

### **The Pony Club resumption of Pony Racing**

Following the creation of the [Working safely during Coronavirus \(Covid-19\): Providers of grassroots sport and gym/ leisure facilities](#) by the Department of Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) on 11 May 2020 (updated 10 February 2021) and the guidance jointly produced with the British Equestrian Federation and The Pony Club, activities are resuming in revised format with the approval of the DCMS.

Pony Racing is one of The Pony Clubs nine sports, which young people up to their 17<sup>th</sup> birthday can participate in. The activity takes place on Race Days at licenced Racecourses. The sport is the grassroots of Racing for our members who aspire to working in the Racing Industry.

To support the resumption of the sport, the Committee have identified steps to minimise the COVID-19 transmission risk whilst taking part in recreational sport and enable participants to make an informed decision about risk of participation. The measures identified in this guidance have been produced in line with the Race Course Association (RCA) guidance and have sought consultation with the British Horseracing Authority (BHA) Medical Team to ensure compliance with sport and venue measures.

The identified measures are supported by the [COVID-19 Response: Spring 2021](#) guidance (updated 10 February 2021) which will support those intending to participate to understand measures such as travel, sharing of equipment through to the organising of outdoor and physical activity events.

We are working inside the guidelines with regards to contact between riders and the start team in Pony Racing, this may be less than the current government measures around Social Distancing. This contact is fleeting but measures have been identified to ensure Pony Racing can safely and compliantly resume on these venues.

An action plan has been prepared which sits alongside the Working Safely during Coronavirus Framework and must be implemented by Race Day organisers.

We have prepared a risk assessment and identified areas to mitigate the transmission of COVID-19 via droplet transmission, fomite transmission and to reduce the number of people involved in the vicinity of the field to inform modifications to the activity and /or rules of the sport as required.

The following action plan details a standard approach to Pony Club Pony Racing which is in accordance with the Working Safely during Coronavirus (Covid-19): Providers of grassroots sport and leisure facilities guidance produced on 11 May 2020 (updated 10 February 2021), which will be implemented by event organisers (*which are the governing bodies themselves or The Pony Club/ its Officials*) alongside existing government social distancing guidelines, followed by the Pony Racing risk assessment and resulting modifications to activity and / or rules of the sport. This document has been produced inline with the Racecourse Association and British Horseracing Association guidance as an overview for safely run race days, the

document will be updated to reflect the Racecourses Risk Assessment and meet the measures they have in place.

The Pony Club will ensure that it monitors the current government guidance and updates its documentation to reflect the latest guidance and documentation such as the easing of measures in line with the Government Road Map to Recovery and timeline. Full information on the Pony Club Measures for activities can be found on the [Website](#).

**Event Management - Prior To Activity**

<p>Number of People</p>	<p>Attendance at Pony Racing Events will be the absolute minimum in order to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19, limited to the participants and officials and vital support where necessary, eg. Parents / guardians for Under 18s. For the avoidance of doubt, no members of the public / spectators are permitted.</p> <p>This restriction will be managed via managing entries prior to the event, providing clear guidance to participants and officials and by organisers not permitting members of the public to attend.</p>
<p>Pre-Attendance Official Symptom Check</p>	<p>All event attendees must undergo a self-assessment for any COVID-19 symptoms. No-one should leave home to participate in equestrian sports if they, or someone they live with or a member of their support bubble, has symptoms of COVID -19 currently recognised as any of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A high temperature</li> <li>• A new, continuous cough</li> <li>• A loss of, or change to, their sense of smell or taste</li> </ul> <p>Should an individual have demonstrated any such symptoms, they must follow <a href="#">NHS guidance on self-isolation</a></p> <p>We recommend all members, parents/ guardians and Officials make use of the <a href="#">NHS COVID-19 App</a> to support with symptom checking, remain up to date with measures and check in at the venue so Contact Tracing can be in place.</p>
<p>Travel to Events &amp; Training</p>	<p>Participants are encouraged to follow best practice for travel including minimising use of public transport and limiting car sharing. People from a household or <a href="#">support bubble</a> can travel together in a vehicle.</p> <p>See the government's <a href="#">safer travel guidance</a> for passengers for further information.</p>
<p>Arrival at Venues &amp; Parking Management</p>	<p>Event organisers should strictly limit the time spent congregating at a venue before activity begins. Meet-up times should reflect this. This includes arriving dressed for competition and ready to begin the warmup. Parking should be stewarded to ensure social distancing measures can be taken. Exceptions may be made where safety and safeguarding measures require this, for example supporting disabled athletes with minimum time spent waiting or in changing rooms if available. Participants are encouraged to use the facilities available to them in their lorries.</p>

Test & Trace	Event organisers should support track and trace efforts by collecting written information on participants at both individual training sessions and all events and store this in line with their member body's data protection policies. This must be detailed enough to allow NHS Test and Trace to contact all participants if an attendee becomes ill with COVID-19. These records must be kept for 21 days following each event.
Guidance for participants and attendees at the event	<p>Information will be provided to responsible adults regarding the conduct, measures and activities of the day these will be shared via email. These instructions may include updates on the latest medical guidance from the NHS or British Horseracing Authority (BHA).</p> <p>As part of the Government COVID-19 Response: Spring 2021 the introduction of Lateral Flow Testing has been introduced in education providers and for those caring for these persons. Full details of this provision are set out in <a href="#">Households and bubbles of pupils, students and staff of schools and colleges: get rapid lateral flow tests</a> guidance, participants in Pony Racing are encouraged to take up the opportunity for testing with their education providers, bubble or household to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. These tests are to be twice weekly, participants may be required to provide a negative test prior to attendance at the Racecourse.</p>

**Event Management - Facility Usage**

Facility Compliant With Guidance Related to COVID-19	Event organisers should ensure that the facility is compliant with current UK Government legislation or the British Horseracing Association (BHA) including legislation and guidance related to COVID-19. A risk assessment should have been completed and risk mitigation measures put in place and each facility must have a specific facility operations plan in place.
Movement On Site	All venues must have entry and exit and parking arrangements that ensures social distancing can be maintained. Venues must display the appropriate signage to facilitate movement at all points throughout the facility and car park. Venues will implement traffic flow systems where possible and appropriate. Venues will outline socially distanced areas for participants, officials and spectators. Venues will ensure that all accessible provision within the site and the facility are available.
Toilets	Toilets will need to be opened for 30 minutes pre event, during the event and for 30 minutes following. Steps that will usually be needed:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Where possible, attendees should use toilet facilities available in their own lorries.</li> <li>• Using signs and posters to build awareness of good handwashing technique, the need to increase handwashing frequency and to avoid touching your face, and to cough or sneeze into a tissue which is binned safely, or into your arm if a tissue is not available.</li> <li>• Consider the use of social distancing marking in areas where queues normally form, and the adoption of a limited entry approach, with one in, one out (whilst avoiding the creation of additional bottlenecks).</li> <li>• To enable good hand hygiene consider making hand sanitiser available on entry to toilets where safe and practical, and ensure suitable hand sanitising / washing facilities are available.</li> <li>• Setting clear use and cleaning guidance for toilets, with increased frequency of cleaning in line with usage. Use normal cleaning products, paying attention to frequently hand touched surfaces, and consider use of disposable cloths or paper roll to clean all hard surfaces.</li> <li>• High ventilation in indoor facilities is paramount to reducing transmission of Covid-19; keep the facilities well ventilated, for example by fixing doors open and opening windows where appropriate.</li> <li>• Special care should be taken for cleaning of portable toilets and larger toilet blocks.</li> <li>• Putting up a visible cleaning schedule can keep it up to date and visible.</li> <li>• Providing more waste facilities and more frequent rubbish collection. Toilets capacity should be managed via entry and exit as per <a href="#">government guidelines</a>.</li> </ul>
<p>Changing Rooms &amp; Showers</p>	<p>Participants and officials should arrive dressed for competition and shower at home. Use of changing and shower facilities must follow <a href="#">government advice on the use of indoor facilities</a> where available. If these facilities remain closed, exceptions may be made where safety and safeguarding measures require their use, e.g. supporting disabled athletes, a child needs a change of clothing etc.</p>
<p>Club Houses &amp; Hospitality Areas</p>	<p>Venues will use clubhouses and hospitality facilities in line with <a href="#">government guidance on hospitality settings</a> Groups in clubhouses and hospitality facilities must be restricted to gathering limits and spread out in line with wider government guidance.</p> <p>High ventilation in indoor facilities is paramount to reducing transmission of COVID-19; keep the facilities well ventilated, for example by fixing doors open and opening windows where</p>

	appropriate. If facilities remain closed, exceptions must be made for essential activity such as provision of first-aid or access to essential equipment for the event.
Covered Arenas	Large, open and well-ventilated equestrian covered arenas (these are sometimes termed 'indoor' arenas by equestrians but due to their size and ventilation are not considered indoor for the purposes of this guidance) may be used in line with previously approved <a href="#">government guidelines for recreational sport</a> .
General Hygiene	Participants and officials must be reminded to refrain from spitting or rinsing out their mouths on or around the playing area.

**Event Management - During Activity**

Social Distancing In Activity	<p>Participants and officials should strictly follow the protocols identified for the relevant discipline to reduce risk of COVID-19 via droplet transmission or fomite transmission in the discipline specific sections of this action plan.</p> <p>Social distancing must be observed (unless specified in the sport specific sections) whilst warming up and the sharing of equipment should be limited as far as possible. Participants and officials should avoid unnecessary breaking of social distancing such as hand-shakes, huddles, face-to-face confrontation with opponents and officials and scoring celebrations such as high-fives.</p>
Social Distancing During Breaks and Post Activity	<p>All participants and officials must remain socially distanced during breaks in play with spaced areas for equipment and refreshment storage for each individual, including officials and substitutes. Coaching staff and substitutes, should, for example, spread out and maintain social distancing guidelines.</p> <p>Water bottles or other refreshment containers should in no circumstances be shared. Participants are advised to bring their own, in a labelled or highly distinguishable container.</p> <p>After activity, participants must maintain government mandated social distancing for social interaction. This includes in any available clubhouse facilities or other venue participants congregate in afterwards.</p>

Use of Equipment	<p>The sharing of equipment, e.g. bibs, must be avoided where possible, particularly that used around the head and face e.g. helmets. Where equipment is shared, equipment must be cleaned before use by another person. Based on the fomite transmission risk assessment, where common equipment is shared or passed during the course of play, each sport has considered this in their plan to reduce risk.</p> <p>Participants should take their kit home to wash it themselves, rather than have one person handling a large quantity of soiled materials. Where kit must be shared or kept together (for example last minute stand-in players, shortage of kit, or an essential club function), each person handling it must wash or sanitise their hands immediately after.</p>
Adherence to Measures	<p>Participants and officials must be clear that they are opting in to participating as defined in the sport-specific guidance with regard to risk and risk mitigation and as part of the pre-event materials they should be reminded that their participation is dependent on them adhering to the principles of this action plan and that failure to comply may result in their ejection, disqualification or removal from the event.</p>
Shouting	<p>There is an additional risk of infection in close proximity situations where people are shouting or conversing loudly. This particularly applies indoors and when face to face. If possible, participants and officials should therefore avoid shouting or raising their voices when facing each other during, before and after events.</p>
First Aid Treatment	<p>Injuries during events should still be treated as participant wellbeing is utmost. The best way for first aiders to protect themselves and others is through rigorous cleaning, personal hygiene and regular hand hygiene. An increased frequency of cleaning and disinfection of all surfaces and equipment, using standard household cleaning and disinfection products, is recommended. Face coverings are also advisable when undertaking treatment.</p> <p>After contact with an injured participant, first aiders should clean their hands thoroughly with soap and water or alcohol hand sanitiser at the earliest opportunity. This advice is applicable to all situations, regardless of whether there was close contact or the minimum social distancing was maintained. Avoid touching the mouth, eyes and nose.</p> <p>First aiders or their equivalent, should keep a record of each participant they have come into contact with for track and trace purposes. See <a href="#">further information</a> for those who may need to act as a 'first responder' role in a sports setting.</p>

Spectators	No spectators should be admitted to events as identified earlier in this document, however, any non-playing or competing participants or officials should remain socially distanced, adhering to gathering limits and spread out, in line with wider government guidance.
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**Sanctions of non-compliance**

Those attending with more visitors than specified in briefing/ resumption of racing risk assessment	No admittance to the event, including member and pony
Noncompliance whilst on site	Member and pony will be withdrawn from the race. This will result in disqualification; no refund will be available and all in the visiting party will be removed from site.
Noncompliance on site and during the race day	May see members banned from following race days for up to a six to nine month period. This will be sanctioned at the discretion of The Pony Club Pony Racing Committee with the support of The Pony Club Central Office. A membership reduction/ refund due to this will not be offered. These persons will need to leave site immediately.

Pony Racing will be remaining inline with current guidance, Risk Assessments have been formed using the flowchart below to identify the potential risks of droplet transmission in addition to reviewing the potential fomite transmission to inform the following modifications to activity.

