



BRITISH HORSERACING AUTHORITY

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

May 2020

(Last updated May 2021)

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Section A: General guidance (ALL)

1. Document purpose [UPDATED]

This document contains protocols which must be followed by all racing industry participants, officials, and racecourse staff at race meetings from 17 May 2021 until further notice. These measures have been designed to safeguard everyone's health and wellbeing as COVID-19 restrictions are eased, to ensure that racing continues in a safe and appropriate manner.

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 below.

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 a separate operational plan template 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. Green Zone attendees) or particular groups (e.g. trainers).

To assist with navigation, we have indicated in each heading the sections which are of specific 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 14 May 2021 to reflect changes to government guidance and British racing's protocols as part of the easing of lockdown restrictions from 17 May 2021.

Where sections have been added or updated, this has been indicated in the section headings.

The document takes precedence over all previous versions and consolidates other guidance and operating procedures issued to individual participants groups, such as the Owner Protocols, into one overall document.

It 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.**

Updated sections will be indicated in the Document Control table on page 4 of the document.

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 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) [Outdoor work](#)

Guidance for people who work in, or operate, outdoor working environments.

(c) [Vehicles](#)

Guidance for people who work in or from vehicles, including couriers, mobile workers, lorry drivers, on-site transit and work vehicles, field forces and similar.

(d) [Offices and contact centres](#)

Guidance for people who work in or run offices, contact centres and indoor environments.

Stage 3, [Elite Sport – return to domestic competition guidance](#), published on 30 May 2020 and covers competition behind closed doors. This defines a set of minimum standards that sport is required to meet in order to resume competition and, as such, underpins the protocols, entry requirements and screening processes defined in this document.

Stage 4, [Elite sport – return to cross border competition guidance](#), published on 9 July 2020

Stage 5, [Elite sport – safe return of spectators](#), updated on 30 November 2020

(e) [Social Distancing](#)

General advice to the public (which individuals are required to know and follow)

(f) [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 – 17 May 2021 onwards (ALL) [NEW]

From 17 May 2021, British racing will begin to ease racecourse COVID-19 restrictions, in line with the UK Government's [roadmap out of lockdown](#).

This will see the return of spectators and a move toward a more typical pre-COVID racecourse experience for most racing industry participants, officials, and racecourse staff.

Infection control measures will remain in place for all attendees to help keep everyone safe on course and protect the racing industry from potential COVID-related disruption.

However, the level of these controls will vary according to role and work location on the racecourse.

8. Changes to racecourse layout and access **[NEW]**

British racing will maintain its zoning system, which divides the racecourse into different areas according to their levels of risk and the level of infection control measures in place.

From 17 May 2021, the racecourse will continue to be separated into two main zones – the Green Zone and the Amber Zone – but with the following changes in place:

a) The Green Zone

The Green Zone will be reduced in size to comprise only specific indoor areas of the racecourse, including the Weighing Room complex, Jockeys' Changing Rooms, and the Stewards' Room.

Entry to the Green Zone will be restricted to the following individuals, who work in or require access to these indoor areas throughout the raceday:

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

Green Zone personnel will be permitted to access other areas of the racecourse, but only for work purposes (e.g., accessing the Parade Ring) and to move between Green Zone areas. However, they must not enter any indoor areas in the Amber Zone unless agreed by the BHA and racecourse.

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

b) The Amber Zone

The Amber Zone will comprise all areas of the racecourse that are not designated Green Zone access only.

For the avoidance of doubt, this will include the Pre-Parade Ring, Parade Ring, Horse walk and Racecourse Stables (which may only be entered with appropriate access accreditation – see [Section I](#)), as well as all areas accessible to spectators.

Amber Zone attendees will consist of everyone else on the racecourse, including:

- Owners
- Trainers (or their representative)
- One senior groom per yard represented
- Stable staff (registered on Staff Employee Register) of horses running
- Commercial horsebox drivers/transporters, where applicable
- Farriers (as required to service the race meeting)
- Racecourse staff (who do not require Green Zone access)
- RaceTech staff (as required to provide core broadcast and integrity services. This will include, for example, one race commentator)
- Technical staff (as required to service the race meeting, as per RCA guidance)
- Media
- Spectators
- Jockeys' and Trainers' drivers*

*Drivers for jockeys will not be permitted access to the Green Zone. However, given that they will be travelling in the same vehicle and therefore will be in close proximity to Green Zone personnel, they will be required to undergo the same entry screening process as jockeys (see Point 18).

Only those Amber Zone attendees with express permission in advance from the racecourse and BHA may cross into the Green Zone.

Amber Zone attendees ARE permitted to attend more than one Amber Zone per day.

Section C: Medical guidance (ALL)

9. General COVID-19 protocols for ALL attendees

- Do not come racing if you have [symptoms](#) of COVID-19, are [self-isolating](#) and /or awaiting a test result.
- Do not come to the racecourse if you are not on the list of permitted and accredited attendees for that race meeting
- 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 for your Zone
- 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]**

Access to the racecourse will continue to be closely monitored, in line with government requirements.

All attendees in all zones MUST register their attendance in advance with the BHA and racecourse. Pre-registration is a mandatory requirement for NHS Contact Tracing and to support British racing's reporting and contact tracing system.

For the following participants and attendees, this should be completed using the established processes:

- Trainers & Stable Staff: Via NRAS after declarations close (see [Section D](#))
- Racecourse staff and contractors: Via the racecourse
- Jockeys: Via jockey bookings
- Jockeys' and Trainers' drivers: by the passenger
- Jockey Coaches: Via BRS Jockey Coaching Programme Administrator
- BHA Staff: Via BHA scheduling
- Media, broadcasters and photographers: Via the racecourse/RCA
- Transporters: Via commercial transport providers

11. Owners' registration process **[NEW]**

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 wishing to attend a race meeting to watch their horse(s) run **MUST** register their attendance by **4pm the day before**. No walk-ups will be permitted and those not registered to attend cannot be granted access. Owners may not pass their unused badges to any other owners or racegoers.

Registration should be completed via the RCA's Privilege Access Swipe System (PASS). This should be done as early as possible in advance of the race meeting, and by no later than 4pm the day before the fixture.

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. All owners and their guests must provide their contact details to support NHS Contact tracing requirements and British racing's reporting and contact tracing system.

Internationally based owners must comply with all UK Government entry requirements and should contact the racecourse directly to register attendance. This should be completed by 4pm the day before the fixture. For Racing Managers who require assistance registering attendance on behalf of owners please contact the PASS helpdesk.

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

Owners' Code

All owners attending any fixture will be asked to sign up to the [Owners' Code](#). The Code is for your safety and the safety of others and all owners must ensure they observe its terms while on the racecourse.

12. Racecourse entry screening **[UPDATED]**

Once registered, all racecourse attendees will need to complete an entry screening process. However, the level of screening required will differ depending on the attendee's raceday role.

Entrance to the racecourse will only be permitted following successful completion of the entry screening. Individuals will be required to wear a wristband or other form of accreditation (provided by racecourses) identifying that they have undergone the screening process.

Should an individual leave the racecourse, this accreditation must be removed and returned to racecourse staff at the exit and the individual **must** be re-screened before coming back on site.

a) Screening for Green Zone attendees and Jockeys' drivers

Entry screening will remain unchanged for all Green Zone personnel and Jockey's Drivers, and will continue to follow three steps:

- **Step 1 – Education Module**

Completion of an online education module - *COVID-19 information for participants of the racing industry*. This is hosted on the Racing2Learn website. This should only be completed once, unless otherwise instructed. Information on this course can be found [here](#).

- **Step 2 - Questionnaire**

All Green Zone attendees must have completed an online medical questionnaire prior to any planned attendance at a racecourse. The questionnaire will comprise questions requiring simple yes/no answers. Questions must be answered correctly for the user to advance to the next stage.

The questionnaire will be emailed direct to proposed attendees once notification of their attendance has been received by the BHA.

- **Step 3 – On Course Screening**

On arrival at a racecourse, ALL attendees will be required to answer further questions, as well as having their temperature recorded. They will also be required to provide appropriate photo ID (Stable Pass, Driving Licence, Passport) as proof of identity. Attendees are requested to have their photo ID ready to present on arrival at the racecourse, to avoid unnecessary delays.

Individual temperatures will be taken twice in succession, with the lower reading recorded. If on both occasions this temperature exceeds 37.8°C, entry onto the racecourse will be denied. A second thermometer should be available to confirm an elevated temperature.

If entry is denied, the individual will be advised to travel home, ideally alone. If this is not possible, a Type IIR mask will be provided and must be worn by the individual and any other passengers in any shared vehicle. They should book a [Covid-19 test online](#) as soon as possible and, if unwell and in need of medical advice, consult NHS 111. Information outlining these steps will be provided to the individual on-course.

Any individual that fails the on-course temperature screening will be required to provide the BHA with proof of a negative COVID-19 test OR they must have completed 10 days of isolation from the onset of symptoms and be symptom free (except for a cough or loss of taste, which may persist after the period of infection has passed) before re-admittance to a racecourse.

Participants are reminded that if any member of the same vehicle fails to clear step 3, all those travelling together will be denied entry onto the racecourse.

- b) **Screening for Amber Zone attendees (Excluding Owners)**

All other attendees (excluding owners) will only be required to complete the On Course Screening on arrival at the racecourse (See Step 3 – On Course Screening, above).

For avoidance of doubt, Amber Zone attendees do not need to complete Step 1 – Education module or Step 2 – medical questionnaire.

As noted in Step 3 above, but repeated here for emphasis, any individual that fails the on-course screening will be required to provide the BHA with proof of a negative COVID-19 test OR they must have completed 10 days of isolation from the onset of symptoms and be symptom free

(except for a cough or loss of taste, which may persist after the period of infection has passed) before re-admittance to a racecourse.

c) Screening for Owners

On arrival at the racecourse Owners are asked to make their way to the Owners' entrance. They will be asked to produce photo ID before being checked in.

13. Data Protection

Where the BHA is administering the COVID-19 entry screening activities, it will be the "data controller" in this regard. A COVID-19 Privacy Notice describing the BHA's collection and use of personal data for this activity is included on the Data Protection page of the BHA website and hyperlinks to this privacy notice will be provided in all communications/ documentation collecting personal data.

In order to carry out the administering of COVID-19 entry screening activities, the BHA is reliant on all responsible organisations to provide the contact details of all relevant employees, workers and contractors. Responsible organisations should ensure that from both a data protection and general communications perspective, they have notified all relevant employees, workers and/ or contractors that they will be sharing individuals' contact details with the BHA for the purposes of the COVID-19 entry screening activities.

Attendees should be aware that where medical screening applies, a top level red/ green entry status will be shared with the relevant racecourse so that they can allow or refuse entry, as appropriate, and the attendee's employing/ contracting organisation (where appropriate) so that they may make alternative staffing arrangements in the event of a red flag.

The BHA reserves the right to make changes to the above process if there are changes to the prevalence of COVID-19 in national, regional, or local areas.

14. Refusal of access

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 relation to the protocols contained in this document, it should be noted that the reasons why access may be denied include (but are not limited to):

- Advance registration has not been received
- The individual was not on the list to attend
- They have forgotten to bring their photo ID
- They or someone in their vehicle did not pass the required racecourse entry screening
- They did not complete the required training
- Any other reason at the discretion of the racecourse and/or the BHA.

Access to the racecourse may also be restricted due to capacity limits. All attendance restrictions will be regularly reviewed, and we will continue to increase the number of attendees as soon as it is permitted to do so.

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

a) Green Zone attendees

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

Consequently, to protect participants, appropriate PPE and/or face coverings must always be worn by Green Zone personnel, other than when specific exemptions apply (see below).

Face coverings

Face coverings (i.e. “non-medical” face coverings) should be worn by personnel who are not identified as needing certified/higher grade PPE (e.g. medical and cleaning staff). The mandatory use of face coverings adds an additional layer of protection for everyone in the Green Zone – 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 Green Zone, from the point of arrival at the racecourse and throughout the day until departure, 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).

Face coverings must be worn by Green Zone staff when transiting the Amber Zone.

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 most people, face coverings can be worn throughout the day and only removed in certain scenarios. Situations where face coverings do not need to be worn include:

- Eating or drinking
- Showering or changing
- Working alone in a car
- 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
- Jockeys – immediately before and during a race (see below)
- 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

The wearing of face coverings during the race is recommended. However, jockeys are permitted to pull down the face covering in the moments immediately prior to the start and for the duration of the race. 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 horse walk, whether mounted or on foot

In the unsaddling area, once the jockey has assisted stable staff with loosening any tack and is two metres away from any other personnel, the jockey's face covering may be lowered until the jockey returns to the changing area if the jockey is breathless.

While the face covering is lowered, it is essential that 2m social distancing is maintained, e.g. if walking back to the Weighing Room with other jockeys, or speaking to trainers or media.

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 Green Zone 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) Amber Zone attendees

While it is recommended that Face Coverings are worn in the Amber Zone, the only places where this is mandatory are:

- Indoors, unless eating or drinking – in line with government requirements
- In the Pre-Parade and Parade Rings, Saddling and Unsaddling areas, the Horse Walk and at the Start (See [Sections I and J](#)). This is to protect key industry personnel, such as jockeys, whose absence due to illness or 10-day isolation could impact the ability of the industry to stage fixtures.

16. Hand hygiene

Along with appropriate social distancing, 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. Hand blow dryers must NOT be used and will be turned off.

17. Social distancing

Social distancing is a key intervention to reduce transmission of Covid-19 and must be actively practised at all times. 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. Government guidance on social distancing is available [here](#)

Racecourses will be managing and reconfiguring sites to enable social distancing to be achieved wherever possible.

18. 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.

19. 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 20](#)), or instructing the attendee to return home, from where they should follow [Government advice](#).

20. 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 **must be completed and submitted before raceday**, guidance on equipment and other preparation, as well as subjects that should be considered in advance.

21. 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 record 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.**

22. Declaration process and information requirements (Trainers)

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)**, to accommodate the on-course screening of staff, unloading and disinfecting protocol

- Trainers should allow more time than usual when planning departure and arrival times, to accommodate additional medical checks.
- Please note that racecourses will review arrival times and liaise directly with trainers/horse transporters as necessary, to minimise any potential congestion in the arrival area.

Trainers will also be asked to indicate whether they intend to use a **commercial horse transporter**.

(b) Staff attending with the horse. This information MUST be provided in advance. No emergency stable passes will be granted on raceday and **anyone not on the list of accredited attendees will not be permitted to enter the racecourse.**

Once a horse has been declared, trainers will receive an email asking them to confirm which members of staff will be attending the fixture. **This must be completed as fully and accurately as possible by 1pm on the day before the fixture.**

If the trainer (or assistant trainer) is also attending, this MUST be indicated on the form. If it is not, their name will not be included on the list of those permitted access to the racecourse and they will be refused entry.

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.

IMPORTANT NOTE: ANY individual whose presence at the raceday has not been declared to the BHA in advance, and who therefore does not appear on the list of accredited attendees at the racecourse, will be refused entry.

If you are unable to meet the deadline, for any reason, you must have contacted the BHA by email via the [BHA helpdesk](#) (see Point 7) before the 1pm deadline, to explain why this has not been possible.

(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 until further notice.

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

23. 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).

Please note that, if a person fails the medical check, they will be refused entry. If they have a raised temperature or other symptoms, anyone travelling with them will also be refused

entry. To minimise the risk of this, trainers are advised to check the well-being of staff before travelling, e.g. by asking staff to check their temperatures at that time.

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 46](#).

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

As the BHA will need to communicate with all individuals who are registered to attend a raceday, all trainers are asked to ensure that the stable employee records for any individual who is likely to attend a fixture 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

25. Selection of horses by trainers (Trainers)

Trainers are also asked to assist with the smooth running of racedays by avoiding sending any difficult or “fractious” horses. Further information as below. ALL declared horses should be well schooled in the stalls, to minimise time taken to load and to help maintain appropriate social distancing.

Trainers are therefore asked to consider not entering horses should they fall into any of the categories set out below.

- Needle shy
- Can't be tied up
- Unruly in pre-race
- Unruly at start
- Difficult loaders (stalls)
- Difficult loaders (horsebox)
- Kickers/biters/difficult in Sampling Unit
- ANY signs of skin disease
- Any horse that has suffered Heat Stress (Post Race Ataxia)
- Horses requiring a traveller/companion
- Difficult to shoe

Any horse showing unhelpful behaviour will not be allowed to enter again until further notice.

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 22\(c\)](#)).

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

26. Stalls tests (Trainers)

For stalls tests on a raceday, trainers must complete the following actions **no less than 48 hours prior to the fixture**:

- Contact the Clerk of the Course to register interest in completing a stalls test
- Email the BHA (covid19attendees@britishhorseracing.com) to ensure that stable staff involved with the stalls tests are registered to attend the fixture. The online medical questionnaire (step 2 of the screening process) will be emailed to each attendee.

Please note that any individual participating in stalls tests (stable staff, trainer, driver etc.) must complete the racecourse entry screening (see [Point 12](#)).

27. 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.

28. 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.

29. 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.

30. 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.

Internationally trained horses and individuals transporting them will be able to enter Britain, but entrants must comply with relevant [UK Government rules](#), and the protocols contained in this document.

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:

- Lockinge Day, Newbury – Saturday 15 May 2021
- The Derby Festival, Epsom Downs – Friday 4 – Saturday 5 June 2021
- Royal Ascot, Ascot – Tuesday 15 – Saturday 19 June 2021
- Eclipse Festival, Sandown Park – Friday 2 – Saturday 3 July 2021
- July Festival, Newmarket – Thursday 8 – Saturday 10 July 2021
- King George Diamond Weekend, Ascot – Friday 23 – Saturday 24 July 2021
- Goodwood Festival, Goodwood – Tuesday 27 – Saturday 31 July 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 social distancing and infection control measures. Details of specific COVID-19 protocols are outlined in [point 47](#).

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 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 10-day 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](#).

31. Checklist (ALL)

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

- Disinfectant/cleaning materials for wiping down vehicles and equipment
- Battery-operated phone charger (optional)
- 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). To avoid delays, this must be ready to show on arrival at the racecourse.

Staff accompanying horses should also bring:

- Racing equipment - prepared, bagged and labelled as per the protocol in [point 29](#).
- 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)

32. Considerations for travelling

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

We recommend that individuals from different households or those entering different zones do not share vehicles or, if shared journeys are unavoidable, consider wearing appropriate face coverings. If one attendee does not pass the required screening and checks, everyone in the vehicle will be instructed to leave the site.

While **overnight accommodation for staff and/or horses is now being reintroduced (see [Point 46](#))**, **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

33. Arrival times

Arrival times for anyone NOT accompanying a horse may vary by racecourse. In most cases, arrival times will be as usual but attendees should allow an additional 15-30 minutes to pass through the checkpoints. If you do arrive early, please avoid congregating with other attendees, particularly around the checkpoint areas.

Because of the need for the checkpoint team to be present before entry to the racecourse can be permitted, entry will not be possible more than 5 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.

34. 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.

35. Medical check (ALL, except owners) [UPDATED]

All attendees must pass a medical check on arrival at the racecourse and before being permitted to enter the site.

On arrival, this screening process will involve:

- Verifying photo identification
- The individual's temperature will be taken using an infrared (non-contact) thermometer or other non-contact device. Anyone with a temperature above 37.8°C will be denied access to the racecourse (see [point 11](#)).
- Individuals will be asked some brief screening questions

For Green Zone attendees, the online education module and pre-screening questionnaire will need to have been completed prior to arrival.

Please note that, if a person fails the medical check, they will be refused entry. If they have a raised temperature or other symptoms, anyone travelling with them will also be refused entry. To minimise the risk of this, trainers are advised to check the well-being of staff before travelling, e.g. by asking staff to check their temperatures at that time.

36. 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.

37. 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 be 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 38](#))

(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 must enable appropriate social distancing to be maintained. Ideally break areas 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 to enable social distancing. Shower facilities may not be available.

38. 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 on the perimeter of the Green Zone. 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.

39. Farrier services

Farrier services will be available at the racecourse as usual.

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

40. General set-up

Attendees should note that the specific operation of protocols and the facilities available will 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.

To limit crossover of individuals one-way systems should be in place across wherever possible, and this is a requirement in Green Zones.

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.

41. Technology

Attendees should note that, for reasons of hygiene, power sockets and cables will not be available for general use (i.e. for any purpose not integral to the operation of the raceday).

Attendees will not, for example, be permitted to use racecourse power sockets and/or cables to charge personal mobile phones or other devices and are advised to bring battery operated chargers, and/or to charge in vehicles when travelling, if this is likely to be required.

42. 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

43. Catering (Green Zone) [UPDATED]

Before consuming any food, hands must be washed or sanitised.

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.

44. Radio and battery collection/transfer

Radios and spare batteries will be collected from an area outside the Weighing Room where possible. Amber Zone staff cannot enter the Green Zone to collect radios.

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. Social distancing must be maintained by those waiting to collect radios and signage/demarcation of 2m waiting zones will be used to assist with this process. The broadcast engineer will maintain a record of radio allocation and individuals will not be required to sign for these.

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

The racecourse will establish a clear one-way route for access to the course for any trainer, representative or jockey wishing to walk the course before racing. Anyone wishing to walk the course should notify the Clerk of the Course.

- Social distancing must be maintained during course walks.
- Security will be in place on access and egress points and around the course to ensure that unauthorised personnel do not attempt to use this route to gain access.
- Anyone walking the course **must wear the accreditation provided** and show this to security personnel when requested. Failure to do so could result in removal from the site.

46. Overnight accommodation (Trainers, stable staff)

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
- Only single accommodation with ensuite facilities will be available, though twin accommodation with ensuite facilities may be provided for those from the same household
- No accommodation with shared facilities (i.e. showers etc) or dormitories will be provided. Health screening protocols, as advised by the BHA, must be followed. On the morning of the raceday, the course will be cleared and **all staff who have stayed at the racecourse overnight will be required to re-enter the course via the medical checkpoint**, which will open no earlier than 5 hours prior the first race.
- 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.

47. 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

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

The Jockeys' Changing Room will be located in the Green Zone. All jockeys and valets must wear face coverings and observe 2m social distancing in the changing room. This distance is to satisfy the distance requirements set by government (NHS Contact tracing) in their definition of

a 'close contact'. At present this also complies with Social Distancing guidance. This may 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/overflow 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 for jockeys, unless advised otherwise in advance by the racecourse, in line with government guidance. Jockeys may bring food with them to meet their own 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, where it does not compromise the health of jockey or physiotherapist.

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

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

The Weighing Room will be located in the Green Zone. 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.

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 2m 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 waived. 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.

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

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

- All furniture and workstations will be arranged so that 2m 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.

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

As the Stewards' Room is located in the Green Zone, any Stewards' Enquiry requiring an Amber Zone attendee (e.g. Trainer) to attend will be conducted remotely where possible.

If it is not possible to conduct the enquiry remotely, the Amber Zone attendee(s) will be permitted to enter the Green Zone 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 Amber Zone attendee is met and escorted into the Weighing Room Complex by a member of the Stewarding Team
- Any Amber Zone 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 2m 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

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

The saddling area will be located in the Amber Zone. Ideally, all horses will be saddled in the same area (i.e. stable box or saddling area of the parade ring), though the exact location will vary by racecourse. Face coverings must be worn in this area at all times.

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, social distancing must be maintained by keeping one person on either side of the horse. 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.

For any given race, horses will be requested to leave the stable area together and arrive in the parade ring together. This is regardless of whether they are saddled in the stable yard or parade ring.

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.

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

Once in the parade ring, horses may be required to walk in a particular order or walk in designated areas to facilitate social distancing measures. This will depend on parade ring layout and will vary by racecourse. Please follow the instructions given.

Each racecourse will calculate the capacity of its Parade Ring, based on the usable space, to ensure social distancing is maintained. The Parade Ring remains a controlled area, and so social distancing requirements will be as follows:

- Green Zone attendees (e.g., jockeys and officials) – 2 metres
- Amber Zone attendees (trainers and owners) – 1 metre +

This reflects [government requirements](#) that COVID-secure rules, including social distancing, continue to apply in the workplace, businesses, and public venues.

Face coverings will remain mandatory in the Parade Ring, as well as the Pre-Parade Ring, Saddling and un-saddling areas, and the Horse walk.

The Parade Ring may be divided into 'zones' or have social distancing markers in place. At all times, any personnel in the parade ring should be mindful of the social distancing measures in place.

On arrival at the racecourse, alongside the standard accreditation provided, stable staff, trainers and owners will be provided with appropriate Parade Ring accreditation, which will detail the race(s) for which it is valid.

Access to the Parade ring will be controlled by racecourse security, with priority access given in order to: those leading up horses, Green Zone participants, Trainers, and then Owners with race-specific Parade Ring access accreditation.

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 most 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 should be available outside the parade ring, and able to access without delay in the event they are required.

54. 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, and a triple layered face covering must be worn.

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

55. Going down & starting procedures (Jockeys, trainers, officials)

Jockeys will need to take responsibility for maintaining social distancing on the way to and at the start.

Once at the start, the Starter and Assistant Starter, and stalls handlers when applicable, will perform routine girth/equipment checks as needed, making sure to wear face coverings and 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), as Starters will not be returning to the weighing room.

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 must wear a face covering and avoid face to face contact where possible. 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

56. 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)

57. 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.

Social distancing requirements remain in place (see [Point 53](#)) and face coverings must be worn at all times in the Winners' Enclosure and unsaddling area(s).

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 59](#).

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 37](#) 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.

58. 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.

59. 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

60. Media attendance [UPDATED]

In line with the stated strategy of minimising access to race meetings to essential personnel only, the following maximum limits will be placed on media attendance:

- 3x written media
- 4x photographers
- Broadcast and Radio: Minimum number for rightsholders to achieve their broadcast requirements.

If any slots remain empty after being offered to relevant parties, the RCA and HWPA reserve the right to fill slots with accredited RCA media beyond the category allocations provided above.

The above are the standard attendance limits, which apply to most meetings. Additional media will be permitted to attend major meetings (classified as any meeting with at least one Grade 3 race, a heritage handicap or featured as part of ITV's main coverage on both codes.), subject to additional BHA protocols.

For major meetings, the following attendance limits will apply:

- Media: Up to 10 spaces, including Racing Post and Press Association slot, plus additional media.
- Photographers: Up to 7 spaces from the HWWA pool and 2x agency photographers (excluding racecourse photographer(s)).
- Broadcast & Radio: Minimum number for rightsholders to fulfil broadcast requirements

Broadcast arrangements, including attendance of a presenter and commentator, will be arranged via RaceTech and the RCA.

ALL broadcast, media and photography attendees will need to follow the same screening processes as all other attendees. All media attendees must comply with requirements relating to wearing of face coverings and social distancing, e.g. when interviewing participants post-race.

61. Allocation of places [UPDATED]

The two written media slots will be initially offered to the Racing Post and Press Association.

Both outlets will be required to outline in advance to the RCA a list of journalists which will be utilised for racecourse attendance, in order that registration can be carried out for this pool of journalists. Should these spaces not be filled, RCA nationally-accredited journalists will be invited to apply to attend.

Only existing RCA/racecourse accredited photographers will be considered for the latter slots. Again, a pool of accredited photographers has been provided by the RCA.

For festival and significant weekend meetings, racecourses will work with relevant media outlets to determine allocation of places, up to the maximum. Photographers at these meetings will be selected from the HWWA pool.

62. Media de-briefs

For fixtures where there may be additional press interest (e.g., fixtures with Pattern Races) a designated area will be identified for a media debrief.

Section L: Leaving the racecourse (ALL)

63. Departure process

a) All personnel

- Accreditation for the raceday must be removed by the individual and returned as instructed by racecourse staff. Accreditation cannot be retained for future use.
- Any individual who has left the site must complete the arrival and screening procedures again prior to readmittance.

b) Horses and personnel accompanying horses

Personnel accompanying horses should follow the procedure outlined above AND Horsebox will need to proceed to checkpoint to verify staff departure.

Section M: Claiming and Selling races

64. Claiming and Selling race collection process

While off-course claims continue to be permitted for all claiming races, to comply with screening requirement, claimed horses must be collected no later than one hour before the final race of the day.

When an off-course claim is successful, the trainer (or their representative) should immediately contact the BHA's COVID-19 helpdesk (0207 152 0110) to ensure they are registered to attend the fixture and to go through the relevant pre-screening.

On arrival at the racecourse, they should contact the Clerk of the Course to make arrangements for the horse to be collected.

Auctioneers for selling races must be included on the racecourse attendance sheets (see [point 10](#)).