



# **Guidance for British Dressage Judges**

## **COVID-19: returning to restricted activity safely**

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## Guidelines for a safe return to restricted activity

These guidelines currently apply to judges, organisers/venue owners and members residing in England, Scotland and Wales. Officials are reminded that localised lock downs supersede the guidance included in these protocols. This guidance has been produced in line with government guidance on public areas, outdoor activities and exercise, which are available on the [gov.uk website](#), [gov.scot website](#) and on the [gov.wales website](#).

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 refer to the relevant websites for the devolved governments for guidance relating to any other country other than England.

### Introduction

When operating during the Covid-19 pandemic, judges should ensure that they continue to protect themselves and minimise the risk of spreading the infection. While social distancing guidelines are being further relaxed, we still recommend that officials exercise caution while carrying out their duties.

Those wishing to continue working within the guidelines previously set, particularly those who may be considered at risk or more vulnerable, should still apply those protocols where applicable. Judges should ensure they communicate their preferences to the venue when discussing judging arrangements in advance, to avoid confusion or any individual requirements being overlooked on the day of competition.

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### 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.
- 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.

## Venue protocols for judges

- Judges should be booked directly, as per the normal process, to confirm their availability and willingness to officiate under current restrictions and guidelines.
- Venues may have reserve judges in case any booked official falls ill at short notice or has come into contact with someone who is displaying symptoms of coronavirus however judges need to be informed as soon as possible if they are to be stood down
- The judging procedure and operating procedures should be discussed fully with the venue at the time of booking and agreed in writing by both parties prior to the competition. While we envisage that where possible, regular judging practises can now resume any vulnerable judges wishing to continue with measures such as judging with a member from the same household or support bubble acting as writer, or if they are judging with an external writer under the one metre plus guidance must advise the venue. Judging alone is to be avoided where possible.
- Judges should be provided with the contact details for the secretary's office, on-site first aider and the designated COVID-19 Compliance Officer.
- Judges should arrive in plenty of time and notify the venue when they are on site. The venue can then instruct the judge on how to proceed from this point.
- The venue should advise of any potential issues that may have arisen while the judge has been in transit and direct them to their judging location, as required.
- Lateral flow tests are now readily available from the NHS website for collection at local pharmacies or home delivery. Please note that if implementing these tests as a pre-requisite for attendance on site for staff, officials and volunteers, appropriate permissions must be obtained in advance.
- 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.
- The wearing of face coverings is still recommended in indoor areas, or when in close proximity to others. In Wales and Scotland, face coverings continue to be mandatory in indoor areas.
- The judges' box or car should be thoroughly cleaned before any new judges enter. Where possible, the judge's own car should be used as the judging box to avoid cross-contamination.
- Judges should provide their own pens and clipboards if at all possible. Any shared equipment should be thoroughly cleaned in advance of use.
- Where possible, all shared facilities, surfaces and equipment should be cleaned regularly to reduce the risk of transmission.
- Adequate PPE should be provided for venue staff, officials and volunteers, as required, when operating in indoor spaces or if social distancing of two metres cannot be maintained.
- Sheet collecting is permitted; where possible hygiene measures should be observed.
- Where judging alone is unavoidable, an additional three minutes will be added to the overall test time to allow extra space between competitors and provide adequate time for judges to complete comments and their summary section. A revised test time document is in the organisers' section of the [Covid Toolkits](#).
- Scoreboards are now permitted and judges are able to sign off the sheets in the usual way.

## Venue facilities

### Indoor arena use

- In England, No restrictions as of 19 July.
- In Wales, as of 17 July, indoor arenas can be used for organised sport activity, up to a limit of 50 people.

### Outdoors

- In England, there are now no restrictions on the number of people that can meet outdoors at a competition.
- In Wales:
  - 100 people can meet outdoors for organised outdoor activities.
  - All staff, officials and competitors should aim to keep a minimum of two metres apart, in order to minimise the risk of spreading the virus.
  - If closer contact is unavoidable, individuals should still keep a minimum of one metre plus away at all times, wearing face masks and avoiding face to face contact where possible.

### Judging at competitions

- Where possible normal judging protocols should resume. If any judges are particularly vulnerable or are continuing to observe any social distancing measures due to individual circumstances, they must discuss this with the venue at the point of booking judging commitments. This is to ensure the venue is able to support any specific requests such as social distancing with the writer.

### Judging with an external writer

- The organiser should discuss all options with the judge and writer to agree an approach that all parties are comfortable with. Judges are reminded they should only officiate when they are happy to do so and are comfortable with the COVID Secure provisions agreed in advance with the organiser.
- It is recommended that judges and writers continue to be positioned a minimum of one metre apart at all times, plus take other mitigating measures to avoid any face-to-face contact.
- If using shared spaces, it is recommended that a Perspex screen remains in place as a divider between the judge and writer to ensure that there is separation between both parties.
- It is advisable that judges and writers use face masks while sharing the same space, providing clear communication can still be maintained, although this is not mandatory.
- Good ventilation is essential and it is recommended that fully enclosed units, such as boxes with closed doors and windows, should still be avoided.
- Adequate supplies of hand sanitiser and surface wipes must be made available to judges and writers to maintain hygiene standards.
- The judge and writer must avoid face to face contact and ensure that hand sanitiser is used when passing sheets between themselves.
- Lateral flow tests are recommended for judges and writers. They can be obtained via the NHS website for free.

## Judging with technology

- Venues choosing to use technology to facilitate communication between the judge and writer must ensure this is agreed in writing with all parties prior to the competition.
- Any technology employed should be robust, reliable and fully tested in advance of competition, making sure that there is sufficient infrastructure in place required to support its use, such as Wi-Fi networks, adequate bandwidth and non-conflicting radio frequencies.
- A clear contingency plan be in place should there be any equipment malfunction.
- Competitors must not be disadvantaged if there is a failure in the equipment used.

## Judges on their own

- Judges will allocate marks for each movement as normal and add comments at the end of the test.
- An additional three minutes will be added to the overall test time to provide adequate time for judges to complete their comments and summary at the end of the test.

## Judging music classes

- Judges will still need the support of a writer while judging music classes.

## Practice Judging

- Practice judging can now resume in England, Wales and Scotland, although judges should contact the venue in advance in order to obtain permission. Judges are advised that some venues may opt to continue with some restrictions.
- Judges will be required to organise their own sheets to use for the purposes of judging. Sitting in is still subject to the individual judging arrangements at the venue judges must ensure the venue, judge and writer are comfortable before attending.

## Test riding activity

- All judging and test riding should comply with any remaining [government guidance](#).
- Judges must consider safety first, in particular to minimise the risk of transmission and infection to and from others.
- A thorough risk assessment should be undertaken, in conjunction with standard risk assessment practice, and the appropriate measures implemented to ensure that participants, judges and volunteers are protected. It is advisable that you liaise with the venue when doing this.
- A risk assessment template and detailed standard operating procedures to assist with this process are available in the [Judges' Toolkit](#).
- Guidelines will be updated in line with developments in the government guidance. We recommend that you remain up to date with latest [BD coronavirus updates](#).
- Any measures implemented to allow the return to restricted activity for coaches, officials and riders must be capable of being changed quickly and remain flexible in the case of tighter restrictions / social distancing measures being reintroduced in future.
- Judges or riders with confirmed or suspected cases of Covid-19, those who reside with a person with a confirmed or suspected case of Covid-19, or who are identified as being vulnerable or at risk, should adhere to the government guidance on social isolation / shielding and should not partake in any activity until it is safe to do so.

- If delivering online coaching or test riding clinics you should observe safe working practices, taking into account additional safeguarding considerations, risk assessments and GDPR compliance.

## Judging children and safeguarding

- Guidance remains the same for test riding for children under 18; however, updated safeguarding guidance for the provision of online and face-to-face test riding is available in the [Judges' Toolkit](#).
- If judging test riding remotely online, it is recommended that judges utilise BD approved online providers using BD tests. If engaging in online competition or remote test riding judges must ensure that all of the necessary parent/guardian consent has been sought and the relevant safeguarding, GDPR and risk assessment protocols are adhered to.
- During test riding sessions the attendance of a non-participating parent or guardian with a rider should be limited to one, where possible – and social distancing should be observed whilst watching the session.

## Useful web links

### England

- [GOV.UK](#)
- [Sport England](#)

### Scotland

- [GOV.SCOT](#)
- [sportscotland](#)
- [horsescotland](#)

### Wales

- [GOV.WALES](#)
- [Sport Wales](#)

### General

- [Government guidance for the public on the phased return for sport and recreation](#)
- [Sport & Recreation Alliance Outdoor guidance](#)
- [Government general coronavirus advice](#)
- [Government guidance on social distancing](#)
- [HSE - Managing risks and risk assessment guidance](#)
- [DEFRA](#)
- [BD Coronavirus hub](#)