

Special Measures for Horse Driving Trials as a result of COVID-19

The purpose of this document is simply to consider all the different elements of running an event. It is not meant to be used as rules, just as something that BC think should be considered.

Please ensure that you check your local and national guidelines as the rules vary throughout the UK and may change at short notice.

We believe that it is essential that events appoint a person with overall responsibility for ensuring that the event remains compliant and who can perform ongoing risk assessments during the event.

Consideration needs to be given to what will happen if someone gets ill whilst at an event. It may not be quite as easy as asking them to leave the showground as they may be too ill to drive, or too exhausted to put away their stabling and equipment etc.

And what if someone arrives at an event with no symptoms and then finds out that someone that they live with has developed symptoms at home. If the Organiser knows about this they must self isolate at their own lorries and leave the event.

Drivers

Pre Event

- Communication of COVID measures so that drivers arrive on site aware of them and prepared to adhere to them.
- Pre event info to include instructions about social distancing, any changes to normal event practice, and any special measures implemented.
- Acceptance of and adhering to social distancing and other special measures is a condition of entry. Any breach, depending on severity, could result in the people involved being sent off site. No refunds will be given.
- Yellow cards may be issued if deemed appropriate.
- Competitors to bring hand sanitisers and disinfectant wipes with them to the event and carry and use them during their time on site.
- Consider requesting a copy of the vaccination record to be scanned and emailed prior to the event.

Arriving

- Parking of lorries and 'camps'. There must be 5m distance between all camps.
- Considerations for really wet weather. Social distancing measures must be adhered to if lorries need to be towed in or out etc.

Schooling and Exercising

- Gates may need opening and shutting. Competitors to wipe down with sanitiser.

- Adherence required to the social distancing rules in force at the time. Check gov.uk for updates.

Lorry Park

- Taps will need to be sanitised after each use. Splitter connectors and hoses need to be sanitised regularly.
- Foot operated taps are excellent. Contact Wilf at Ashfields for specification if in doubt.
- Toilet Facilities. The way that most events have individual toilets spread around the site is probably the best practice on this. Clean daily if mobile units. Hand sanitiser stations to be placed nearby which must be used before and after each use.
- Shower Facilities. It will be best not to provide showers.
- Electric Hook up usually adds a pressure to park lorries closer to one another as the distribution equipment is so expensive. Important that any potential minimum distances between parked lorries are considered if arranging this.
- Muck Heaps. Informing drivers and their helpers to remain 2m apart at all times.
- Wash off areas. No wash off areas, animals to be washed off at own lorry. No spray attachments to be used.
- Increase in hand washing areas / hand sanitisers.

Dissemination of Information and Catering

- Information board. All information to be communicated online to avoid groups and queues. Provide a 1 way system in and out with barriers. 2m distancing to apply.
- Copy of all WhatsApp communications to be posted on notice board.
- Whats App group for drivers. Be aware that some drivers may not have a smart phone or access to one.
- Separate Whats App group for helpers.
- Catering to be in line with the changing regulations.
- Checking of Passports. We certainly do not want to have to deal with an equine flu epidemic so vaccination records should be checked. Scan and emailing of the relevant pages to the organiser prior to acceptance of entry will reduce contact.

Dressage

- Dressage sheets. Judges and writers will need to be from the same household or socially distanced. If the latter use the radios set on different channels and the writer can sit elsewhere. Judge will be unable to sign sheet.
- Score collectors to use PPE and not go from car to car - 1 collector per judge. Score collectors could dictate the scores to the scorer – beware inaccuracies. Social distancing must apply in scorers office.
- PPE provided for the scorer if sheets are to be handled by them.
- Dressage stewards. 2 can be at A but only 1 should handle the marker. Measuring of carriages after dressage to be ignored.
- Safety checks for Novice and Evolution Drivers. Mostly on the move with protective gloves and masks to be worn for close inspection of harness and vehicle.

Marathon

- Walking Obstacles. Communicate to people to avoid lingering in obstacles, and touching the railings etc.
- Drivers cannot get scratch backsteppers at the event as they are clearly not from the same household etc.
- One green card issued to groom. They fill in - using their own pen - timekeeper marks time sheet. They verbally agree the time. No green cards handed in at the end of the marathon. Clocks to be visible to groom. Stewards to check start and end section times. If times are radioed to the scorer, together with any penalties, beware inaccuracies.
- Obstacles. No drawings sent in unless there is a query. Times are radioed to the scorer together with any penalties – beware inaccuracies. Senior Obstacle observer to keep the drawing. No judges to sign errors - they are called over to agree it and make a note themselves. In the event of a query on penalties drawing to be made available by Obstacle observer. Events may choose to collect obstacle summary sheets. If this is the case special measures must be taken to ensure COVID security.
- Control sheet to be kept of competitor number, time taken, any hold ups or penalties. These to be checked against scores after each class completion. Social distancing rules apply.
- Halt area. Social distancing must be respected. If a toilet is provided then sanitising must apply as Box Park toilets - organisers may consider a longer halt to accommodate this?
- Vet Check. Only a distanced visual check to be made unless there are any concerns (breathing rate etc). PPE to be used if closeup inspection required. All veterinary procedures to be carried out in line with veterinary guidelines.

Cones

- Organisers to allow sufficient time to walk cones, in daylight, so that the arenas are not crowded.
- Steward to be allocated to practice cones so only that one person handles them.
- 2 or 3 people will need to be allocated to measuring. One on each side of the carriage and 1 to measure. No one touches any of the items except the one for which they are responsible.
- Cone stewards. Each steward to have their own set of sticks to be sterilised before and after use - wipes or spray. Must work singly unless from the same household.

Presentations

- Although social distancing between turnouts is easily achieved prize giving involves contact between the driver and presenter. These should therefore not take place. A line up for photos and a lap of honour are fine.
- Turnouts can be positioned so the organiser, sponsor or VIP can walk past and verbally congratulate as appropriate. No hand shakes.
- Consider postage of rosettes as an option or Virtual Rosettes.

Para Drivers

- Be aware that extra measures may be necessary for Para Drivers. Consult with the Para Driving Chef de Equip if in doubt.

For Officials

- Equipment, e.g. Walkie Talkies, should not be shared between individuals, and sterilised before charging at night.
- Consider allocating a numbered radio to each official for the duration that they collect and rack for charging.
- Social distancing rules must apply even in inclement weather.
- Catering to be prepacked sandwiches.
- The halt toilet - needs sanitising between uses.
- Officials pre event. POJ, TD & CD cannot drive the course together unless 'car share' rules are adhered to.
- No socialising. No 'wash up' meeting for judges unless social distancing can be observed.

Secretary's Office

- The secretary's office must remain compliant with any guidelines for offices and workspaces. Good ventilation is essential. Limited number of people in the space together. Consider barriers and one way systems.
- Shared equipment, eg photocopier, microphone for announcements, will need disinfecting - wipes.

Judges & Officials

- TROT UP: Keep distance between officials. Bigger areas of shelter for adverse weather conditions.
- DRESSAGE: Judges that bring their own writers from their own households can be used. Alternatively, two way headset walkie talkies/radios could be used with the writers elsewhere or cars side by side with judge in one and writer in another.
- MARATHON: Transport around the site together will require the use of facemasks.
- CONES: If commentary boxes no more than 2 people in them at any time – good ventilation is essential. Other judges around the arena with radios.
- PPE to be provided to any officials that are required to handle any items previously handled by others. Follow PPE usage guidelines.

Veterinary

- All veterinary procedures will be in line with veterinary guidelines.

Course Designers and Builders

- Would have to adhere to building regulations of social distancing, including when making emergency repairs.

Stewards

- Social distancing rules apply.
- Do not share equipment

Stable Manager

- PPE
- Supply of PPE for emergencies
- Duties to include monitoring social distancing rules.

Obstacle Observers / Timekeepers

- All equipment, such as walkie talkies, should only be touched by one person. Other examples include stop watches, pens, clipboards.

First Aid and Response to accidents / turnovers etc

- If there is a high level of risk, ie potential serious injury etc, social distancing measures can be balanced with the other risk of not breaking these rules. For instance, if someone is stuck under a carriage in a water obstacle, and that requires several people to help remove the carriage, I would argue that this is OK.

For Spectators / Family / “Extras”

- No public allowed and competitors are asked not to bring any extra people with them unless they are coming to work as stewards.