protocols for managing footfall and the flow of traffic safely should remain in place.

Para riders

- Organisers should consider the needs of any riders that may require additional support and allow adequate parking for horseboxes / trailers with adjacent parking for additional support vehicles.
- Para riders should liaise with the venue prior to attending to request any specific requirements or additional support they may require. This is particularly important if the rider is visiting the venue for the first time.
- Para riders requiring overnight stabling should liaise with the venue prior to attending to ensure that clear access to the stabling / walkways is available.

Making an entry

- Please use the BD online portal for details on all competitions. We are continuing to work with organisers to keep the fixture schedules and show status up to date.
- All entries and payments will be made online, as per the details in each individual schedule.
- A condition of your entry will be that you agree to adhere to all government regulations and BD protocols relating to social distancing, public health and hygiene.
- If space permits, late entries will be permitted up until times are published.
- Normal withdrawal, ballot and refund conditions will apply.
- Entries will be accepted using class tickets.
- Once times have been published, no changes may be made to the class.
- If you're unable to compete, for whatever reason, please do let the venue know in good time. If it's before the times are published, your space may be able to be filled. This information is also required for track and trace sheets, as well as results, as all withdrawals must still be recorded.

Before you compete

- Communication with the venue is important, as they'll keep their website and listing on the BD online portal up to date with all the information you'll need on the day.
- Venues have been asked to post a map on their website a map, highlighting any changes to the site, including parking instructions and clearly marked toilet locations.
- Venues will also provide competitors with details of any additional requirements in place to help manage the COVID-19 risk. Please take time to read them in advance so you're fully prepared before travelling to the venue.
- Venues are still encouraged to operate a one-way system, if possible, so you should familiarise yourself with requirements on site, even if it's somewhere you go to compete regularly.
- If you have any special requirements, for example to assist with access, please consult with the organiser by telephone or email ahead of your arrival.

Music classes

- Venues wishing to run music competitions should ensure that clear guidance is relayed to the competitor regarding the transfer of music files, whether in physical or digital format.
- CDs, MP3 and USBs are all permitted; however, these must be sanitised before and after transfer between competitor and organiser.
- Online methods of music transfer are recommended if the venue has the facility to do so. [We Transfer](#) is a free online platform for transferring large file sizes.

On arrival

- As per current BD rules and DEFRA policy, horses must have up to date vaccinations in order to compete and passports must be carried with the horse at all times.
- Please park where directed by the venue. If there are marked bays, please use them to maintain social distancing according to which nation you are competing in.
- There will be a number of posters/notices to help you with the requirements in place and how to contact organisers. Venues should have a nominated COVID-19 Compliance Officer in place and their contact details will be made available to visitors.
- There should also be notification of an emergency contact for the venue vet and farrier.

Warm up arenas

- There are no specific restrictions on numbers in warm up arena due to COVID; however, rules should continue to be followed, as stipulated by the venue, depending on the size of arena.

Judging

- Judges have a full toolkit and have been provided with detailed guidance on their revised judging protocol and procedures to ensure that the safety of officials is protected at all times.

After your test

- Although restrictions will be relaxing for all nations, to minimise the spread of infection, the message remains to 'arrive, compete, leave'.
- On returning home, it's advisable that you clean and disinfect all tack and equipment, including clothing worn during competition.

Results

- Public scoreboards are now permitted; however, large numbers gathering in indoor areas should be avoided and signage should be displayed to still promote COVID awareness.
- Public prize giving ceremonies can be conducted. We advise that prize money should be paid electronically by BACS transfer or equivalent.
- Results must be published on the venue website within 48 hours of the competition and sent to BD.
- Venues are permitted to scan or photograph completed test sheets and either email results or alternatively post sheets out to competitors after the competition if they prefer.
- The venue may distribute score sheets on the day of competition, providing this is done in a controlled manner avoiding interaction, social distancing can be maintained at all times and the process is fully documented on the venue's risk assessment.
- This information will double as a 'track and trace' record to help if any competitor/visitor is subsequently tested positive for COVID-19.
- Objections or complaints can now be dealt with as per the rule book. rule 13 section 5 – annexes page 200.
- The BD team will process all results as normal and aim to have the final verified version live as soon as possible after receipt.

Stabling

- The venue should ensure their risk assessment is updated to reflect the use of stabling, in line with the most recent public health guidance.
- Full bio-security measures must be in place for cleaning stables before and after use, specifically with the raised concern over EHV-1.
- Social distancing signage, COVID-19 posters and PHE protocols must be displayed and clearly visible in all stabling areas.
- Venues should ensure that high standards of hygiene are maintained in the stabling area at all times and that stables are cleaned in between use.
- All shared surfaces or common touch points must also be thoroughly cleaned on a regular basis.
- Competitors are advised to bring their own equipment, which should be stored in their own lorries / trailers when not in use, not left outside the stable.
- Multiple day shows are now permitted in England, Scotland and Wales.

Safeguarding and horse welfare

- [Safeguarding](#) to be followed as per current protocols; refer to BD website for further information.
- Organisers must ensure that they obtain the contact details for a parent or guardian for any rider under 18 for any direct and digital communication required after the initial entry.
- [Horse welfare](#) should continue to be monitored as normal. Welfare forms can be found on the BD website and any concerns must be reported by the organiser to the BD Sport Operations Manager.

Travel Restrictions

In the event of any travel restrictions being imposed, whether at local, regional or national level, please note that the following general principles continue to apply:

- Members, organisers and officials must abide by the restrictions that apply for travel restrictions, both in terms of where they are travelling to and from.
- Organisers and venues have the right to refuse entry to members from areas with travel restrictions; however, entry fees should be refunded in accordance with BD rules.
- 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 should not travel to / from areas with travel restrictions to take part in organised competition, training or test riding activity.
- Judges, stewards or officials who reside within an area with travel restrictions should visit venues or clients for work purposes only.
- Where activity takes place within an area under travel restrictions, coaches and judges should only conduct training or test riding for members who reside within that area.
- With the three nations subject to different 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.

Useful web links

- [UK Government guidance for the public on the phased return for sport and recreation](#)
- [UK Government guidance for providers of outdoor facilities on the phased return of sport](#)
- [UK Government guidance for providers of grassroots sport and indoor leisure facilities](#)
- [Wales Government guidance for businesses reopening](#)
- [Wales Government guidance for a phased return of sport, recreation and leisure](#)
- [Sport & Recreation Alliance Outdoor facilities guidance](#)
- [Sport England return-play FAQ](#)
- [UK Government general coronavirus advice](#)
- [UK Government guidance on social distancing](#)
- [UK Government guidance on face coverings](#)
- [Government FAQs: what you can and can't do](#)
- [horsescotland](#)