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# SAFETY



# REDUCE AVOIDABLE FATALITIES AND INJURIES TO RACEHORSES ON AND OFF THE RACECOURSE

**British racing has a clear commitment to reducing avoidable risk within our sport in both flat and jump racing. Continuous improvement in safety, driven by advances in data, technology and scientific research, is paramount.**

Central to this work is the ongoing development of the Racing Risk Models by independent research experts. These insights, together with practical experience and industry-wide expertise, drive and inform our priorities in delivering the safest sport we can.

Access to and gathering of further data is critical to ensure that the sport's risk modelling can continue to identify and make informed, evidence-based recommendations to reduce adverse outcomes for horses. This includes the importance of collecting and analysing data from across a horse's life, including their early years and factors from the training environment. Ongoing research is also paramount to better understand the role of the whip and its influence on safety.

This work requires a hand-in-hand approach with stakeholders, both on and off the racecourse, together with sustained efforts to deliver the best possible ground and going conditions on racecourses and home gallops and to continue evolving and developing hurdles and steeplechase fences.



# PROGRESS TO DATE

**RISK MODELLING**

Racing Risk Models operated by the RVC to create safety-focussed risk modelling tools for flat and jump racing, to enhance horse safety by moderating identified risk factors.

**STALLS REVIEW**

Stalls and starting review completed and delivered 18 changes to improve procedures to start races more safety.

**FATALITY REVIEW**

Successful delivery of pilot leading to establishment of permanent Fatality Review of every racecourse fatality.

**EXPANDED REPORTING**

Reporting of fatalities expanded to any horse who is fatally injured within 48 hours of a raceday incident (2021) and further expanded to include horses who are euthanised but not as a direct result of their injuries (2024).

**GALLOPS TRAINING**

Free training courses offered to yard staff to share best practice of surface management to enhance quality of training surfaces at home.

**OBSTACLE CLARITY**

Every obstacle marker in British racing turned white in 2024 as a result of equine-vision research to improve clarity for horses while jumping.

**SURFACE STANDARDS**

Ongoing projects to establish framework for synthetic racecourse surfaces.

**GAIT INTELLIGENCE**

Sleip AI gait analysis technology piloted and established within regulatory processes.

**TECH AND PROTECTION**

Research projects commenced including wearable technologies, protective equipment and factors related to falls.

**TRACK SAFETY**

Every jump racecourse walked by equine safety advisor with recommendations made and delivered.

# BRITISH RACING HAS A CLEAR COMMITMENT TO REDUCING AVOIDABLE RISK WITHIN OUR SPORT IN BOTH FLAT AND JUMP RACING

**PRE-RACE CHECKS**

Pre-race examinations for horses based on data from the RRM become commonplace on raceday.

**TURF STANDARDS**

Performance Quality Standard developed for turf to improve consistency of ground and going.

**FALL ANALYSIS**

Successful delivery of pilot project focussing on a review of fallers on a racecourse.

**SAFER OBSTACLES**

Based on data from the RRM, we mandated that all hurdles must be padded-style by Oct 2026 to reduce the risk of falls.

**RACE READY**

Schooling trial pilot delivers 9 trial days to build race experience in 2025/2026.



# PRIORITIES

## REDUCE AVOIDABLE FATALITIES AND INJURIES TO RACEHORSES ON AND OFF THE RACECOURSE

### IDENTIFICATION OF POTENTIAL RISK FACTORS IN COLLABORATION WITH WORLD-LEADING EXPERTS TO IMPROVE SAFETY

→ Enhance and advance racing's risk models in collaboration with independent experts to improve their predictive ability and continue to identify potential risk factors on the racecourse that could make racing safer.

→ Maintain external partnerships and world-leading expertise to ensure validity and robustness of data, and that we remain at the forefront of data analysis.

→ Extend use of AI gait analysis and wearable technology to support ambitions to detect subtle pre-injury factors connected to increased risk.

\+ Identify, collect and incorporate data from the training environment into our risk models to identify risk factors from home that may contribute to adverse outcomes on the racecourse.

### REDUCE AVOIDABLE RISK ON THE RACECOURSE

→ Continue to drive best practice in surface management on racecourses to ensure best possible quality and consistency of ground and going to deliver the safest possible surfaces for horses.

→ Understanding and evaluating tools available to support the measurement and assessment of ground to provide the safest possible conditions to race on, and understanding how these could be transferred and translated to training surfaces.

→ British racing's programme to be driven by evidence for best possible horse safety and welfare.

\+ Digitisation of medication records for all horses in training in Britain.

\+ Understand factors related to elective euthanasia and implement strategies to reduce where appropriate.

\+ Strengthen monitoring of measured adverse outcomes including fallers, fatalities and LTIs, and continue to examine factors contributing to increased risk of falling.

### REDUCE AVOIDABLE RISK OFF THE RACECOURSE

→ Improve transparency and understanding of adverse outcomes that occur in the training environment working in collaboration with stakeholders and deliver evidence-based initiatives to reduce their occurrence.

→ Further our understanding of how factors within breeding and pre-training may contribute to increased risk and reduce this in collaboration with stakeholders.

→ Continue to drive best practice in surface management in the training environment to ensure best possible quality and consistency of ground at home to deliver the safest possible training surfaces for horses.

→ Establish schooling trials as a sustainable model for the sport and explore further opportunities to provide low-pressure race experience for horses and jockeys.

\+ Build comprehensive datasets on aggregated training environment injuries and outcomes and communicate these transparently with appropriate data governance to support.



KEY: → Ongoing workstream + New workstream

## ONGOING OBSTACLE DESIGN IMPROVEMENTS AND MANAGEMENT FOR BEST POSSIBLE SAFETY

- Continue to assess and analyse the impact and risk of obstacle related factors and identify projects to reduce risk around obstacles.
- Assess the long-term impact of changes made during A Life Well Lived (2020-2025) including the impact of orange to white and padded hurdles on the rate of adverse outcomes.
- Trial new obstacle innovations with independent evaluation to determine effectiveness.

## CONNECT RESEARCH, KNOWLEDGE AND PRACTICE

- Share learning across research and practical projects and experience to drive ongoing enhancements in equine welfare, training and performance, ensuring findings inform one another.
- Translate evidence into practical guidance that helps trainers apply research findings to everyday training and management decisions.
- Improve understanding of optimal training methods to support horses' physical and mental well-being, preparation and readiness to race.
- Evaluate impact and identify further opportunities to refine advice, address knowledge gaps and drive continuous improvement across racing and training.

