



BRITISH HORSERACING AUTHORITY
JUDICIAL PANEL

Protocol for media attending Judicial Panel hearings remotely

A number of temporary changes to the way the Judicial Panel operates in light of the current situation and resulting difficulties arising from the current Covid-19 pandemic were announced on [1 April 2020](#).

Following an initial period where remote hearings were closed to the media for logistical and administrative reasons, media will now be able to attend all hearings of the Disciplinary Panel and Appeal Board.

The only exceptions will be in circumstances where an application is made by either party requesting that the matter be held in private or the Chair otherwise directs. Licensing Committee hearings will continue to be held in private.

Attendance will be subject to the below protocols, which media will be asked to read and agree to follow prior to the hearing:

- To comply with any direction from the Chair in relation to the reporting and non-reporting of specific details of the case. This is in line with the [Judicial Panel Code](#) within the Rules of Racing which states:

“19. Subject to paragraphs 20 to 22, all written representations, submissions, evidence, transcripts and documents created in the course of proceedings shall be treated as being confidential and cannot be further disclosed or otherwise used outside of those proceedings...”

“25. When attending a hearing, the media must respect paragraph 19 above. The chairperson of the panel may direct that certain matters arising during the course of a hearing may not be published.”

A direction will only be issued in circumstances when it would be obviously unfair or unjust for the details to be published.

- Not to put any information relating to the hearing into the public domain until the conclusion of the hearing that day including via social media.
- Not to seek comment from those involved in the case until the conclusion of the hearing that day.

Media will be invited to join hearings remotely but must have their camera turned off and have their handsets on mute. They might be requested to wait in a media room or to disconnect at times during the hearing. Recording of the hearings is not permitted.

Contravention of any of the above may result in media or their publications being subject to further action, including possible restriction from attending remote hearings for a period of time.