

**APPLICATION FOR AN AMATEUR JOCKEY LICENCE  
UNDER (B)12 OF THE RULES OF RACING**

**Online Amateur Jockey Licence Applications**

The online application form for an Amateur Jockey Licence can be accessed through the BHA website via:

[http://brenda.britishhorseracing.com/licensing/applications/amateur\\_rider.htm](http://brenda.britishhorseracing.com/licensing/applications/amateur_rider.htm)

**The Application Process**

Each application has to be considered individually upon its merits and within the framework of the Guidance Notes which should be read in full prior to completing the application. In some cases additional information is required or the applicant will be asked to meet with the Licensing Committee prior to the application being determined. Therefore, please ensure that the application is submitted to the Licensing Team **at least three weeks prior** to the date of your first intended ride under the Licence.

We cannot guarantee that applications which are received later than the stated period will be processed in time. Please note should an application have not been issued within 6 months of submission, the BHA reserves the right to close the application.

Please refer to Section D of the Guidance Notes for information regarding the Medical Standards of Fitness to Ride. A Medical Report Form is available to download [here](#).

**Payment**

Once a Licence has been issued a BHA Invoice Account will be set up for each Amateur Jockey (unless the Amateur already has such an account) and the fee for the Licence charged to this account.

Invoices are produced on the 1<sup>st</sup> of each month and will include any transactions that have taken place on your account during the previous month (if no transactions have taken place, an invoice will not be produced). Invoices must be settled within 14 days of the invoice date or overdue charges may be applied.

To make payment by card, or to set up a Direct Debit, you can phone the BHA Accounts Team at Weatherbys on 01933 440077.

**Amateur Jockeys Association Membership**

Please note that an Amateur Jockey Licence does not automatically entitle you to membership of the AJA. You will, however, find that many Amateur Jockey races are restricted to AJA members. More information regarding the AJA can be found [here](#).

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**APPLICATIONS FOR AMATEUR JOCKEY LICENCE  
GUIDANCE NOTES**

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1. These Guidance Notes should be read before completing the Application Form to which they relate. They are designed to assist but should any matter be unclear, applicants are encouraged to contact the Licensing Team for further confidential guidance.

2. Applications are considered on their individual merits but within the framework of these Guidance Notes.

### **Categories of Amateur Jockey Licences**

**CATEGORY 'A':** Holders of these licences may ride only in Flat races and/or Steeple Chases and Hurdle races confined to Amateur Jockeys.

**CATEGORY 'B':** Holders of these licences may ride in Flat races confined to Amateur Jockeys, all National Hunt Flat races and in Steeple Chases and Hurdle races except those confined to full-professional licensed Jockeys.

3. **New applications** for licences should be made via [this link](#) and **renewals by logging in to the online licensing system [here](#)**. First time applicants should allow a period of **at least three weeks** and applicants for renewal, who currently hold a licence, a period of **at least two weeks** in order for the application to be considered.
4. All licences are subject to such further restrictions as the British Horseracing Authority (BHA) considers necessary.
5. Applicants are required to demonstrate or confirm that:
  - 5.1 They have the competence and capability to ride in the races for which their application relates (see above);
  - 5.2 They are medically fit to race ride in accordance with the published Medical Standards for Fitness to Ride;
  - 5.3 They are otherwise in all the circumstances suitable to hold a Permit (i.e. that they are 'fit and proper');
  - 5.4 They have ridden no more than 25 winners in total under the rules of a Recognised Racing Authority, other than as an Amateur Jockey, as per Rule B(38).
6. The detailed guidance contained in the remainder of this document sets out what is required and what each applicant will need to show.

### **A. COMPETENCE AND CAPABILITY**

7. Each applicant will have to satisfy BHA that they are a competent rider and capable of race riding within the Rules set out by BHA.
8. Each applicant will also have to satisfy themselves and confirm to BHA that:
  - 8.1 Save in exceptional circumstances they possess at least a conversant level in the English language, sufficient to receive and follow instructions;
  - 8.2 They have familiarised themselves with the Rules of Racing in so far as they relate to Amateur Jockeys.
9. In determining a person's competence and capability for a Category 'A' Licence, all first time applicants will be required to satisfactorily complete a two day training Seminar and Assessment held at either the British Racing School or National Horseracing College. The two day training seminar programme includes:
  - 9.1 Body Position/equicisor demonstration;
  - 9.2 Principles of schooling and jumping;

- 9.3 Equicisor tuition and practice;
  - 9.4 Principles of good race riding including the use of the whip and the rules relating to the bypassing of fences;
  - 9.5 Interference and Stewards Enquiries including categories of interference and the conduct of an Enquiry.
  - 9.6 A fitness test in which applicants are required to achieve at least 70%.
10. In determining a person's competence and capability for a Category 'B' Licence, all first time applicants will be required to complete a five day Category 'B' Training Course at either the British Racing School or National Horseracing College. In order to qualify to attend the course, the applicant must:
- 10.1 Have had at least 15 completed rides under the Rules of Racing in Great Britain, the majority of which must be over obstacles (winners of Point to Point Steeple Chases may count towards this total);
  - 10.2 Or have had at least 20 completed rides in Point to Point Steeple Chases and/or completed under the Rules of Racing over obstacles.
11. Please note that the granting of a Category 'B' Licence is not automatic and will be dependent on the Authority being satisfied that the applicant has gained sufficient experience and meets the standards to ride against professionals in addition to satisfactorily completing the training requirements.
12. Please note that once a period of non-participation has been recorded, the BHA will seek the following for those wishing to return to race riding under rules:
- 12.1 After 12 months the BHA seeks a formal fitness and simulator assessment.
  - 12.2 After 24 months an individual will need to attend a Full Assessment Day (includes, fitness, simulator and riding elements).
  - 12.3 After 5 years an individual will need to reattend and pass a licence training course.
- All first time applicants are also required to submit at least two letters of support from either Licensed or Permitted Trainers, Professional Jockeys, BHA Jockey Coaches or other appropriate individuals as determined by the Authority. Please note that we will not accept stalls comments from Permit Trainers. They can only provide schooling and riding comments for Jump and Dual licenses.
- Cat A Flat – **both** references must provide comments on your ability to put horse through **stalls**.  
Cat A Jump – **both** references must provide comments on your **schooling** ability  
Cat A Dual – **both** references must provide comments on **stalls** work and **schooling** ability
13. Should an individual undertake, and fail, a fitness assessment\* during the currency of their valid licence, the BHA reserves the right to suspend or revoke their valid licence, or request a satisfactory reassessment before they next ride under rules.
- \*a fitness assessment may include a Pre-Assessment for a Professional Licence Course or a return to riding fitness assessment as requested by the Medical Team.
14. In relation to persons who have not been either licensed or permitted by BHA in the preceding two years, the Authority will require full particulars of that person's experience and employment in the intervening period.
15. In relation to persons who have previously been licensed outside Great Britain, a Certificate of Clearance and licensing record from the relevant Turf Authority (under whose Rules they were last licensed) should also be provided.

## **B. IDENTITY DOCUMENTS**

16. First time applicants are required to submit a copy of their Passport, Birth Certificate or Drivers Licence. This should be attached to the online application in the 'Document to support your identity' section or emailed to [licensing@britishhorseracing.com](mailto:licensing@britishhorseracing.com)

## **C. FIRST RIDE DETAILS**

17. New applicants applying for a Category A Jump or Dual licence are required to submit a letter from the trainer of the horse confirming the particulars of their first ride. Please ensure this letter includes the name of the horse, race and reasons why both are suitable for an Amateur having their first ride under rules. In the case of Hunter Chases, the trainer or owner of the horse should confirm particulars.

## **D. MEDICAL STANDARDS OF FITNESS TO RIDE**

18. Each applicant is required to complete a declaration of health giving an accurate account of their current medical state (including any accidents or medication taken in the preceding twelve months) and estimated riding weight.
19. First time applicants must submit a comprehensive medical report completed by the applicant's own Doctor (General Practitioner or otherwise) who has access to the applicant's full medical records or at least 2 years' worth. For those who are making a first application, a medical report will not normally be required if such a report has been submitted in conjunction with an application for a Rider's Qualified Certificate within the previous 12 months from the date on which the application for an Amateur Jockey Licence is made. Applicants submitting a renewal application should note that a full medical report is required every 5 years. Any applicant for a licence aged 55 years or over is required to submit the medical report completed by their own Doctor including a blood test and resting ECG. Your Doctor will calculate your Q-Risk score and if it is more than 10% an additional exercise ECG is required.
20. Each applicant must complete a Baseline test at one of the designated Regional test centres. Details of these centres can be found through the following link: <https://www.britishhorseracing.com/regulation/participant-welfare/medical/>
21. The BHA reserves the right to request any applicant meet with the Chief Medical Adviser before their application is considered further.
22. More details, including the full medical standards can be found on the BHA's website ([www.britishhorseracing.com](http://www.britishhorseracing.com)), or by emailing [medical@britishhorseracing.com](mailto:medical@britishhorseracing.com).
23. An insurance policy has been negotiated on behalf of the Amateur Jockeys Association of Great Britain Ltd to provide accident cover and Public Liability Insurance for all permit holders between weigh-out and weigh-in.
24. All jockeys are strongly advised to make suitable provision for medical treatment when riding abroad and to establish that they have adequate personal insurance cover to provide for the cost of such treatment.

## **E. RIDING EXPENSES**

25. Jockeys cannot be paid directly or indirectly for riding in a race, with the exception of expenses as set out in Rule (J) 1 of the Rules of Racing and any trophy advertised in the conditions of the race to be given to the rider. Please see Rule (J) 1.
26. When the holder of a Category B Licence has had more than 75 rides against professional jockeys, a riding fee and contribution to the Professional Riders Insurance Scheme (PRIS) are payable by the Owner(s) to the British Horseracing Authority & Trustees of PRIS. The fee is not payable if you are the

sole Owner of the horse or if it is owned solely by your spouse or parents or a partnership between such persons.

## **F. GENERAL SUITABILITY**

27. In considering any application, BHA must also be satisfied, taking into account any fact or matter that it considers appropriate, that the applicant is suitable to hold a licence.
28. The Authority expects full and frank disclosure from the applicant, who is required to disclose all matters known to them. Failure to do so will be a relevant factor in the assessment as to an applicant's honesty and integrity.
29. A person whose conduct or character is not in accordance with that which, in the opinion of the Authority, should be expected of a licensed person, may not be considered suitable and therefore may be refused a licence.
30. In some cases a single factor may lead to the conclusion that someone is not suitable, whereas in another case the determination of whether someone is not suitable may depend upon the cumulative assessment of a number of matters.
31. It is not possible to produce a definitive list of all matters that would be relevant to a particular application. This document should be considered a guide as to the sorts of considerations that BHA will have in mind when making such an assessment.

### **Honesty & Integrity**

32. The criteria to which BHA will have regard in assessing honesty and integrity include the following:
  - 34.1 Whether the applicant has been convicted of any criminal offence in Great Britain, or a foreign jurisdiction, excluding road traffic offences and offences which are spent under the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 and in the case of foreign offences, such as may be appropriate. Particular consideration will be given to offences of dishonesty, fraud and those relating to sexual conduct, violence, and animal welfare;
  - 34.2 Whether the applicant is the subject of any proceedings of a criminal nature, has been charged in connection with any alleged criminal offence or is aware of circumstances which may lead to his/her being so charged.
  - 34.3 Whether the applicant has been the subject of any adverse finding by a judge in any civil proceedings, or has settled civil proceedings brought against him/her relating to his/her honesty or integrity;
  - 34.4 The applicant's record of compliance with the regulatory requirements of the Authority or its predecessors, of any other Turf Authority or of a regulator of any other sport in which he/she has participated or has been otherwise involved;
  - 34.5 Whether the applicant has been candid, open and truthful in all his/her dealings:
    - 34.5.1 With BHA in relation to the present or relevant past licence applications; or
    - 34.5.2 With any other Turf Authority or other sports regulator.
  - 34.6 Whether or not the applicant has been dismissed from any previous employment or position of trust or has been asked to resign or resigned on grounds connected with his/her honesty or integrity.
  - 34.7 Whether an applicant has been convicted of, or dismissed or suspended from employment for drug or alcohol abuses or other abusive acts or has other lifestyle or social issues, which are likely either to:

34.7.1 Impair significantly his/her ability to safeguard the welfare of any horse or meet the regulatory requirements of BHA; or

34.7.2 Render the applicant a threat to the health, welfare or safety of others involved in horseracing, or to the integrity of the sport.

34.8 Whether the applicant has engaged in conduct or there are circumstances which may render the applicant susceptible to pressure from persons seeking to corrupt horseracing and whether the applicant is likely to or may engage in such conduct.

34.9 Whether the applicant has engaged in conduct or there are circumstances which may render the applicant susceptible to pressure from persons seeking to corrupt horseracing and whether the applicant is likely to or may engage in such conduct.

34.10 Whether the applicant has observed the Integrity Provisions contained within these Guidance Notes.

33. An applicant's fitness and propriety includes assessment of the fitness and propriety of those with whom he/she is or may be associated or connected with in their personal or business dealings. For example, if the applicant is known to remain associated with person(s) who are considered by BHA to pose an unacceptable risk to the integrity of horseracing notwithstanding specific warnings issued by BHA about such association, these matters will be taken into account and their ultimate relevance to his/her suitability will be assessed in the light of the applicant's attitude to the association.

34. BHA has a policy of not granting an Amateur Jockey Licence to a person actively engaged as, or otherwise associated with, a Bookmaker, having made the judgement that such a close financial interest, potentially in conflict with his interest as a rider, is likely to diminish public confidence in the integrity of racing. This policy does not apply to any such association pursuant to Jockey's Sponsorship deals under the Jockey's Sponsorship Code of Conduct.

### **Integrity Provisions**

35. The following Integrity Provisions set out the standards of behaviour to be observed by all licensed riders as conditions of the grant of their licence. As a licensed jockey, you agree to:

37.1 Avoid the company of Persons whose conduct, character or reputation indicate that they may pose a threat to the integrity of horseracing;

37.2 Make sure you have read and understood the definition of Inside Information in Rule (J)16;

37.3 Refrain from regularly passing Inside Information to anyone other than the connections of the horse, even where there is no reward except in cases specifically allowed for in the Rules;

37.4 Ensure that relationships with Betting Organisations or any Person representing a Betting Organisation do not confer special privileges or concessions which may invite adverse inferences to be drawn;

37.5 Avoid discussing the chances of a horse they are engaged to ride with anyone (including other Riders), in the knowledge that it may be used for a corrupt purpose;

37.6 Ensure that the usage of pass cards and any metal badges within a licensed racecourse complies with the user conditions laid down by the Racecourse Association.

### **G. SPECIFIED CASES**

#### **Absolute Requirements**

36. The specified cases detailed below are requirements which an applicant must satisfy in order for an application to be considered by BHA:

**36.1. For Category A Licences:**

<b>Requirement</b>	<b>Guidance Notes Reference Point</b>
To supply such documentation as detailed in the Guidance Notes & application form (first time applicants only)	
They meet the requirements stipulated in Rule (B)38	5
Completed a one day training Seminar and a one day Assessment (unless exemption from such has been granted by BHA), held at either the British Racing School or National Horseracing College (First time applicants only)	9
To submit a certificate of clearance where the applicant has previously been licensed outside Great Britain from the relevant Racing Authority	15
To submit a declaration of health	19
To submit a comprehensive medical report as required by BHA and/or be examined annually by a medical advisor approved by BHA	20
Completed a Baseline Concussion Test as required by BHA	21

**36.2. For Category B Licences:**

<b>Requirement</b>	<b>Guidance Notes Reference Point</b>
To supply such documentation as detailed in the Guidance Notes & application form (first time applicants only)	
They meet the requirements stipulated in Rule (B)38	5
Either 15 completed rides under Rules or 20 completed rides in Point to Point Steeplechases (First time applicants)	11
Completed a five day training Category B Training Course at either the British Racing School or National Horseracing College (First time applicants)	11
To submit a certificate of clearance where the applicant has previously been licensed outside Great Britain from the relevant Racing Authority	15
To submit a declaration of health	19
To submit a comprehensive medical report as required by BHA and/or be examined annually by a medical advisor approved by BHA	20
To complete a Baseline Concussion Test as required by BHA	21

37. The mere provision of the documents required above may not be sufficient to ensure that an application is considered by BHA. Such documents must also be complete and fit for purpose. Similarly, whilst satisfaction by the applicant of the other requirements in paragraph 38 (as a matter of fact) will enable BHA to consider their application, the applicant should not presume that will result in a licence being granted. The manner in which such requirements are met will be one of the factors for BHA to consider in assessing the applicant's suitability in accordance with these Guidance Notes, and in deciding whether or not to grant a licence.

**Procedural Guidelines for applications for Licences, Permits and Registrations**

38. For the full procedural guidelines relating to applications to the Authority for Licences, Permits and Registrations and procedural guidelines for hearings of the Licensing Committee, where it is considered appropriate to convene a hearing pursuant to the Rules of Racing please refer to Part 6 of the Judicial Panels Code:

<https://rules.britishhorseracing.com/#!/book/34/chapter/s3267-judicial-panels-code/content?section=s3299-part-six-licensing-committee>