



BRITISH HORSERACING AUTHORITY

COVID-19 Guidelines and Operating Procedures for racing industry participants, officials, and racecourse staff

May 2020

(Last updated July 2021)

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Section A: General guidance (ALL)

1. Document purpose [UPDATED]

This document details the COVID-19 protocols that will apply at all race meetings from 19 July 2021 and until further notice. These measures have been developed to ensure that racing continues in a safe and appropriate manner as COVID-19 restrictions are lifted.

This document uses UK Government guidance as its framework, as well as reflecting any variations in guidance from the Governments of Scotland and/or Wales, and interprets and applies that guidance specifically to horseracing. As such, it is a supplementary document, designed to be read alongside the government guidance listed in [Point 4](#).

It is also aimed at the **employers** of anyone attending race meetings, who will need to ensure that any such employees are fully informed of the new protocols and supported appropriately.

The Racecourse Association (RCA) has developed separate operational guidance to assist racecourses to set up and manage raceday operations in line with these protocols. Spectators returning to the racecourse should refer to guidance on the [RCA website](#).

Thank you for your continued patience and cooperation as we continue to work together in a safe environment during the easing of COVID-19 restrictions.

2. Document navigation [UPDATED]

While some sections of the document will need to be read and understood by all attendees, others are specific to areas (e.g. Weighing Room attendees) or particular groups (e.g. trainers).

To assist with navigation, we have indicated in each heading the sections which are of relevance to particular attendees e.g., trainers, jockeys, stable staff, officials, owners etc.

3. Note on updating the document [UPDATED]

Please note that this document was last updated on 15 July 2021 to reflect changes to government guidance and British racing's protocols in line with the further easing of COVID-19 restrictions.

This document takes precedence over all previous versions and consolidates other guidance and operating procedures issued to individual participant groups.

Most sections of this document have been updated, amended, or removed entirely since the previous version was last published on 17 May 2021. Consequently, the section numbers in this document may no longer correspond with previous publications. Where sections have been revised, this is indicated in the headings, rather than the document control table included in previous documents.

This document is based on our current understanding and interpretation of government guidance. As government guidance changes, some of these procedures and requirements may change, or vary regionally, and this document **may be subject to multiple updates at short notice.**

While every effort will be made to ensure the wide distribution of updated versions of this document, **it is the responsibility of all persons attending any raceday to ensure they are following the most recent version of the document, which can be found in the [COVID-19 section](#) of the BHA website.**

4. Government guidance [UPDATED]

Government guidance provides the framework for this document and will not be reiterated in detail here. As this guidance can change, all individuals and employers should ensure they are familiar with current basic government guidance.

Government guidance in Scotland and Wales may differ subtly or substantially from guidance in England at any time. Anyone travelling to and / or working at a race meeting in [Scotland](#) or [Wales](#) should ensure they are suitably aware of all differences.

Full UK government guidance on all aspects of COVID-19 can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

In particular, we draw your attention to the following documents:

- (a) [NHS Contact tracing – close contacts](#): Guidance for anyone identified as a close contact of someone who has symptoms of or tested positive for COVID-19.
- (b) [Guidance for events](#): Guidance for people who work in settings related to events.
- (c) [Scotland and Wales](#)
 - Scottish Government guidance can be read [here](#).
 - Welsh Government guidance can be read [here](#).

5. Risk and compliance [UPDATED]

By attending a race fixture, race fixture attendees acknowledge and agree that notwithstanding the risk mitigation strategies employed by the BHA and other industry bodies in accordance with Government guidance, it is impossible to eliminate all risk and there remains the potential for unintended transmission of COVID-19 between race fixture attendees. All race fixture attendees must play their part in minimising the risk to themselves and others by complying with these guidelines, racecourse terms and conditions of entry, and the COVID-19 Requirements as set out in the Rules of Racing.

The BHA and the Racecourse Managing Executive have the right to eject any attendee for any breach of the COVID-19 Requirements. All breaches will be reported to the BHA Stewards who will also be able to impose alternative sanctions including formal warnings, financial penalties and suspensions.

6. Concerns about returning to racing

The various employers and contracting organisations in Racing will have their own policies and procedures in place to manage their own staff continuing and/ or returning to work in light of the COVID-19 situation.

If an individual has any particular concerns about returning to racing, having considered the risks and associated mitigating steps being taken by Racing, as outlined in this document, they are advised to notify their employer or contracting organisation in the first instance. If this is not appropriate for any reason, they should contact their trade/membership body or, in the case of licensed or registered personnel, the BHA at intel@britishhorseracing.com or by using the anonymous reporting line, [RaceWISE](#).

7. COVID-19 Helpdesk

If you have any queries about this guidance or the raceday processes, the BHA's dedicated helpdesk can support industry participants. The helpdesk is staffed from 8am to 5pm Monday-Saturday, and 8am to 4pm on Sundays. On weekdays and Saturdays when there is no evening racing, Sunday opening times will apply.

Industry participants can contact the helpdesk via:

Phone: 0207 152 0110

Email: covidhelpdesk@britishhorseracing.com

Section B: Key protocol changes – 19 July 2021 onwards (ALL) [UPDATED]

From 19 July 2021, many of the COVID-19 infection control requirements that currently apply on a raceday will be eased or lifted in most areas of the racecourse.

Some infection control measures will remain to protect participants working in higher-risk and more congested indoor environments, principally in and around the Weighing Room Complex.

These measures will help keep these individuals safe and protect the racing industry from COVID-related disruption, with the level of these controls varying according to the role and work location on the racecourse.

Where mandatory infection control measures have been revised, eased, or removed entirely, these have been replaced with recommended guidance, which participants are encouraged to follow to help everyone take sensible precautions and reduce the risk to themselves and others.

8. Racecourse layout and access [UPDATED]

Racecourses will maintain access controls for certain areas of the racecourse according to their levels of risk and the severity of the infection control measures in place.

The areas in and around the Weighing Room Complex, including the Jockeys' Changing Rooms and Stewards' Room, will remain tightly controlled for integrity and infection control purposes.

Entry to the Weighing Room Complex will continue to be restricted to the following individuals, who work in or require access to these indoor areas throughout the raceday:

- Jockeys
- Valets
- Medical staff
- BHA officials
- Some Racecourse staff and contractors

Individuals working in or accessing the Weighing Room Complex will be asked to maintain social distancing at 1-metre-plus. This means social distancing between participants of at least 1m, with additional mitigations in place such as physical partitions, increased ventilation, face coverings etc. depending on the area.

As participants working in the Weighing Room Complex are likely to come into contact with others in indoor and enclosed spaces, face coverings should also continue to be worn at all times in the

Weighing Room Complex, including the Jockeys' Changing Room and Stewards' Room. This will help further reduce the risk of transmission and close contact self-isolation.

Personnel working in and around the Weighing Room Complex will be permitted to access other areas of the racecourse. Other areas of the racecourse may be subject to additional security, integrity and COVID-related measures and access restrictions. Please see [Section H](#) for more information.

To minimise risk of infection to participants, **anyone working in the Weighing Room Complex is NOT permitted to attend more than one fixture per day** until further notice.

Section C: Medical guidance (ALL) [UPDATED]

9. General COVID-19 guidance for ALL attendees

- Do not come racing if you have [symptoms](#) of COVID-19, are [self-isolating](#) and /or awaiting a test result.
- Use the NHS COVID-19 App to 'check in' at the racecourse
- Help protect yourself and others by get vaccinated and completing regular lateral flow testing to check that you do not have the virus
- Do not touch your face, whether or not you are wearing a face covering and/or gloves
- Wash or sanitise your hands as frequently as you can
- Observe social distancing and face covering protocols where required
- Observe the recommended cough/tissue etiquette at all times
- Follow all racecourse signage and obey the instructions of staff and officials who are enforcing social distancing and other protocols
- Avoid areas of the racecourse unrelated to your role.

10. Registering to attend a race meeting [UPDATED]

While pre-registration will no longer be a mandatory COVID-19 requirement, the following participants and attendees must continue to register for each fixture, using the established processes:

- Trainers will need to register a named contact attending with each horse: Via NRAS after declarations close (see [Section D](#))
- Racecourse staff and contractors: Via the racecourse
- Jockeys: Via jockey bookings
- BHA Staff: Via BHA scheduling
- Media, broadcasters and photographers: Via the racecourse/RCA

11. Owners' registration process [UPDATED]

The number of owners (or representatives) per horse that can attend will be determined by individual racecourses in line with their own circumstances, configuration, and available facilities.

Owners are encouraged to book in advance to help racecourses ensure that appropriate facilities and arrangements are in place to enhance the raceday experience. However, advance booking is no longer essential and therefore badges may be collected on the day.

Advance booking should be completed via the RCA's Privilege Access Swipe System (PASS). To register attendees, owners should log into PASS (<https://www.rcapass.com/>) and submit the names of the individuals who will attend the racecourse.

- Owners with a runner at Cheltenham, Kelso or Hexham will be contacted directly regarding their arrangements as these courses do not use PASS and badges cannot be requested through the system.

Once a horse is entered to run, registered owners will receive a confirmation email inviting them to register those who will be attending the race meeting.

For assistance with the PASS system, please contact the PASS helpdesk on 01933 270333 or by email: pass@weatherbys.co.uk.

12. Racecourse entry screening [UPDATED]

Attendees will no longer be required to complete any pre-raceday or on-course medical screening. However, racecourse attendees, including participants, owners, and spectators, should ensure they have Photo ID (e.g. stable staff pass, driving licence, passport) and are advised and encouraged to:

- Consider their own health before attending a fixture and must not attend if they have any COVID-19 symptoms and / or have been instructed to self-isolate.
- Get vaccinated and complete regular lateral flow testing (at least twice per week) to check that they do not have the virus. Lateral flow testing is for people without symptoms of the virus. Please visit the [NHS website](#) for details on how to get regular tests.
- Use the NHS COVID-19 App to 'check in' at the racecourse.

These steps can further reduce the risk of transmitting the virus on the racecourse and help avoid any potential disruption to the industry from close contact self-isolation requirements.

Some racecourses may also require attendees to complete additional arrival processes, such as mandatory check in via the NHS COVID-19 App or through the collection of contact details, in accordance with government and public health requirements.

13. Refusal of access [UPDATED]

In some circumstances, individuals who were expecting to attend a raceday might be denied access to the racecourse, or to a certain area of the racecourse, in accordance with these protocols or racecourse policy.

14. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and Face Coverings [UPDATED]

Individuals with COVID-19 infection may have no symptoms and it cannot be guaranteed, despite the risk mitigation measures, that the racecourse will be entirely COVID-19 free.

a) Participants working in the Weighing Room Complex

Face coverings (i.e. “non-medical” face coverings) should be worn by personnel in the Weighing Room Complex and Sampling Unit (see [Point 56](#)) who are not identified as needing certified/higher grade PPE (e.g. medical and cleaning staff).

This adds an additional layer of protection for everyone in the Weighing Room and Sampling Unit areas – further reducing the risk of transmitting COVID-19.

All face coverings should be triple layered (in line with specifications set out [here](#) by the World Health Organisation) and have no unfiltered valves to provide the maximum protection to yourself and others.

They should be worn in all areas of the Weighing Room Complex throughout the day, apart from where specific exemptions apply (see below). It is also recommended that face coverings are worn when travelling to and from the racecourse in a shared vehicle (with anyone from outside own household).

Reusable face coverings should be washed regularly with normal detergent at the maximum tolerated temperature. If single use Type IIR masks are the only covering available, users are reminded that these should be disposed of as clinical waste. Users should wash or sanitise their hands before and after applying or removing a face covering.

Situations in which face coverings do not need to be worn

For those in the Weighing Room Complex, face coverings do not need to be worn when:

- Eating or drinking
- Showering or changing
- Taking medication
- If required to wear certified/higher grade PPE as part of a raceday role
- If asked to remove your face covering for ID checks or to receive medical treatment
- BHA Officials – for operational and safety reasons, where face coverings may be dropped temporarily to enhance audibility and clarity of messaging:
 - Clerk of the Scales – when appropriate risk mitigation is in place i.e. a Perspex screen.
 - Stewards – whilst talking during an enquiry.
- There may also be circumstances where attendees are not able to wear a face covering and are exempt from doing so e.g. due to physical or mental health reasons or disability. Verification by a healthcare professional on the course may be required.

Jockeys’ face coverings during racing

It is recommended that jockeys wear face coverings when on-course and during the race, however, they are permitted to pull down the face covering from the moment of departure from the Weighing Room Complex to the point at which they return. For Flat races, jockeys in the starting stalls should not turn to face any neighbouring loaded jockey (i.e. face forward at all times).

On completion of the race, the face covering, if lowered for the race, should be raised before entering the Weighing Room Complex. Jockeys do not need to wear face coverings in the unsaddling area, although it is recommended.

Provision of PPE and face masks

Participants wishing to order a face covering can do so via any reputable supplier or direct from the BHA's preferred supplier [here](#). When placing your order, we would encourage you to order the product recommended by the BHA's Chief Medical Adviser. Delivery can take an estimated 7-10 days, so it is advised that orders are placed in good time.

[Yaris Equestrian](#) has developed a snood style face covering, which meets BHA requirements and can be purchased using the [online order form](#).

Alternative suppliers may be used if preferred. However, if ordering from an alternative supplier, we encourage you to ensure that the face coverings meet the required specifications set out [here](#). Please note we now recommend mask and face coverings **without** valves as they offer superior protection to those in the area around the wearer.

Use of snoods/scarves: Please note that anyone choosing to wear a standard snood or scarf for comfort/warmth **must combine it with another layer of protection** i.e., wear a face covering underneath.

PPE and face covering reimbursement scheme

Racecourses and participants who purchased PPE and/or face coverings for use on raceday can now apply to reclaim their costs via the racing industry's reimbursement scheme.

To apply for reimbursement, please download the reclaim form from the [COVID-19 section](#) of the BHA website, then complete and return it to the BHA via email to PPE@britishhorseracing.com.

Please note that PPE and face coverings purchased for use other than on racedays will not be included in the reimbursement scheme and will need to be paid for separately.

b) Participants not entering the Weighing Room Complex

Face covering requirements vary in England, Scotland, and Wales, therefore racecourse attendees are advised to check government guidance before travelling to the racecourse. See [Point 4](#).

Attendees at Scottish and Welsh fixtures should note in particular that face coverings will continue to be a required by law in certain settings on the racecourse, including indoor spaces, so attendees should ensure they have a face covering with them.

Even where face coverings are not required by law, it is recommended that they are worn in enclosed and crowded areas, to reduce the risk to ourselves and others.

15. Hand hygiene

Hand hygiene is one of the simplest and most effective procedures for preventing the spread of disease.

It is essential that everyone takes responsibility to ensure that they regularly clean their hands using soap/water or minimum 60% alcohol based hand sanitiser, in line with hand washing guidance, which can be found [here](#).

Handwashing areas will be provided around the racecourse and at all the main transfer points. These will be equipped with minimum 60% alcohol-based hand sanitiser and, where possible, sinks with liquid soap.

Attendees must use Hand Sanitiser on arrival at the racecourse at the check-in point.

Where liquid soap and water are used, single use towels will be provided, and stocks will be regularly replenished. In most cases, these will be paper towels and an appropriate waste receptacle will be provided and regularly emptied.

16. Social distancing [UPDATED]

Social distancing remains a useful intervention to reduce transmission of COVID-19.

Requirements around social distancing vary in England, Scotland, and Wales, so attendees are advised to check the relevant government guidance in advance of raceday. See [Point 4](#) for more information.

Where required, racecourses will continue to manage and configure sites to enable social distancing to be achieved when required. Whilst the racecourse environment will be adapted to support this, the individual must take responsibility for maintaining social distancing between themselves and any other attendees on site.

Social distancing at 1-metre-plus must be followed by those working in and around the Weighing Room Complex and Sampling Unit.

17. Social Distancing Officer

Social Distancing Officers (SDOs) will be appointed by the BHA to ensure all measures are implemented and strictly adhered to at all racedays.

The SDOs will act with the full authority of the British Horseracing Authority and Racecourse Managing Executive to ensure that protocols contained within this document are appropriately followed and enforced.

- Multiple racecourse personnel will also be deployed across the racecourse site in order to support this role and will report to the SDO and to a senior member of the racecourse team, as appropriate.
- The role of the SDO is designed to be constructive and assist individuals in understanding the requirements and measures in place to ensure these can be met.
- However, the SDO will also report any breaches of social distancing requirements to the BHA Stewards, who will take regulatory action in line with the powers available to them.

18. If you become unwell at a raceday

Any individual with potential [symptoms of COVID-19](#) should notify a member of racecourse staff immediately (from a distance of 2 metres). The racecourse staff will liaise with the Racecourse Medical Team to consider the circumstances and determine the most appropriate course of action. This may include use of the isolation area (see [point 19](#)), or instructing the attendee to return home, from where they should follow [Government advice](#).

19. Isolation areas

Appropriate isolation areas will be designated by the racecourse. Anyone with potential COVID-19 symptoms should report these to racecourse staff and the individual may be escorted to use the isolation room for medical support and further guidance.

The location of the isolation areas will be clearly marked on any site maps and signage placed on the door of the location for identification.

Section D: Advance preparation prior to racedays

This section provides further details, principally for Trainers and Stable Staff, about the registration process that **to be completed and submitted before raceday**, guidance on equipment and other preparation, as well as subjects that should be considered in advance.

20. Equine vaccination app (Trainers)

To remove the need for manual checking of vaccination records for horses, and to prevent any administrative issue, the vaccination records of all horses declared to run **MUST be uploaded to the Weatherbys Vaccination App and pre-cleared by the BHA**. This should be done by the trainer or other Responsible Person.

Trainers should ensure they have submitted a valid historical vaccination record and supporting passport pictures for all horses in training. Records for any horse entered to race must be uploaded well in advance of making an entry for that horse, to ensure that these can be validated by the BHA prior to raceday. This is in line with the Vaccinations Code (Section 4).

Trainers have been contacted directly with instructions about how to download, register with, and use the Weatherbys Vaccination App.

Please note, once you have uploaded the records, you will receive an email confirming that the information has been submitted. This is a confirmation of receipt only, and the information will need to be cleared by the BHA Veterinary Team before it is visible on the app. Trainers will receive an email to confirm that uploaded vaccinations records have been approved (or declined if the records do not comply with the rules). **Any queries should be directed to Weatherbys on +44 (0)1933 440077 or vaccapp@weatherbys.co.uk.**

21. Declaration process and information requirements (Trainers) **[UPDATED]**

The BHA continues to operate a revised declarations procedure. **ALL races (Flat and Jump) will use 48-hour declarations.**

Trainers are asked to supply additional information **after declarations have closed, via the Racing Administration System**, as follows:

(a) Estimated time of arrival for the horsebox(es)

(b) A named member of staff who will be attending with the horse. This information should be provided in advance where possible.

Once a horse has been declared, trainers will receive an email asking them to confirm the staff attending with the horse(s). **This must be completed as fully and accurately as possible by 3pm on the day before the fixture.**

A confirmation email will be sent, including the names of staff and other details as submitted by the trainer, provided they have used the Racing Administration system to submit information.

Any changes after the deadline to staff will be recorded through the Stable Pass scan-in at the stable entrance by the EWIOs.

Trainers and guests can return to pre-COVID entry arrangements, where they access the racecourse using the PASS entrance, although pre-registration via PASS is encouraged.

(c) Raceday privilege and requirement requests

The confirmation email will ask trainers to submit information relating to the horse, and requirements of the horse on raceday, via a **Raceday Privilege Request Form** on Racing Admin. Detailed instructions for how to do this are available [here](#).

The Raceday Privilege Request Form is for information that would normally be reported at the on-course declaration desk e.g. if your horse is to be fed on course, details around withdrawal processes, loading requests or assistance, going to start early, mounted early or wearing a hood in the preliminaries. There will **NOT** be a declaration desk at the racecourse..

Raceday Privilege Requests must be completed by **3pm on the day before raceday**.

22. Selection of staff to work on raceday (All employers)

All employers should ensure that they understand their legal responsibilities and duty of care to all employees when selecting staff to attend racedays, completing all necessary risk assessments via appropriate consultation with the employee(s).

Trainers should be aware that, while pre-booked **overnight accommodation for staff and/or horses is now being reintroduced, availability may be limited and will not be available at all racecourses** due to the need for social distancing and infection control measures. Details of specific COVID-19 protocols for overnight accommodation are outlined in [Point 43](#).

23. Maintaining up-to-date staff records (Trainers, Stable Staff)

As the BHA may need to communicate with individuals registered to attend a raceday, all trainers are asked to ensure that the stable employee records are up to date. This includes any transportation staff who may be attending the fixture who should first be added to your Stable Employee Register if appropriate. The key details to check are:

- Full, correct name
- Date of birth
- Contact details (including mobile phone and unique email address for the individual).
- Next of kin details
- Ensure that the Racehorse Attendant Pass is in date

24. Selection of horses by trainers (Trainers) [UPDATED]

Lead horses may be permitted if required to 'pony' a horse to the start for safety reasons. This is subject to approval from the Clerk of the Course and dependent on available stable capacity at the racecourse.

Companion horses may be permitted, subject to prior approval from the Clerk of the Course and dependent on stabling capacity.

All companion and lead horses must be vaccinated in accordance with the Vaccinations Code. Passports for companion and lead horses should be handed to the Veterinary Officer for checking when entering the Racecourse Stables.

Trainers wishing to send a companion or lead horse should notify the Clerk of the Course at declaration and complete the Raceday Privilege Request form on Racing Admin (see [point 21 \(c\)](#)).

Please note that **no other companion animals are permitted.**

25. Stalls tests (Trainers) [UPDATED]

For stalls tests on a raceday, please contact the Clerk of the Course in advance of the fixture.

26. Preparing the horse prior to departure (Trainers, stable staff)

Horse(s) must, at a minimum, have the head, neck and muzzle area washed prior to leaving the trainer's yard to reduce potential transfer of virus to staff and handlers.

27. Preparing the horsebox (Trainers, stable staff, transporters)

The horsebox must be disinfected before and after each transport to a racecourse, or prior to loading any horse(s) and equipment:

- Areas to concentrate on for disinfecting include, but are not limited to, all handles, clips, latches, ramps, or any other areas where staff may have had, or will have contact.

28. Preparing the racing equipment (Trainers, stable staff)

Trainers should supply individual pieces of equipment per horse, including, if possible, individual girths, breast girths, and chammies (anti-slip pad) for each individual horse.

Trainers (or their nominated representative) are encouraged to contact valets prior to raceday to review any necessary equipment considerations. This will assist in maintaining proper disinfecting protocols, as well as ensuring timeliness during the weighing process.

All equipment must be cleaned and disinfected prior to arrival on course. All equipment must be bagged per horse in a clean, single (where possible) bag, clearly labelled with the name of the trainer, the horse's name, and the race number and time.

Equipment for each individual horse must be bagged separately. Please do not include equipment for multiple horses in the same bag.

As racing equipment can be from a variety of different materials, please make sure that all equipment is thoroughly inspected to ensure it is in good working order after cleaning.

It is important that prior to and after handling or transferring any equipment, that hands are washed and/or sanitised to prevent any viral spread.

29. International attendees and GB participants returning from overseas competition **[UPDATED]**

(a) Non-GB attendees at race meetings in Great Britain

Internationally trained runners are able to participate in all British races other than Class 5 and 6 handicaps/classified stakes on the Flat, and Class 5 handicaps over Jumps.

Overseas attendees should note Government quarantine and/or testing requirements and exemptions, noting that these vary between England, Scotland and Wales.

- Full details and country lists for England are available [here](#).
- Full details and country lists for Wales are available [here](#).
- Full details and country lists for Scotland are available [here](#).

Please pay particular attention to restrictions relating to 'red list' countries from which entry into the UK is currently prohibited.

International Elite athletes (Jockeys) and ancillary sports persons (Trainers and Racing staff) who are travelling to Great Britain for the sole purpose of training or attending a 'Specified Event' may be eligible for acceptance on the BHA's Elite Athlete Exemption (EAE) scheme. Full details can be found [here](#).

The ONLY events to which this exemption currently applies are:

- King George Diamond Weekend, Ascot – Friday 23 – Saturday 24 July 2021
- Goodwood Festival, Goodwood – Tuesday 27 – Saturday 31 July 2021
- Shergar Cup, Ascot – Saturday 7 August 2021
- Ebor Festival, York – Wednesday 18 – Saturday 21 August 2021

All licensed Jockeys, Trainers and Stable Staff travelling to Great Britain to attend a race meeting from outside the Common Travel Area must notify the BHA of their travel using [this form](#).

Please note that exemption status does not apply to return travel from 'red list' countries, from which entry to the UK is currently banned.

Overseas attendees should be aware that, while **overnight accommodation for staff and/or horses is now being reintroduced, availability may be limited and will not be available at all racecourses** due to the need for infection control measures. Details of specific COVID-19 protocols are outlined in [point 43](#).

For further logistical assistance with travelling to and from the UK, participants should contact the International Racing Bureau at <https://irbracing.com/contact/>

(b) GB participants returning from competition overseas

Anyone returning to Great Britain from outside the Common Travel Area (Ireland, the Channel Islands, or the Isle of Man) must follow current UK Government requirements before leaving and returning. Requirements may differ for arrival in England, Scotland and Wales:

- Full details and country lists for England are available [here](#).
- Full details and country lists for Wales are available [here](#).
- Full details and country lists for Scotland are available [here](#).

Elite athletes (Jockeys) and ancillary sports persons (Trainers and Racing staff) who have travelled to an Amber list country for the sole purpose of training or attending a recognised race meeting and are required to quarantine on return may be eligible for acceptance on the BHA's Elite Athlete Exemption (EAE) scheme.

On return, individuals must comply with UK Government and additional BHA requirements, including undertaking a supervised programme of Lateral Flow Testing (self-funded). Accepted applicants will be eligible to attend training (the yard) and/or competition (the racecourse) during Government quarantine. Full policy details are detailed [here](#).

Participants seeking exemption status will need to read and understand the [requirements](#) and complete the BHA online [application form](#) **prior to travelling**.

To safeguard horseracing in Great Britain, the BHA requires all licensed Jockeys, Trainers and Racing Staff that have travelled from Great Britain to a country outside the Common Travel Area to attend a race meeting to notify us of their travel using this [Overseas Racing Notification form](#).

Fully UK vaccinated participants travelling internationally who are not required to quarantine should do this using [Open Traveller status](#), which ensures smooth return to British racecourses. Apply using [this form](#).

30. Checklist (ALL) [UPDATED]

All personnel attending racedays should ensure they have brought the following:

- Disinfectant/cleaning materials for wiping down vehicles and equipment
- Hand sanitiser – while hand sanitiser points will be available on course, all attendees should bring a personal supply. Jockeys and stable staff may also wish to bring their own liquid soap and flannel or single use cleansing wipes.
- Face covering
- Photo ID (e.g. stable staff pass, driving licence, passport). This must be ready to show on arrival at the racecourse, if requested.

Staff accompanying horses should also bring:

- Racing equipment - prepared, bagged and labelled as per the protocol in [point 28](#).
- Stable staff pass
- Buckets, sponges and scrapers for washing down, to avoid sharing these wherever possible, labelled with the trainer's name

Section E: Travelling to the racecourse (ALL)

31. Considerations for travelling [UPDATED]

Cars and horseboxes are advised to travel directly from home/stable yard to the racecourse.

We recommend that individuals from different households do not share vehicles or, if shared journeys are unavoidable, consider wearing appropriate face coverings.

While **overnight accommodation for staff and/or horses is now being reintroduced (see [Point 43](#))**, availability may be limited and will not be available at all racecourses due to the need for social distancing and infection control measures. All trainers and transporters must be aware of this and have appropriate arrangements in place, e.g. if long journeys are necessary, additional staff may be required to enable this.

Section F: Arrival at the racecourse

32. Arrival times [UPDATED]

Arrival times for anyone not accompanying a horse may vary by racecourse.

Entry will not be possible more than four hours before the first race without prior approval of the racecourse.

For horses, trainers will be asked to indicate an estimated arrival time through Racing Admin when declaring stable staff, which is completed when the horse is declared. Racecourses will review arrival times and liaise directly with trainers/horse transporters to minimise any potential congestion in the arrival area.

33. Car parking

Car parking arrangements will vary by racecourse. Please follow any signage or instructions and adhere social distancing protocols when using the car parks.

34. Withdrawals and non-runners (Trainers, officials)

Information will be provided to trainers or their representatives on the protocols for notifying officials of any non-runners or withdrawals. In most cases, an EWIO or VO should be informed, who will then inform the Stewards. All horses are considered declared for the day once scanned into the stable yard.

35. Unloading and stable yard protocols (trainers, stable staff, officials)

At most racecourses, there will be one entrance to the unloading area of the stable yard. **ONLY staff with the appropriate accreditation will be permitted to enter the stable yard.**

- As a general principle, access to the racecourse stables will be for stable staff (or trainer/representative when accompanying the horse), EWIO, vets and relevant racecourse staff ONLY.
- Trainers or their assistants will generally be permitted access only where the racecourse adopts saddling in the stables. Where this is not the case, any trainer who requires access

to the stable area for horse welfare reasons will have to be approved by the EWIO on duty.

The entrance of horseboxes into the loading area will be staggered to minimise congestion within the area.

- The Stable Manager or other designated individual will facilitate traffic flow in the unloading area. A one-way system will be in operation and must be closely observed. Directional signage will be in place to support this.
- Where the stable entrance cannot allow horses to come in and out at the same time whilst maintaining social distancing, a priority system will be in place, with a clear 'waiting area' for horses who do not have priority.

(a) Unloading procedure:

- Once arriving in unloading area, proceed to the designated unloading ramp/area.
- Stable staff should be prepared to show their Stable Pass.
- There will be a specified area for the horse check-in.
- Stable staff will unload horse and present at the horse ID checkpoint and stand on the horse's offside while the EWIO scans the horse's microchip and checks identification.
- Once cleared, the stable staff will be advised where to take the horse.
- Once the horse is secured in the stables, the stable staff must quickly retrieve their equipment from the horsebox and place it next to the horses' stable box.
- Equipment transfer protocols must be followed (see [point 36](#))

(b) Washdown procedure:

- After horse and equipment are unloaded, horse can be taken to washdown area, taking note of social distancing measures and ensuring that all equipment is wiped down prior to and after use.
- Showers in horse washdowns may be used and partitions will generally be in place to prevent spray. Where this is not possible, alternate showers should be used.
- Buckets, sponges and scrapers can be used, and it is **recommended that trainers provide these to be used by their own staff.**
- The Veterinary Officer (VO) will notify stable staff if their horse will be subject to a pre-race check. These will follow normal guidelines, to include trot ups and palpation if required. Palpation will be conducted in the stable box with the horse loose or loosely held by the VO, if it is safe to do so.

(c) Other stable yard information:

- Stable bedding will be provided in line with the racecourse's standard policy. No additional bedding will be provided.
- Stable staff will be encouraged to remain in the vicinity of the horses in their care throughout the day. The racecourse will provide break areas, which ideally will be outside, although inside areas will also be provided for use if weather conditions require.
- Where day changing facilities are provided for stable staff, use must be staggered. Shower facilities may not be available.

36. Racing equipment & colour bag transfer (trainers, stable staff, valets, jockeys) **[UPDATED]**

Equipment and colour bag transfer points will be established outside the Weighing Room. Hand sanitising and/or handwashing is required between all transfers or activity involving the handling of equipment.

These protocols are continually under review and may vary across courses, with one possible scenario as follows:

- Stable staff member arrives at equipment transfer point (note, this will be situated outside the physical weighing room. Signage will be in place)
- Stable staff member drops labelled bag of equipment per horse per race and steps away
- They will then be collected from the relevant area by the valets (or the individual jockey if they do not have a valet).
- Valet retrieves equipment, sorts as needed, and places in designated area, separated by race
- Jockey arrives, picks up specified equipment for race, weighs out and places equipment in designated area for stable staff to retrieve for saddling

After use, the colour bags will be returned via same process throughout the afternoon.

37. Farrier services

Farrier services will be available at the racecourse as usual.

Section G: Racecourse set-up and facilities (ALL, except where indicated)

38. General set-up

Attendees should note that the specific operation of protocols and the facilities available may vary from racecourse to racecourse, due to differences in e.g. racecourse layout and resourcing.

Attendees are encouraged to check on NRAS, if possible, where racecourses will advise of any changes to the core facilities and processes outlined in this document. If in doubt, check with the racecourse direct prior to travelling.

The racecourse perimeter will be appropriately secured. Access will only be possible via designated entrance points. All other entrance points will be physically secured to prevent unauthorised access, with enhanced security provision in place to support this.

39. Other equipment

All equipment being brought on to site to be used by multiple individuals must be disinfected prior to arrival. All contractors will be responsible for disinfection of their own equipment in line with their procedures.

Where an individual brings equipment for their own use (e.g. BHA officials' laptops), they will be responsible for the disinfection of these to their own satisfaction. Individuals must not use another person's equipment without first ensuring that this has been disinfected.

- The racecourse will make a supply of single-use disinfectant wipes available in key areas for equipment disinfection.

40. Catering (participants) [UPDATED]

Attendees should note that most racecourses are offering a limited supply of pre-packaged food, with some offering hot food for takeaway, subject to local risk assessment. However, attendees may wish to bring their own refreshments.

Bottled water WILL be provided by ALL racecourses. Drinks must NOT be shared.

Fridges may not be available to store food, as this would require multiple individuals to repeatedly touch door handles. Any items which need to be kept cool must be brought in an appropriate cool bag.

Where chilled drinks cabinets are in place in jockeys' changing areas, these will be in use. Many racecourses will make other arrangements for chilled drinks for jockeys. However, jockeys are advised to bring cool bottles with them if possible, or to check with the racecourse prior to travelling.

It should also be assumed that **microwaves will not be provided**, therefore individuals should be advised not to bring food which requires heating.

Individuals bringing their own food should consider potential food allergies of others within their area (e.g. potential nut allergies) and select food accordingly.

Facilities to make hot drinks on site will not be provided unless the racecourse advises otherwise. Racecourses will provide served hot drinks. Individuals may bring hot drinks with them in an appropriate container for their own consumption only. Alcohol is not permitted.

The racecourse will identify areas for people to sit and eat their food during breaks. These areas will need to maintain appropriate social distancing and will be regularly cleaned. Ideally break areas will be outside, although inside areas will also be provided for use if weather conditions require.

Extra rubbish bins will be provided and must be used by attendees, to maintain site hygiene.

41. Radio and battery collection/transfer

Radios and spare batteries will be collected from an area outside the Weighing Room where possible.

All radios must be wiped down with disinfectant wipes by the broadcast engineer before use and again on return.

Where radios are to be allocated directly from the broadcast room there will be a clear procedure for collection and return. The broadcast engineer will maintain a record of radio allocation and individuals will not be required to sign for these.

42. Walking the course (Trainers, jockeys, officials)

Anyone wishing to walk the course should notify the Clerk of the Course.

43. Overnight accommodation (Trainers, stable staff) [UPDATED]

Trainers should be aware that, while **overnight accommodation for staff and/or horses is now being reintroduced, availability may be limited and will not be available at all racecourses** due to the need for social distancing and infection control measures.

Racecourses offering overnight accommodation will be applying the following protocols:

- All accommodation must be booked with the racecourse in advance and by **no later than 12noon on the day before the fixture** (24-hours before the fixture)
- Accommodation will be available on a first come, first served basis
- Canteens may be available for limited eat-in or takeaway food. Please check in advance with the racecourse.

Where accommodation is available, due to limited provision, this should be booked only for the person looking after the horse overnight, with alternative arrangements made for staff, in line with government guidance around overnight accommodation.

Accommodation provision will operate in line with government guidance around hospitality and hotels, which may vary between England, Scotland and Wales. Accommodation provision will be kept under review as guidance evolves.

All trainers and transporters should be aware of overnight accommodation restrictions and have appropriate arrangements in place when travelling or sending staff to racecourses where accommodation is not available, e.g. if long journeys must be undertaken in one day, additional staff may be required.

44. Sponsorship materials

Sponsorship considerations on the gates, parade ring and on winners' blankets/rugs will be reviewed by the racecourse.

In line with the Sponsorship Code of Conduct, face coverings worn by the horse attendant (between pre-parade ring and unsaddling) should be free of all sponsorship and advertising. This includes advertisements for their yard. This does not apply to other members of staff, unless acting as a horse attendant.

Section H: Specific areas of the racecourse

45. Jockeys' Changing Room (Jockeys, valets, officials) [UPDATED]

All jockeys, valets and staff/officials must wear face coverings and observe social distancing at 1-metre-plus in the changing room. This will be facilitated by the use of taped areas, partitions, and increased supervision.

This will inevitably reduce the amount of space available in the jockeys' changing room, and on some racecourses, further individual changing areas may need to be provided.

Racecourses will ensure that any additional changing space has all necessary facilities and easy access to the weighing room (without necessarily being immediately adjacent). Separate areas for male and female jockeys will continue to be provided and a suitable area will be provided for valets, including an area suitable for the disinfection of equipment.

Catering will be provided as per the BHAGI requirements.

The saunas will NOT be available for use. Jockeys should liaise with the PJA nutrition team for alternative weight management advice.

Showers are available for jockeys. Jockeys may also bring their own liquid soap and flannel or single use cleansing wipes, which must be disposed of in rubbish bins provided after use.

On-course physiotherapy provision is available and will be provided.

Self-induced vomiting (flipping) is prohibited at all times on the racecourse and any instances will be referred to the BHA for investigation.

46. Weighing Room & weighing procedures (Jockeys, valets, officials) [UPDATED]

Jockeys must weigh in as required and note that some racecourses may be using a different weighing room location.

Access to the weighing room will be strictly limited to BHA officials, relevant racecourse staff (this will include cleaning staff and broadcast personnel who will require access to the broadcast room), valets, and jockeys ONLY. Maximum occupancy for each room will be calculated and displayed. This occupancy must not be exceeded.

If particular information needs to be passed to the Stewards/Starters/Scales, this should be done in advance by email to the relevant officials where possible.

All furniture and workstations will be arranged so that 1-metre-plus social distancing can be maintained. The Weighing Room will be marked out with zones to remind personnel of the social distancing rules and there will be clear one-way routes of travel in, around, and out of the area.

All saddles and jockeys' equipment should be disinfected on arrival on site either by the valets, who will provide confirmation to each individual jockey to state this has been completed, or by the jockey themselves. Disinfectant wipes should be provided by the valets for this purpose.

The requirement to present declared headgear (blinkers, visors, etc.) to the Clerk of Scales has been removed. Trainers will be responsible for ensuring any declared headgear is present on the horse when it is brought into the parade ring.

Number cloths will be laundered by the supplier prior to provision to the racecourse. For each race, these will be laid out in an agreed area in or near the Weighing Room. Jockeys will then collect the number cloth they require (and any speed sensor equipment) and must not touch any others. Jockeys should then return the number cloth to a designated receptacle (location dependent on the individualities of each racecourse).

Weighing in and out will be carried out as normal in the Weighing Room, with social distancing protocols to be followed. Some racecourses will place Perspex screens in front of the Clerk of the Scales position.

- An additional table will be provided next to the scales on which jockeys can place their hat, whip, and any other equipment that would usually be placed in front of the Clerk of the Scales.
- A series of clearly designated areas, in view of the Clerk of the Scales, will be demarked, from which saddles, weight cloths, number cloths etc can be passed from jockeys to trainers or their representatives after weighing out.
- Any lead used by jockeys must be cleaned with disinfectant wipes by the valets following each race prior to further use.

47. Stewards' Room (Officials, trainers, jockeys) [UPDATED]

Access to the Stewards' Room will be strictly limited to relevant BHA officials and individuals involved in enquiries.

- All furniture and workstations will be arranged so that 1-metre-plus social distancing can be maintained.
- Where this is not possible, an alternative Stewards' Room will be provided. This will:
 - Have suitable access to the Weighing room (without necessarily being immediately adjacent)
 - Have 60% alcohol-based hand sanitiser and/or hand washing station.

Staff briefings will be conducted remotely.

48. Stewards' Enquiries (Officials, trainers, jockeys) [UPDATED]

Any Stewards' Enquiry requiring an attendee not designated as working in the Weighing Room (e.g. Trainer) to attend will be conducted remotely where possible.

If it is not possible to conduct the enquiry remotely, the attendee(s) will be permitted to enter the Weighing Room in line with a solution agreed by the Stewards, which allows the enquiry to take place as safely as possible. This will include the following requirements:

- That any attendee is met and escorted into the Weighing Room Complex by a member of the Stewarding Team
- The attendee sanitises their hands and is provided with a new IIR mask as a minimum standard. FFP2 masks may also be used.
- The enquiry takes place in the Stewards' Room with 1-metre-plus social distancing maintained at all times and must not exceed 15 minutes. The maximum room occupancy must NOT be exceeded. An accurate record of the duration of the indoor contact must be kept by the BHA.

Section I: Pre-race, start & in-running procedures

49. Saddling procedures (Trainers, stable staff, officials) [UPDATED]

The trainer or their representative will retrieve equipment from the designated area (outside the weighing room) and proceed to saddling area. Note that prior to or after handling or transferring any equipment that hands must be sanitised or washed.

When tacking the horse for the race, it is recommended that face to face exposure must be avoided and hands should be washed or sanitised afterwards.

Any surface likely to be touched by the jockey must be wiped down with disinfectant wipe or similar – in particular, the reins and neck strap.

The Stable manager or designated person will determine the time needed to move from the stable yard to parade ring area and will notify stable staff of the timetable.

When departing from the stable yard, stable staff will proceed to horse checkpoint and stand on the offside while the EWIO approaches and scans the microchip for identification.

50. Parade ring (Trainers, jockeys, owners, stable staff, officials) [UPDATED]

Each racecourse will calculate the capacity of its Parade Ring, based on the usable space and in accordance with individual racecourse risk assessments and operating plans.

Anyone entering the Parade Ring should ensure they are familiar with the relevant government guidance in relation to face coverings and social distancing.

Access to the Parade ring will be controlled by racecourse security. As the number of Owners able to access the Parade Ring will vary in line with the number of runners in each race, Parade Ring access accreditation will be race specific. It should be noted that in many circumstances the number of owners able to access the Parade Ring will be fewer than the total number of owners in attendance. If the Parade Ring reaches maximum capacity, no further access will be granted to Owners regardless of whether they have accreditation or not.

Unless advised otherwise, racecourses will require Owners and Trainers to leave the Parade Ring once their horse has left the area. This will help ensure that there is no cross-over between races. Winning connections may be granted access to the Winners' Enclosure following their race, but must ensure they vacate once any presentations have been made.

Medical and veterinary teams, and anyone else who can fulfil their role from outside the area, should be available outside the parade ring, and able to access without delay in the event they are required.

51. Legging-up (Trainers, stable staff, jockeys)

When legging-up, normal procedures may be followed or a designated person(s) may leg up all jockeys. Hands of those legging-up jockeys should be washed or sanitised immediately before and afterwards..

Once mounted, jockeys must proceed to the start as soon as possible.

52. Going down & starting procedures (Jockeys, trainers, officials) [UPDATED]

At the start, the Starter and Assistant Starter, and stalls handlers when applicable, will perform routine girth/equipment checks as needed, continuing to use hand sanitiser between horses.

Staff or trainers will be permitted to assist at the start ONLY if prior request has been received through the Raceday Privilege Request and approved by the Starter. In these circumstances, staff must get to the start on their own (no transport will be provided by the racecourse) and ensure that any post-race responsibilities are not compromised (i.e. they are present at the unsaddling area when required).

Trainer (or representative) must make their own arrangements to collect equipment removed at the start (red hoods, ear plugs, etc).

Loading procedures are as follows:

- Staggered loads, as usual
- Stalls staff are encouraged to remain in gate area except for facilities breaks.

- Handlers will be allowed in stalls to assist the horse during the start, but face to face contact should be avoided where possible. Face coverings are recommended and handrails must be wiped down if used.

Hygiene

- Hand sanitiser should be used between each start or in between loads (i.e. sanitiser available at both ends of gates)
- Blindfolds should not be reused during the same load
- Any radios should be wiped and cleaned between use and not shared amongst personnel

53. In-running (Jockeys, officials)

While races will be run in the normal way, jockeys are encouraged to be especially mindful of continuing pressures on medical and health services, and to avoid taking unnecessary or avoidable risks, which may endanger themselves or others.

There will be some slight variations to medical and veterinary processes. These are outlined in the RCA Operational Plan for use by racecourse medical and veterinary personnel.

Section J: Post-race procedures (ALL, except where indicated)

54. Unsaddling & post-race checks (Jockeys, stable staff, officials) [UPDATED]

On completion of the race, the jockey should proceed to the unsaddling area (or Winners' Enclosure, where applicable) and await pick-up by stable staff. Procedures for the Winners' Enclosure and unsaddling area(s) for other runners will vary by racecourse.

Access to the Winners' Enclosure and unsaddling area(s) may vary based on capacity and safety constraints. Where possible, winning connections, including Owners, will be granted access to the Winners' Enclosure following their race, but must ensure they vacate once the presentations have concluded. Specific arrangements will be communicated by the racecourse ahead of their arrival.

The grounds team, vets, and drivers, as well as the normal equine response team, will be on hand in equine areas post-race to assist with cooling/any other issues.

Once the horse is secured, jockey will dismount and unsaddle the horse while stable staff will maintain as much distance as safely possible, including standing on the offside, if safe.

Stable staff should then proceed to cool-down area/stable yard, or to the sampling unit if directed. For sampling process, see [point 56](#).

If any post-race examination of the horse is ordered by the Stewards, horses should be auscultated on opposite side from handler/ at arm's length. Visual inspection will be made unless palpation can safely be achieved.

Stable staff must wash or disinfect their hands as soon as possible after collecting the horse, which in most cases will be when washing down the horse after the race (See [point 35](#) for information on showering/washing down facilities). Tap/bucket handles should be wiped down before and after use.

At the conclusion of the race, the trainer or representative can retrieve any equipment at the designated transfer area, being sure to follow the transfer protocols.

55. Weighing in (Jockeys, officials)

Jockeys should return to the weighing room immediately after the race to weigh in, whilst maintaining social distancing. Entry will be controlled. Jockeys should leave the weighing room as soon as they have weighed in.

56. Equine testing/sampling procedures (Trainers, stable staff, officials)

The usual raceday requirements for equine sampling will remain in place, requiring a Catcher, SUSA, EWIO to manage the sampling process.

As the Sampling Unit remains a regulated space, access will be restricted to those absolutely necessary to the process. Social distancing should be observed where possible, aided by designated or marked areas where applicable, and face coverings must be worn at all times. When at all possible, doors and windows should be opened to increase air circulation.

The sampling process will be as follows:

- EWIO identifies horse using microchip protocol with stable staff on the offside of the horse.
- Stable staff should ideally remain outside the Sampling Unit during the sampling collection process. A door may be left ajar to facilitate the witnessing of collection if desired.
- Prior to stable staff entering the sampling unit to witness the sample preparation and signing the declaration on the GRABBA, they must sanitize their hands and put on a new IIR mask (provided by the racecourse) as a minimum. FFP2 masks may also be used.
- Witnessing is done inside Sampling Unit while social distancing is maintained, e.g. through the use of marked out areas on the floor or establishing stations (i.e. witnessing area, split sample area)
- Laminated sheets outlining the sampling process will be displayed to assist stable staff
- Signing: GRABBA will be placed on table, enabling stable staff to sign. GRABBA is then disinfected.

Section K: Broadcast, media & photography protocols

57. Media attendance [UPDATED]

Access to the racecourse

Access to racecourses will be permitted with a valid PASS card. Members of the media are strongly encouraged to pre-book attendance via the PASS concierge system up to 11.59pm the day prior. Where it cannot be avoided, for example a late call up, walk-up attendance will be permitted with a valid PASS card.

For racecourses where PASS is not in use (Cheltenham, Hexham and Kelso ONLY), media should pre-book by contacting the racecourse staff confirmed in Annex A and use their RCA media accreditation as proof of identity.

There are no limits as to how many media may attend a fixture other than the normal safety capacity of key areas of the racecourse such as the Press Room and Parade Ring.

Any specific variations for devolved nations will be communicated by the RCA and HWPAs separately.

Access within the racecourse

RCA-accredited media are permitted to access all non-integrity areas of the racecourse with their RCA media lanyard. This includes access to the Parade Ring and Winner's Enclosure, although individual racecourses reserve the right to control numbers in these areas at their discretion.

Access to the Press Room will be strictly limited to those with an RCA media lanyard.

Meetings not covered by the protocol

Remaining Festival meetings in 2021 will not be bound by this protocol and will have separate conditions applied. These will be confirmed by the individual racecourses. For the avoidance of doubt, remaining Festival meetings for 2021 are:

- Qatar Goodwood Festival, Goodwood Racecourse (Tuesday 27- Saturday 31 July)
- Welcome to Yorkshire Ebor Festival, York Racecourse (Wednesday 18 -Saturday 21 August)
- Cazoo St Leger Festival, Doncaster Racecourse (Wednesday 8 -Saturday 11 September)
- QIPCO British Champions Day, Ascot Racecourse (Saturday 16 October)
- Ladbrokes Christmas Festival, Kempton Park Racecourse (Sunday 26 December- Monday 27 December)