



BRITISH HORSERACING AUTHORITY
JUDICIAL PANEL

Further changes to the operation of the Judicial Panel

Following an [initial statement](#) published on 1 April outlining a number of temporary changes to the way the Judicial Panel will operate, the independent Judicial Panel has today issued a further update following the resumption of racing.

Since 1 April, the Judicial Panel Chair, His Honour Brian Barker C.B.E. QC has heard cases alone. Henceforth, hearings will now be heard by three-person panels as was the case previously. The Judicial Panel Chair will continue to sit alone for fast-tracked cases, as has always been the case.

Hearings will continue to be operated remotely via Zoom but will now be open to the media, subject to those wishing to attend reading and agreeing in writing to follow a [new media protocol](#) developed for remote hearings.

Finally, the initial three-year term of the Judicial Panel members appointed in the summer of 2017 was due to come to an end at the end of May. Following approval from the BHA Board, their terms have been extended for a further three-month period to the end of August due to the current situation and resulting difficulties.

Cases which are evidentially straightforward and which may risk causing distress or uncertainty for participants and as such the participants wish them to be heard will continue to be prioritised for the time being, with as many cases as possible continuing to be dealt with through the fast-track procedure.

Those who may incur fines will continue to have the ability to defer them for at least six months, unless they wish to pay. All fines will be reviewed again after six months if appropriate, and payment plans can be created to minimize the financial impact. Suspensions will now be served in the normal way.

Notes:

1. More information about the Judicial Panel can be found [here](#).
2. The operational update published on 1 April can be viewed [here](#).
3. The media protocol can be viewed [here](#).

Please note, the BHA Judicial Panel is an independent body which encompasses the Disciplinary Panel, Appeal Board and Licensing Committee. It receives administrative support from the BHA via the Judicial Panel Secretary.