

REGISTERING TO RECLAIM VAT: A STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE

Through the VAT Registration Scheme for Racehorse Owners, all racehorse owners are potentially eligible to reclaim VAT on their racing expenses.

Advice on the scheme and eligibility can be found on the HMRC website [here](#). Alternatively you can contact the VAT Help Desk at Weatherbys via BHAVAT@weatherbys.co.uk.

STEP 1: CHECK ELIGIBILITY

For you to register to reclaim VAT on your racing interests, you will first need to ensure you are eligible by:

- [Registering as an owner](#) with the BHA;
- Having a horse in training (it is the trainer's responsibility to add the horse into the owner's name once they are registered as an owner); and
- Ensuring your horses are covered by a current sponsorship agreement which is registered with the BHA (more information on registering a new sponsorship deal can be found [here](#)).

For you to be eligible to reclaim VAT in your own name you will need to own at least 50% of the horse. If you do not, you can still reclaim VAT, but would need to join with others to own a combined 50% and then reclaim VAT as a group.

It is important to remember that to reclaim VAT in your own name you must own 50% of any horse in question, as opposed to shares totaling 50% across multiple horses. If this distinction is not understood it can lead to claim duplication (i.e. a syndicate reclaims VAT for the entity and then one of the individual owners reclaims the VAT again in their own name despite not being eligible).

STEP 2: COMPLETE RACEHORSE OWNER'S DECLARATION

To confirm you have met the eligibility criteria and how you wish to register to reclaim VAT, you will need to complete *either* the D1 or D2 form.

The D1 form should be completed by **SOLE OWNERS, COMPANIES and RACING CLUBS** and can be downloaded [here](#).

The D2 form should be completed by **PARTNERSHIPS and SYNDICATES** and can be downloaded [here](#).

Each of the forms contains clear guidance notes on how they should be completed. Once completed, the forms should be returned to the VAT Help Desk at Weatherbys via BHAVAT@weatherbys.co.uk.

Subject to the eligibility criteria being met, your D1/D2 form will be authorized on receipt by the VAT Help Desk at Weatherbys who will return it to you together with a VAT1 form (and VAT2 form where relevant). **Without this authorized declaration any application to register to reclaim VAT with HMRC (step 3) will be invalid.**

STEP 3: REGISTER TO RECLAIM VAT WITH HMRC

To register to reclaim VAT you will next need to apply to HMRC. The easiest way to do this is online [here](#).

Alternatively you can download and print the VAT1 form [here](#) and return it to HMRC by post. Notes to help can be found [here](#).

As part of completing your application you will be asked to upload (or enclose if you are completing the hard copy) your authorised D1/D2 form.

In addition, if you are applying as a PARTNERSHIP or a SYNDICATE you will also need to complete the VAT2 form accessible [here](#). The VAT2 form will need to be completed and signed by all Partners/Members involved before it must be posted to HMRC. If you are applying online you will simply be able to add the partners as part of the process instead of completing the VAT2 form.

It should be noted that online applications will take around 20 days to be processed while and print and post applications take >30 days.

STEP 4: ONCE YOU'VE REGISTERED

Once HMRC have processed your application they will notify you of your VAT Number, the Effective Date of Registration and your VAT return periods. This will be in the form of a certificate of registration.

We would ask you to forward a copy of the Certificate of Registration to the VAT Help Desk at Weatherbys (BHAVAT@weatherbys.co.uk) as soon as possible. This will allow the BHA to arrange for you to receive future monthly VAT breakdowns covering prize-money, registration and entry fees etc.

It is important to note that your VAT liability starts from the date of our authorisation (as per date shown on you D1/D2 form). This means that you will be liable for VAT on any income you receive in the interim period between your initial application and confirmation by HMRC of your finalised VAT registration.

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