

To help safeguard the domestic racing industry from risk associated with international travel, the British Horseracing Authority (“BHA”) has agreed the following protocol to give eligible international participants appropriate Elite Athlete Exemption (“EAE”) status.

Current UK Government travel regulations require anyone travelling from a country not covered by the [travel corridor exemption](#) to self-isolate for 10 days on arrival in Great Britain (“GB”) or opt into the UK Government Test to Release Scheme (for travel to England only) .

In line with UK Government guidance, elite sportspersons and essential support staff (i.e. jockeys, trainers and stable staff) who wish to visit GB for the sole purpose of competing in a “[Specified Event](#)” may apply for [exemption](#) from the UKGov mandatory self-isolation schemes, subject to applying for and receiving written evidence from a national governing body (i.e. British Horseracing Authority (“BHA”). The BHA has agreed the following protocol to give eligible participants appropriate EAE status.

### **Available Options**

All international Athletes/Staff from [non-exempt countries](#) to attend a “[Specified Event](#)” race meeting in Great Britain (“GB”) are required by Law to do one of the following:

1. Attending Staff/Athlete must Self-isolate themselves for 10 days from the day of arrival in GB as per [UK Government policy](#);
2. Opt into the UK Government [Test to Release Scheme](#) for international travel (England only).
3. Be accepted onto the BHA’s International Elite Athlete Exemption Scheme.

**\*\*\*International Athletes must advise the BHA’s Chief Medical Advisor (“CMA”) of intended travel and which option they will be entering GB using [this form](#). You will be unable to attend the racecourse until you have completed the relevant steps required under your chosen route, submitted all test results to the BHA's Chief Medical Advisor and been cleared to attend.\*\*\***

### **BHA International Elite Athlete/Sporting Exemption**

The International EAE is available to Jockeys, Trainers and their Registered Stable Staff who are travelling from a non-exempt country for the sole purpose of attending a “[Specified Event](#)” race meeting in GB.

Eligible Staff/Athlete must obtain written evidence from the BHA for International Elite Athlete Exemption status under the elite athlete exemption policy as defined [here](#). Applications are made to the BHA using this form [insert link] and successful candidates will be provided with written evidence to present to the UK Border Force on arrival in Great Britain.

Applicants must stay in self-isolation on arrival in GB, until the BHA’s CMA confirms that they have completed a laboratory testing program involving two PCR antigen tests; one seven days before the competition and a second 24 - 72 hours before competition. The 2<sup>nd</sup> test must be undertaken and processed in GB. Both tests must be negative, from an accredited laboratory. All testing is at the attendee’s expense. Results must be verified by the BHA CMA.

**A Frequently Asked Questions document to provide further assistance is also available [here](#).**

## Requirements

1. **Application** - Individuals wishing to be considered must register with Dr Jerry Hill, BHA Chief Medical Advisor, at least 10 days before their trip to GB using the [EAE International Application Form](#).
2. **Duration** – Minimum scheme duration of 7 days.
3. **Travel** requirements are as follows:
  - 3.1. Social distancing must be maintained wherever possible during travel. Once in GB, sharing transport with others must only be done if 2m social distancing can be adhered to.
  - 3.2. Once individuals have arrived in GB they should [self-isolate](#) until cleared by the BHA's CMA. Once clearance is obtained, applicants may attend the training and competition venue; at all other times individuals should [self-isolate](#) as per UK Government requirements.
  - 3.3. Individuals should maintain 2m social distancing wherever possible. A face mask, covering your mouth and nose, must be worn where social distancing is not possible, or as required by venue requirements.
  - 3.4. Hand sanitizer should be used as a minimum before and after entering and exiting mode of transport on each occasion.
  - 3.5. Individuals must not attend any other race meeting and leave GB within 48 hours of the Specified Event.
4. **Monitoring** - individuals must undertake a laboratory testing program involving two PCR antigen tests; one seven days before the competition and a second 24 - 72 hours before competition. The 2<sup>nd</sup> test must be taken and processed in GB. Both tests must be negative, from an accredited laboratory. All testing is at the attendee's expense. Results must be verified by the BHA CMA.

The BHA also reserves the right to require further tests as necessary and dictated by the individual circumstances and advice of Public Health England and a UK based Consultant Virologist. Naturally for any GB test we can assist with the organisation of any tests.

## Process – applying for International Exemption Status

The below is the likely process that will be followed for each request. This process may be amended as necessary based on individual or government requirements.

- 1) Applicants must apply for exemption [using this online form](#), **at least 10 days prior to travelling** to GB from a [non-exempt country](#) or territory. Information required includes:
  - a) Full Name, Date of Birth and Self-Isolation address in GB;
  - b) Copy Passport;
  - c) Status and Recognised Racing Authority details;
  - d) Travel information consisting travel method and journey details;
  - e) Event Details (Specified Event, horse and date);
  - f) Provide written copies in English of the Covid-19 secure protocols from any non-exempt countries visited in the 14 days prior to travel to GB for review by BHA CMA.
  - g) Confirm that Staff/Athlete will be travelling solely to and from the venue for training/horse care/competition purposes and will self-isolate when not attending.
  - h) Confirm understanding of responsibilities and agree to comply with the information set out in the current Government Competition Guidance for Cross Border Competition, found [here](#).

- 2) Information will be reviewed and further information sought as required. This may include provision of further written details, photographs, and a video call and/or telephone interview conducted by the Medical/Integrity department to confirm information provided as part of the risk assessment process. Checks and monitoring will be conducted and, where considered necessary, further enquiries may be made to confirm the accuracy of the information provided and compliance with requirements.
- 3) Decision reached on exemption status request. Acceptance of application will result in organisation of tests and production of written evidence produced for presentation to the UK Border Force on entry to GB. Applicants must notify BHA immediately if plans change and exemption is no longer required.
- 4) On the day of arrival GB the individual must email BHA to confirm entry using the EAE, confirm they are self-isolating and give 2<sup>nd</sup> PCR Antigen Test arrangements.
- 5) Individuals must email [BHA CMA](#) each test result as soon as received. If a positive result is received or applicant shows [Covid-19 symptoms](#), they must notify the [NHS coronavirus service](#), CMA BHA and their employer immediately.
- 6) Once 2<sup>nd</sup> negative PCR Antigen Test result has been reviewed by BHA's CMA, confirmation will be provided to Staff/Athlete that they are no longer required to self-isolate for the purpose of attending training/competition venue.
- 7) Applicant must notify BHA on the day that they leave GB.

### **Breaches or Revocation of Exemption**

Exemption will be revoked if Staff/Athlete produce a positive test result or show [Covid-19 symptoms](#).

Any deliberate or accidental breaches of this protocol will be investigated by BHA Integrity and may result in immediate suspension pending further action. Any individual found to have breached government and/or BHA requirements (including BHA Rules and protocols) or provided incorrect information the individual will:

- be subject to disciplinary action by the BHA and reciprocation in home country;
- have their Elite Athlete Exemption voided and travellers will therefore be required to complete 14 days quarantine in keeping with UKGov policy. Border Force and Public Health England will be notified.