

FAQ's – Owners returning to racecourses

Q When can owners return to the racecourse?

A Owners will be able to start attending race meetings behind closed doors from Saturday 4 July. This is the first stage of a phased plan to get owners back onto the racecourse, which prioritises your safety and that of raceday workers.

At this stage, this only applies to racecourses in England and Scotland, but British racing continues to engage with the Welsh Government on the return of owners to the racecourse for behind closed doors fixtures. If a racecourse is unable to accommodate owners, you will be notified in advance.

To help keep you safe on the racecourse, owners are asked to follow [specific protocols](#) when attending fixtures behind closed doors. These have been produced by the ROA, RCA and BHA and will be continually reviewed, with a view to reintroducing a more integrated raceday experience at the earliest opportunity.

Q Why do owners need specific protocols for attending a race fixture?

A The protocols have been designed to help protect you and others when attending a race meeting behind closed doors during ongoing COVID-19 situation.

They have been developed in line with British racing's [protocols for behind closed doors racing](#), and are underpinned by specific UK Government guidance on the return of [elite sporting competition behind closed doors](#). The government guidance sets the minimum standards that sport is required to meet in order to resume competition behind closed doors.

Through its resumption planning, racing has been able to ensure that our sport can continue in a safe and appropriate manner. This has been done to safeguard everyone's health and wellbeing and reduce the risk of a case of COVID-19 causing a 14-day quarantine of racecourse contacts.

The interim measures for owners will be reviewed regularly in line with government guidance, with the view to easing them at the earliest possible opportunity. In the meantime, thank you for your support and understanding.

Q But isn't this just the same as going shopping, to the pub or a restaurant? Why are these protocols need to be more stringent?

A When holding fixtures behind closed doors, racecourses have to comply with specific [government guidance for elite sports](#). This has been designed to support elite sport in delivering a safe, co-ordinated return to competition behind closed doors – and in a more controlled environment than most day-to-day activities.

When racing takes place, racecourses are classed 'competition venues', which must adhere to minimum standards to mitigate risk, such as restricting access to essential functional personnel (with no spectators) and screening for all individuals.

This distinguishes racecourses from other hospitality businesses, such as pubs and restaurants, which are bound by separate government guidance. Consequently, on days when racing is not taking place and the racecourse is not classed as 'competition venue',

those courses with pubs, bars and restaurants on site are permitted to open these to the public, in line with government guidance on the hospitality sector.

Q What are the ‘test days’ and why are they necessary?

A Two test fixtures will be held on Wednesday 1 July at Southwell and Kempton Park, to pilot new protocols for owners and allow for a thorough review of the processes in place to facilitate a smooth implementation, with the intention of rolling out the policy more widely from Saturday 4 July.

This will enable owners to experience racing behind closed doors and provide useful feedback ahead of the wider planned rollout. Owners will be notified directly via email about how to register for the test events, once their horse is declared to run.

Q How many passes can I get?

A The return of owners to the racecourse will be a phased process, with entry limited to two owners per horse in the early stages.

By limiting the number of personnel on the racecourse to an absolute minimum, in line with UK Government guidance on the return of [elite domestic sporting competition behind closed doors](#), we can better facilitate social distancing (at two metres) and mitigate the risk of transmitting the virus.

The two-person entry limit is a provisional measure in place during the early stages of the return of owners, which will be reviewed continually, with a view to gradually easing restrictions at the earliest possible opportunity.

Q Which areas of the racecourse will I be able to access?

A All owners attending behind closed doors fixtures will have access to dedicated areas, known as ‘owner zones’, which will separate owners from race day workers (trainers, stable staff, jockeys, officials, media etc.). These areas may consist of both indoor and outdoor space and will include access to toilets.

Unfortunately, the owner zone will not enable access to the parade ring, the Winners’ Enclosure, or winning connections. Racecourses are however working to develop ‘debrief’ areas where owners will be able to speak to their trainer and/or jockey pre- and post-race, while maintaining social distancing and adhering to wider infection control protocols.

Q Why do we need to have dedicated areas for owners?

A Separating owners from raceday workers is an interim measure, designed to ensure we can get owners back onto the racecourse quickly and in a practical and risk-managed way.

Since resumption, racecourse access has been restricted to the minimum number of personnel required to service a fixture. As this number increases, the ability to maintain social distancing is reduced.

By introducing dedicated owner zones, racecourses will be able to maintain social distancing for all attendees and better manage any risk of spreading the virus, whilst ensuring that racing continues to take place in a safe and controlled environment. This is

crucial, particularly as racecourse attendance increases, along with the likelihood of a rise in the number of attendees from more urban areas where COVID-19 cases have been higher.

This approach, supported by government, also means that there would be currently no need to revise other elements of the screening programme, such as by introducing laboratory testing for all racecourse attendees.

Racecourses are already working to develop 'debrief' areas, which will enable conversations between owners and trainers (and other connections) without the need to physically move between the infection control areas.

As with the wider resumption of racing, restrictions have been put in place initially to facilitate a smooth implementation and enable owners to adjust to new protocols. These will be gradually eased at the earliest possible opportunity.

Q Can I speak to my trainer / jockey?

A Whilst owners and trainers/jockeys will be required to remain in their respective infection control areas, racecourses are already working to implement 'debrief areas' which will facilitate conversations between connections in a way that does not breach social distancing. Each racecourse will manage this situation differently, so please check the arrangements with the particular racecourse.

Q I can go to the pub or restaurant without being screening, why not a racecourse?

A A health screening process is in place for all racecourse attendees to safeguard their health and wellbeing, in line with government guidance.

As noted above, racing is required to comply with specific UK Government guidance around the return of [elite sporting competition behind closed doors](#). This means that during competition (i.e. a race fixture), racecourses are classed as elite sport venues, as distinct from other businesses like pubs and restaurants.

Under government guidance, racecourse pubs and restaurants are permitted to open (from 4 July) on days when racing is **not taking place**. However, when a racecourse is hosting a fixture, it must adhere to strict entry requirements, such as health screening and restricted access to only personnel with essential functional roles.

Q Why are owners required to complete a different screening process to other raceday attendees?

A Owners are asked to complete a two-stage screening process, which consists of an online COVID-19 learning module ahead of the fixture, and health questions and temperature checks on arrival at the racecourse. This approach, combined with social distancing and other infection control measures on the racecourse, will mitigate risk on a raceday.

Unlike raceday workers (trainers, jockeys, stable staff, officials etc.), owners are not required to complete the compulsory health screening questionnaire. This reflects the fact that owners will be on course for a shorter period of time, will be better able to maintain social distancing, and will not be interacting more widely with raceday personnel.

However, to help protect yourselves and other attendees, owners are asked to assess their own health ahead of attending each fixture, by asking themselves the five questions

(see section 7 of the Owner protocols). Please answer these honestly and do not attend the racecourse if advised, as this will put others at risk.

This approach, combined with social distancing and other infection control measures on the racecourse, will mitigate risk for owners at the fixture.

Q When will things return to normal for owners?

A It is not possible to say with certainty, as we are following government guidance in relation to the return of sport behind closed doors, which restricts racecourse access and movement when competition (i.e. a race fixture) is being held.

However, our plans for the return of owners are based on a phased approach, which introduces interim measures in the early stages, which we will aim to gradually ease at the earliest opportunity to re-introduce a more integrated raceday experience for owners.

In the meantime, racecourses are working hard to deliver an owner experience that allows you to watch your horses run, while adhering to government guidance and the necessary safety precautions in place to minimise the risk to you and others on raceday.

Prior to arrival at the racecourse:

Q. What do all owners need to do before they arrive at the racecourse?

A. **Step1:** All owners must ensure that they have read and understood the Owners Protocols http://media.britishhorseracing.com/bha/covid19/BCD_Owners_Guide.pdf, together with the relevant sections of the British Horseracing Authority's (BHA) [Guidelines and operating procedures](#) for behind closed doors racing, particularly Sections A and B. The Owners Protocols will be updated periodically, in line with changes to government guidance around COVID-19 and the return of sport.

Step2: Complete an online education module – *Covid-19 information for participants of the racing industry* – prior to raceday. This is hosted on the [Racing2Learn website](#).

Step3: Complete the health screening questionnaire prior to attending the racecourse – section 7 of the Owners Protocols
http://media.britishhorseracing.com/bha/covid19/BCD_Owners_Guide.pdf.

Step4: All owners attending must have pre-registered the two individuals who will attend the racecourse, please log into PASS <https://www.rcapass.com/>

Q. How do I register that I will be attending on raceday?

A. As above Step 4 to register your attendees, please log into PASS <https://www.rcapass.com/> and submit the names of the individuals who will attend the racecourse. As explained above, all names must be submitted by 4pm the day before the fixture. Changes after that time will not be possible.

Q. What if I am a member of a syndicate?

A. For syndicates and racing clubs, it will be the responsibility of the syndicator/club manager to submit the names of those individuals attending the fixture. It is recommended that the syndicator attends as one of the allocated persons to help ensure

the remaining syndicate members are kept updated. For more information on filming at racecourses please refer to: <https://www.roa.co.uk/raceday/racing.html>

Q. How do I access the PASS system?

A. Please visit <https://www.rcapass.com> or contact the PASS Helpdesk on 01933 270333.

Q. I am an international owner without access to PASS, how do I register my attendance?

A. Internationally based owners who are not registered in the UK, 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.

Q. How many passes can I get?

A. The return of owners to the racecourse will be a phased process, this includes limiting attendance to two owners per horse in the early stages.

Q. Can children attend the racecourse?

A. Children can attend as one of the two nominated partners if pre-registered to attend. All children attending will undergo the entry screening process as standard.

Q. I've got an entry/declared runner, but I haven't received an email?

A. Please contact the PASS Helpdesk on 01933 270333 and the team can assist you further.

Arrival at the racecourse:

Q. What do I need to bring with me on raceday?

A. Please make sure you arrive at the racecourse with your:

- Photographic ID (a copy on your phone is acceptable) – you will require this to gain entry to the racecourse.
- Your RCA PASScard - if you have been allocated one as a registered owner.

You may also wish to consider bringing your own alcohol-based hand sanitiser and a face covering.

Q. What will happen if I arrive and my name is not on the list?

A. The racecourse staff will be able to assist you on the day, however, please be prepared to assist the team by stepping away from the designated entrance to enable other owners to continue safely whilst the team and yourselves resolve the matter. You may be required to contact the PASS Helpdesk on 01933 270333 to enable your details to be updated to the raceday list.

Q. What if my horse is a non-runner on the day?

- A.** Only owners who have registered their attendance using the RCA's PASS system should travel to the racecourse. If a horse is declared a non-runner the attached owners should also not attend the fixture.

Q. What will happen when I arrive at the racecourse?

- A. Step1:** On arrival at the racecourse you will be asked for your details and valid ID.

Step2: You will be asked a series of three questions relating to your current health on the day

Step3: A temperature check will be taken. Your temperature will be taken twice in quick succession, with the lower reading recorded.

Q. What will happen if I fail the temperature check when I arrive?

- A.** Your temperature will be taken twice in quick succession, with the lower reading recorded. If on both occasions this temperature exceeds 37.8°C, owners will not be granted access to the racecourse and will be advised to travel home.

Owners are reminded that if any member of the same vehicle fails to clear the entry screening process all those travelling together will be denied entry onto the racecourse.

Q. I failed my temperature test when I arrived at the racecourse and couldn't attend – when can I next visit a racecourse with a declared runner?

- A.** Any individual that fails the on-course screening will be required to **either:**
- provide evidence of a negative Covid-19 test, which can be booked on the [NHS website](#).
- or** complete a minimum of 7 days of isolation depending on advice received from NHS.

On the racecourse:

Q. What areas of the racecourse will I be able to access?

- A.** The owner zones may consist of both outside and indoor space and will include access to toilets. It will **not** allow access to the parade ring, the Winners' Enclosure, or winning connections.

Q. Why can owners and raceday workers not interact on raceday?

- A.** To mitigate the risk of the transmitting COVID-19, owners on course will have access to a dedicated owner zones, which will be separated from raceday workers (trainers, stable staff, jockeys, officials, media etc.). For infection control purposes, no movement will be permitted between the two areas of the racecourse.

This approach, supported by government, also means that there would be currently no need to revise other elements of the screening program such as by introducing laboratory testing for all racecourse attendees.

Q. How long can I stay on the course after my horse has run?

A. Owners are requested to arrive at the racecourse no more 45 minutes before their first horse is due to run and leave the racecourse within an hour of the final race in which they have a confirmed runner.

Q. Will there be food and drink available on the day?

A. In line with UK Government stage 3 guidance, food and drink may not be available on course. Some racecourses may be able to provide a supply of pre-packaged food, subject to local risk assessments, but this is not guaranteed. If racecourses can make refreshments available to owners, it should be noted this will not include alcohol at present, but bottled water will be made available.

Q. Will there be presentations on the racecourse?

A. Not at this stage of the proposal, therefore the current arrangements for distributing prizes to the winning and placed connections will continue unchanged.

Q Can racecourses send owners a winning memento?

A While there remain challenges with making presentations on course, racecourses can send winning owners a memento following a fixture.

Q. Do I have to wear PPE/Facemasks?

A. At present, in line with Government Guidance, face coverings are not mandatory for owners on racecourses as 2 metre Social Distancing will be possible.

Leaving the racecourse:

Q. Do I have to leave the racecourse after my horse has raced?

A. Following the conclusion of your race(s), owners are asked to leave the racecourse within an hour to allow for all owners to be accommodated. Most racecourses will have one-way systems will be in place, so owners can return to their vehicle without crossing paths with others and hand hygiene stations will be provided on exit. Upon leaving the racecourse, wristbands for the raceday should be removed by the owner and disposed of by racecourse staff. Wristbands cannot be retained for future use.

Q. How long will owners be limited to 2 racing connections attending the racecourse?

A. These temporary measures will be eased gradually in line with government guidance for sports venues and public health requirements.

Q. Who do I call if I have a query?

A. If owners have any questions about PASS, they should contact the PASS Helpdesk on 01933 270333 and for all other queries should contact the ROA on 01183 385680.

We thank you for your assistance in advance by supporting the measures in place. As you will appreciate this is an evolving landscape and hopefully as cases continue to fall, we can look forward to a more integrated raceday experience, which we would like to achieve at the earliest opportunity. To assist us with developing our protocols and support please do ensure any feedback following your return to racing is provided by email to the ROA info@roa.co.uk.

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