

Coronavirus (COVID-19) – Member Q&A

Update: 31.07.20



National competition and events

When can we expect BD competitions to restart?

Competition in England has been up and running successfully since 1 July and you can view the current updated [BD fixture calendar for August here](#). Wales was given the green light to restart on 10 July and the first shows have been run at the end of the month, but a [fuller list of dates is available for August](#). The use of indoor/covered arenas will be permitted from 10 August which will allow more venues to host competitions. We await further updates from Scotland but are working for a competition return in August.

Since 1 June training and participation activity has been permitted across all of the home nations, within the parameters set by the government in each jurisdiction. This activity includes flexi-training, test riding, training shows and clinics. A full list of dates for our activity across all eight regions is available on your [region's web page](#), with online booking available via BookWhen, but you should also check with your local BD affiliated venue to see what type of activity they will be running. Please do support your local venues and organisers wherever possible.

Can I compete in online competitions?

As part of the phased resumption of activity, remote or virtual training and competition activity using BD tests is now allowed for authorised online providers.

There are currently three authorised online providers: [Dressage Anywhere](#), [E-Riders](#) and [Dressage Online](#). Prior approval must be obtained by all online providers in order to be granted permission to use BD tests. Criteria sheet and application forms are available on request from our Sport Operations Manager, Lou Jones.

What BD events have been cancelled so far?

The following national / home international events have been cancelled to date:

- Winter Dressage Championships & Area Festival Championships, Hartpury, 8 – 12 April
- National Judges Convention, Addington, 14 April
- Keysoe Premier League, 24 – 26 April
- Senior Inter Regionals and Para Home International, Keysoe, 2 – 3 May
- Addington Premier League, 8 – 10 May
- Royal Windsor Horse Show, 13 – 17 May
- Somerford Park Premier League, 22 – 24 May
- Wellington Para Gold Semi-Finals and Para Festival of Dressage, 3 – 5 June
- Wellington Premier League, 3 – 7 June
- Equerry Bolesworth International Horse Show, 9 – 14 June
- Sheepgate Premier League, 19 – 21 June
- Hickstead International, 24 – 27 June
- Hartpury Festival of Dressage & Premier League, 1 – 5 July
- BD Youth Inter Regional, Keysoe, 4 – 5 May
- Hickstead Premier League, 8 – 11 July
- BD Youth Home International, Mount Ballan, 3 – 5 August
- All summer Regional Championships, July/August
- Junior & Young Rider European Championships, Hartpury, 27 July – 2 August
- Bishop Burton CEPDI, 10 – 14 August

- Sheepgate British U25 Championships, 24 – 29 August
- Summer Area Festivals and Championships at Arena UK, July – September
- **Senior Home International at Vale View, 3-6 September**
- National Championships & Para Gold Championships, Somerford, 24 – 27 September
- Associated Championships – Vale View, 21 – 25 October
- Quest National Championships, 30 October – 1 November
- Associated Championships – Bury Farm, 11 – 15 November

Will the Winter Championships and Area Festival Championships be rescheduled?

We [announced on 16 July that the championships have been rescheduled](#), and will now take place from 17 to 23 August at Hartpury in Gloucestershire. All the classes remain with the exception of the Freestyle competition for the Magic Prix St Georges and Superflex Inter I. The [Winter Championships website is now live](#) with entries open until 3 August. The event will be run 'behind closed doors', in line with COVID restrictions, but all classes from both arenas will be live streamed, on a free to view basis, in conjunction with our media partners Horse & Country.

What will happen with qualifications or partial qualification gained for Summer Regionals and Area Festivals?

Any combinations who have existing summer qualifications (full and part) will have those carried over into the winter season, which started on 1 July. These will remain valid up until the end of the winter qualification period on 31 December and count towards qualification for the 2021 Winter Regionals or Winter Area Festivals.

What has happened to the summer season?

As confirmed in our [Coronavirus Operational Plan](#), published on 7 May, the remainder of the 2020 summer season has been abandoned. With only a limited window of opportunity available during the summer months and social distancing measures expected to remain in place, many of our regular competitions and major events have now had to be postponed until 2021.

In our most recent [Sport Operations Update](#), sent to members on 21 July, we confirmed our plans for a Young Horse and Pony Championships, including qualifier dates and venues, while an announcement about a championship for our Under 21 riders will follow shortly. Regional and Area Festival dates and venues for winter 2021 have also now been finalised so you can plan ahead with more certainty for your next championship target.

With competition resuming on 1 July, the start of the winter qualification period, a full six months of qualification will be in place for riders in England and just three weeks less in Wales. Scotland will be slightly further behind, although we currently anticipate that competition will still be back up and running in August. If restrictions continue for a significant period of time, a review of qualification criteria will be made to ensure that no members are disadvantaged.

Will Quest Finals still be able to go ahead, as they are later in the year?

Due to the numbers involved and restrictions that remain in place, we have unfortunately had to take the decision to cancel the 2020 Quest National Championships in October. Instead the eight Quest Regional Finals will be run as individual championships, based on leader board positions at the end of the qualification period, so that our Club members still have a target for the remainder of the season and an opportunity to have their achievements recognised. The qualification period has been extended by two weeks, with a new cut-off date of 16 September. There are already a significant number of Quest competitions included in the fixtures calendar for August, so please check the [BD Online schedules](#) for details of shows in your area.

Will the Shearwater Young Horse and the BD Young Pony Championships happen in 2020?

Our talented four, five and six year old horses will only have one chance to contest their age category and a shot at being crowned a Shearwater Champion, so we've formulated a revised series with qualification running from August to September and a championship final in October.

We previously announced plans for a new Seven Year Old Championship at Advanced Medium level back in January, with qualification via the Premier Leagues, but unfortunately only Myerscough was able to run before lockdown. So to give these horses chance to compete for a title, a new seven year old class will run at each qualifier with combinations riding the test Advanced Medium 92 at the qualifiers and 96 at the championships.

The British Young Pony Championships will also resume alongside with the same qualifiers and format for four, five and six year olds. Under the revised format there won't now be a semi-final stage, instead the top four from each qualifier will earn a championship spot provided a score of seven or more is given. Those who finished in the first four at Myerscough and Blue Barn earlier this year will also qualify for the final.

Working with the existing venues that were awarded qualifiers earlier this spring and summer, we have put together [a revised fixture schedule](#). The Championships will be held at The College, Keysoe in Bedfordshire, from 2-4 October.

What will happen to Para qualification for the summer championships?

As with able-bodied competition, summer qualification can be carried over. The Para Silver & Bronze Summer Championships will now be run as a celebration event to welcome back competition for our Para riders at all levels. Solihull will continue to host the event on the original dates, on 29 & 30 August, offering opportunities for Para riders in the Bronze, Silver and Gold Sections, including riders on the World Class programme who have missed out on international competition this year.

Can I still be classified for Para competition?

Currently, all para classification evaluations have been suspended until further notice. Applications will continue to be accepted to start the process as and when future classification sessions can be scheduled. Further details are available on the [BEF website](#).

General Questions

Are there any restrictions on riding?

The advice varies between the home nations (correct as of 31.07.20)

England	You may go outside for exercise as often as you wish as long as social distancing guidelines are followed. You can ride alone, with members of your household or with a group up to six other people. You may ride anywhere there is legal access and activity includes hacking, schooling and general exercise. You may travel to a yard, club or centre to ride and may transport your horse to outdoor facilities for training or hire. Travel is not restricted.
Scotland	You may exercise as often as you wish alone, with members of your household or with up to four households can participate at a time, up to a maximum of 15 people, in an outdoor environment (covered arenas permitted).
Wales	Riding for exercise is permitted and riders can participate in gatherings up to 30, where activity is supervised, in an outdoor setting only. Some bridleways and rural facilities are still subject to local closure so you're advised to check before setting off.

In all cases, social distancing should be observed at all times, avoiding physical contact and touching of shared surfaces where possible. Individuals from different households must remain a minimum of two metres apart.

Can I travel to my yard to care for my horse?

Yes, as long as you have access to the yard or facilities. Please check with the proprietor in advance of your visit. Some yards may still be restricting access or have rotas and fixed time slots in place to manage numbers. You should aim to keep contact with others to a minimum and social distancing should be respected at all times. Please do also continue to follow the [current Public Health England guidance on hygiene](#).

Can I go for lessons or have my coach come to the yard?

From 1 June, you can have a lesson in England, Scotland and Wales with the following conditions:

- Activity may be in indoor/covered arenas in England and Scotland but in Wales, all activity must be conducted in outdoor facilities only.
- All participants should observe the relevant guidance on health, hygiene and physical distancing (two metres in all cases). This includes cleaning any equipment or shared surfaces rigorously, for example by using antibacterial spray, and washing your hands thoroughly before and after use.
- Everyone involved should be responsible for implementation of and adherence to the guidelines for their own safety, as well as other participants.

There are still some variations in each region to be aware of, which are summarised in the table below:

England	You may have a lesson individually or in a group of up to six people, including the coach. This could be up to five members of your own household or within a group of up to four others from different households, plus one coach.
Scotland	Coaches may instruct lessons for up to four households at a time, up to a maximum of 15 people. Coaches can meet with a maximum of four households per day. PLEASE NOTE: at 30 June, the number of households per day is under review and a revised number is expected soon.
Wales	Coaches may instruct individuals or groups of up to 30 people, outdoors only. No limit on the number of sessions per day. You may travel to clients, or they may come to you.

My coach is offering virtual training – is this acceptable?

Yes – please make sure your coach has the appropriate insurance cover in place and has satisfied any additional provisions that may be required by their insurers, including conducting a risk assessment.

Can I take part in online dressage competitions?

As part of the phased resumption of activity, remote or virtual training and competition activity using BD tests is now allowed for authorised online providers.

There are currently three authorised online providers: [Dressage Anywhere](#), [E-Riders](#) and [Dressage Online](#). Prior approval must be obtained by online providers in order to be granted permission to use BD tests. Criteria sheet and application forms are available on request from our Sport Operations Manager, Lou Jones.

International Competition

Are international competitions running?

The FEI has published their plans to facilitate the safe resumption of international competitions, although each jurisdiction will differ depending on the current status of the virus, which impact on the travel, testing and quarantine restrictions in place. The majority of competitions up to the end of July have been cancelled or postponed, although some territories have now started to host international events again.

A link to the current FEI dressage calendar can be found here: <https://www.fei.org/dressage/events/>. This is updated regularly and the FEI Dressage Calendar Task Force is currently working on the process for reallocating fixtures for the remainder of the year.

Have any British based internationals been cancelled?

Due to the ongoing crisis, the [Royal International Horse Show at Windsor](#), the [Bolesworth International](#) and [Hickstead International](#) in June, [Hartpury Festival of Dressage](#) in July and Bishop Burton CPEDI in August have confirmed that they have cancelled their events for this year. The next scheduled international dressage event in the UK will be the Keysoe CDI in October.

How will riders aiming for selection for international championships be selected/qualify?

The 2020 Olympics and Paralympics, due to take place in Tokyo this summer, have been postponed by 12 months and will now take place in July / August 2021.

The FEI Pony European Championships at Strezgom and the FEI Junior and Young Rider European Championships at Hartpury were also cancelled, although both of these have now been rescheduled to take place in a consolidated FEI Youth European Championships in Pilisjaszfalu, Hungary, from 9 to 30 August 2020. Five riders have been approved by selectors to compete across the age groups as individuals on a self-funded basis.

In addition, the World Young Horse Championships in Verden has also been rescheduled to 9 – 13 December 2020. The selection policy for these championships is in the process of being updated and will be reissued shortly, although participation will again be on an individual, self-funded basis.

For the remaining international shows, we're in regular contact with the relevant organisers and authorities, and will inform riders at the earliest opportunity when a decision has been made as to whether or not these can go ahead. Selection policies will take into account the disruption caused to the 2020 international calendar and ensure that no riders are disadvantaged when planning ahead for 2021.

Will I still be able to get an FEI passport?

Our International Officer, Lianne Martin, is now able to facilitate FEI passport applications on request via email at lianne.martin@britishdressage.co.uk. Please note, however, that due to office working arrangements it may take more time than usual to process paperwork. Therefore you should allow plenty of time in advance of any travel plans. Your patience and co-operation during this time is appreciated.

Regional Activity

When can training and camps in the regions begin?

From 1 June onwards, outdoor training activity has resumed across England, Scotland and Wales. Dates have been scheduled throughout the summer months and into early autumn to offer a range of training opportunities across all eight regions. This is subject to government restrictions on numbers and social distancing, with all necessary public health and hygiene measures in place. There's more information on this in our [COVID-19: returning to restricted activity safely](#), which summarises our standard operating procedures.

Activities include flexi-training, clinics and test riding, as well as online training for all judge levels. Organised camps are also now able to restart, with restricted participation numbers in accordance with the government guidelines. For further information on what activity is currently available, please visit your [region's web page](#).

How will cancellation of regional training impact on selection for regional team competitions this year?

All regional team competitions, including the Senior Inter Regionals, Senior Home International, Para Home International, BD Youth Inter Regional and BD Youth Home International, have all now been cancelled due to the pandemic. We had hoped to continue with the Senior Home International in early September, but due to the ongoing restrictions in Scotland and Wales we have had to make the difficult decision to postpone the event until 2021, when Vale View will again be the hosts.

Vaccinations

What is BD doing about the six month booster requirement?

All rules relating to Equine Influenza (EI) vaccinations will remain in place once competition activity is able to resume. However, we are aware that some vets will not have been able to administer six monthly 'boosters' during the suspension period. We will therefore have a three month amnesty, effective from 1 July through to the 30 September, to allow members time to bring their horse vaccinations up to date.

With horses not travelling during lockdown the risk of EI is currently low, and is expected to remain so during the summer months, but it is vitally important that the requirement to have an EI vaccination within six months of competition is in place from 1 October onwards to provide adequate protection when competing in the autumn / winter period.

Please note that this temporary amnesty applies to the six monthly requirement only; all annual vaccinations must still be kept up to date. Unfortunately, if your horse has missed the 12 month vaccination renewal date, then you will need to restart the course of injections again before competing, in accordance with BD rules.

What if my horse goes over the 12 month requirement?

You will need to restart your vaccination process from the beginning, as per rule 11 in the 2020 Members' Handbook, before you are able to compete. The initial course of two injections, not less than 21 days and no more than 92 days apart, must be completed again before competing. Please allow seven days before arriving at the competition from your last injection.

What if I was in the process of completing the initial course of three injections and I've missed one?

Vets are advised to complete these injections where possible to give a horse some immunity, but if you were unable to get them completed you'll need to start the process again in line with BD rule 11.

Which date is my 12 month booster due?

Once you've completed the initial course, each time you have a booster vaccination the 12 month period starts over again, including six month boosters. So whatever the last vaccination date shows in your horse's passport, the next injection will be due within 12 months. Please note that 12 months refers to calendar months as per usual, rather than 365 days.

What happens if my horse isn't competing – can he go over one year without having to re-start?

No, if your horse goes over a year without a vaccination then it would need to restart a programme from the beginning, whether it's currently competing or not.

If my horse has exceeded the six month booster requirement, do I need to start again?

No. Rule 11 states that horses must have had a booster injection within six calendar months +21 days of a competition. While there are no competitions this rule does not apply, but the 12 month requirement remains in place regardless. However, when competition returns from 1 July onwards there will be a three month transition period to enable you to get your six monthly boosters up to date by 30 September 2020 at the latest.

Will there be a vaccination amnesty if my horse goes over the 12 month booster?

No amnesty period will be provided in these circumstances and your horse will need to restart its vaccination programme from the beginning. This is due to the efficacy of the vaccine, which has a maximum period of 12 months.

It's not my fault my horse can't be vaccinated – why should I have to pay to re-start the vaccinations?

It's an unfortunate situation, but if the vaccination exceeds 12 months your horse will not have the necessary levels of immunity to Equine Influenza. In order to compete with us, your horse must be compliant with BD rules, which are in place to protect the horse population in the UK. This is based on independent expert veterinary advice.

It is important to emphasise that while horses are not currently mixing or in competition, a 12 month vaccination is still necessary in order to protect against EI. Beyond this point the efficacy of the vaccine is no longer guaranteed. Therefore this requirement must remain in place to prevent a resurgence in the number of cases again next winter.

Membership and horse registration

What are the benefits of having a membership when I can't compete?

At this time, your continued support for British Dressage is valued and welcome, as it will help to safeguard our organisation during this crisis period and ensure we all have a healthy sport to return to. Even though you might not be able to compete, there are still plenty of other benefits you will continue to enjoy.

Most importantly, as a member you have public liability insurance that covers you and all horses you own, as well as personal accident cover for a variety of equestrian pursuits from Shearwater. The insurance cover alone is worth £80-£100, so it's a great benefit to have. If you have questions on the cover you automatically receive as a member, contact the team at Shearwater on 01992 707316. See the insurance section below for further detail.

There's also the free legal helpline available to members via Harrison Clark Rickerbys, which will be extremely beneficial during these times of uncertainty. Members are entitled to 30 minutes of free advice on any matter and there are special fixed fee packages and discounts for BD members with HCR.

The BD magazine continues to be published every six weeks, with training content and tips, and we've been adding more editorial features to help keep members interested, engaged and entertained during the shutdown period.

We have also created more on-line content over the past three months that members have been able to access on our website, to keep you informed and ensure you're still getting value from your membership.

Vitality, continued membership also ensures that any qualifications you've gained to date are maintained and remain valid. Once the sport is able to resume fully across all home nations, these qualifications will still count towards any future or rescheduled competitions. As detailed in our operational plan published on 7 May, any full or part qualifications gained in the summer period will be carried forward to the winter qualification period from 1 July to 31 December 2020.

Supporting BD costs a Full member 25p per day, a Premier Club member 16p per day and Club member just 10p per day. Throughout the suspension period we have been continuing to work on a number of important projects, including our new judge education system, youth development pathways and online content for youth and coach education, to ensure your sport remains in great shape despite the crisis.

Can membership and/or horse registrations be suspended or extended?

All members who maintained their horse registrations during the suspension period have already had a two month extension added to their renewal date. To qualify for this concession, the horse registration and corresponding owner(s) membership must have been valid as of 31 May 2020, with a 28 day grace period applied for renewals. This covers the full months of April and May when there was no training or competition activity during lockdown.

Due to the delay to the resumption of full competition activity in Scotland and Wales, the BD Board has agreed that members in the two devolved nations should be granted an additional one month extension to horse registrations, so they will receive a three month extension in total. This concession will be applied to renewal dates automatically but please allow up to 14 days for this process to be completed.

Member insurance

What insurance do I get with my membership?

Full (including Life, Trial and Winter memberships), Premier Club and Club members receive two forms of cover from our insurance providers Shearwater. Public Personal Liability, up to £30 million in any one occurrence, as well as Personal Accident Insurance, which covers accidental death, loss of limb or sight and permanent disablement as a consequence of any horse related accident.

What's covered under the Public Personal Liability insurance?

The member, any horses owned by the member when ridden with the member's permission, and a groom engaged in working for the insured member, are all covered for payment of sums awarded under civil law due to accidental death or injury to third parties or damage to third party property. Some exclusions apply, please see the 2020 Members' Handbook, page 198.

As always, the advice from Shearwater to riders, and clients, is to ensure that they are operating within the current Government guidance and are acting lawfully at all times. They would therefore strongly recommend members check with venues whether they have been given written permission to open facilities before attending.

As long as members are following government guidelines and not carrying out illegal acts then insurance cover remains in force as per normal terms/conditions of policy. If anyone is perceived to be breaching lockdown rules/legislation then this could be interpreted as carrying out an illegal act.

Am I only covered for BD activities?

No, both insurances cover a member while engaged in any horse related activity while your membership is valid. There are a few specific provisions in each of the insurance policies, but essentially you're covered for most equine activities – even when not competing or training.

Am I still covered as to ride if there's another lockdown?

It remains your decision whether or not to ride, where it is deemed safe and appropriate to do so within government guidelines. The Personal Public Liability and Personal Accident cover that Shearwater provides to British Dressage members offers cover for the duration of your membership.

Unless the government specifically states that riding is not permitted your insurance cover will continue as normal. Riding advice varies between England, Scotland and Wales, so please check with their respective government websites on permitted exercise, especially in the event of any local lockdowns.

Do I get this cover under my other insurances – like horse or home?

Possibly, but you'd need to check carefully with the terms and conditions applied by your insurance providers. It is unlikely that the same provisions would be available under general home insurance. The insurance cover you receive as a member have been developed in line with member needs by experienced insurance professionals to provide specialist cover.

British Dressage

Can BD still function as an organisation with the impact of the pandemic?

Following government advice, the decision was taken to close the office on Friday 20 March – and employees have been working from home since the lockdown was imposed. Obviously the health and well-being of our staff remains a top priority during this crisis, so we will continue to work remotely until it is safe to return to the office.

Everything has been managed effectively during lockdown using the range of technologies available. Fortunately we have invested a significant amount in our IT over the past three years, so our new BD Online portal allows us to have remote access to our sport operations and membership systems. We are also connected through file sharing and team communication applications, while our telephony system is also a digital platform and can operate remotely. So, it continues to be 'business as usual' and you can still [contact us by email and phone](#) as normal.

From 1 April, we furloughed half of our staff under the government Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme, which continued to be in place for some employees until 31 July. We are returning to full staffing levels from 1 August onwards, although skeleton working arrangements will still apply in the BD head office, so we appreciate your patience if it takes slightly longer than normal to respond to your query.

Is BD in danger of going bankrupt following a prolonged period of inactivity?

We are fortunate that our prudent financial planning and fiscal responsibility has put us in a reasonably secure position. Our reserves currently stand at around £2.2 million which should provide us with some stability through these uncertain times, but this is an unprecedented situation.

There is certainly no room for complacency as these reserves will be significantly depleted by the current crisis – and of course we will need these reserves during the recovery period to get the sport back up and running again fully. With this in mind we hope that members will continue to support us through this crisis so collectively we can ensure that there is a strong and viable sport when we are able to return to life as normal.

What measures did BD put in place to cut costs?

BD has already taken direct action to minimise costs and limit operational overheads for the remainder of the year. This includes reducing staffing levels significantly, in accordance with the furloughing provisions of the government's Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme. A skeleton team has remained in place across all departments, with employees working remotely to maintain service and support levels to members.

In addition, a number of projects for 2020 have been put on hold, while we focused resources on those critical areas that required funding more urgently. The operational plan has been reviewed by the Board and technical committees to re-evaluate our priorities for this year and identify savings wherever possible, in order to mitigate the financial impact of this crisis.

Judges

Is it safe to judge at competitions which are now running?

While we only have jurisdiction over affiliated dressage activity, BD has ensured that all competitions are run in a controlled and regulated environment, in accordance with all social distancing, public health and hygiene regulations, to protect the safety of all participants. Please note, however, that these protocols cannot be guaranteed at unaffiliated competitions as they do not fall under the auspices of the National Governing Body. We have [provided detailed guidance and safe working practices](#) in order to comply fully with all government regulations and would recommend that judges follow these at all shows where they are officiating, both affiliated and unaffiliated.

What happens if my judge exams get cancelled?

We will aim to reschedule exams at the earliest possible opportunity, while still providing candidates and examiners with enough notice to attend. It is likely that these exams may now run into spring 2021. Please note that these rescheduled exams will only be available to those already booked on to any cancelled dates, not new applications.

Coaches

Can I continue my coaching work? Can I have clients visit my yard or travel to theirs?

Coaches are now permitted to resume individual lessons to work with their clients, whether at their own yard or another venue. This may be outdoors or in an indoor/covered arena in England and Scotland and only in an outdoor space in Wales (indoor permitted from 10 August), providing you working alone and within the parameters for permitted numbers set by the relevant government for each of the home nations (see below for details). In all instances social distancing must be observed, staying a minimum of two metres apart at all times.

England	You may have a lesson individually or in a group of up to six people, including the coach. This could be up to five members of your own household or within a group of up to four others from different households, plus one coach.
Scotland	Coaches may instruct lessons for up to four households at a time, up to a maximum of 15 people. Coaches can meet with a maximum of four households per day. PLEASE NOTE: at 30 June, the number of households per day is under review and a revised number is expected soon.
Wales	Coaches may instruct individuals or groups of up to 30 people, outdoors only. No limit on the number of sessions per day. You may travel to clients, or they may come to you.

You should also enforce strong hygiene practices, including cleaning any equipment or shared surfaces, for example by using antibacterial spray or wipes, and washing hands thoroughly before and after use. We recommend that you carry out full risk assessments, review your insurance provision and ensure that safeguarding measures remain in place. Further guidance is available in our [Coronavirus coaches' toolkit](#), to help you resume training activity safely.

What is my responsibility in the event of an accident, if I choose to resume my coaching?

Coaches need to be mindful that they are responsible for the safety of their clients. It is essential that thorough risk assessments are carried out to mitigate risk, as well as checking that they have adequate insurance cover with their provider. Further guidance on administering first aid and resuscitation is included in the coaches' toolkit.

What about 'virtual' or remote training activity?

Online training is a good option for coaches in who wish to continue self-isolating / shielding. Please make contact with your insurers before conducting any training as they may have specific requirements. We would also strongly advise conducting a risk assessment in advance before undertaking any lessons remotely and please also refer to the online safety guidance in the coaches' toolkit.

My business/livelihood has really been hit financially due to the crisis, what help is there?

The [government has set up a website with advice](#) on a range of help available. The [British Equestrian Federation has also outlined](#) some of the assistance on offer, including a [number of grants](#) for those who can't use the government initiatives.

Those who are [self-employed also have a number of options available](#) to them. In addition, the [Equine Employers Association](#) and [British Grooms Association](#) have some good guidance to help and there's no requirement for membership to access this information.

How will my BDCC course be affected?

We have reformatted the delivery programme for BDCC courses, which enable us to deliver the theory sections via WebEx. We will deliver the practical sessions towards the end of the programme, once government restrictions have been relaxed. The feedback from the Web Ex sessions has been excellent, with candidates continuing to progress through their portfolio work, supported by their Coach Educator via email. We are currently working to get the portfolios online to enable candidates to complete and submit work for marking, via our online learning platform Cloud Trainer.

How will I keep up with my CPD to keep my status?

All CPD training scheduled to take place during the suspension period, including First Aid and Safeguarding courses, have unfortunately had to be cancelled. We will look to reschedule these activities for later in the year; however, due to the ongoing uncertainty about how long the government restrictions are likely to last we are unable to confirm when this may be at present.

Any coach who needs to renew their safeguarding certificate will be able to do so online. Please contact officials@britishdressage.co.uk for further information.

What will happen if training courses / refresher days get postponed and take me over the stated deadlines to remain eligible?

In order to support all of coaches through this difficult time, we will extend the deadline for maintaining your first aid requirements until 31 December 2020. Safeguarding can be done on line at any time, please contact officials@britishdressage.co.uk for further information.

It would be advisable to check with all course providers to determine whether they can still provide you a refresher course, if your current certificate has expired, or if you need to commence another initial course. It is strongly recommended that you check with your insurance provider to ensure you are still meeting any requirements they may have regarding CPD training compliance.

Organisers

Can I now reopen my venue for BD training and competition activity?

All outdoor sport and recreation facilities can now reopen in England, Scotland and Wales, providing those responsible feel that it is safe to do so. Indoor facilities are also permitted to be used in England and Scotland, with Wales due to allow indoor sport facilities to re-open from 10 August onwards. Organisers will need to have conducted full risk assessments and ensure that their venue can adhere to all social distancing, public health and hygiene restrictions.

All riding, training or competition activity should be operated strictly in accordance with restrictions put in place by the government in each nation. The current situation is as follows:

	England	Scotland	Wales
How many can meet?	Up to six people from different households, or no limit if from two households. Please see any local lockdown restrictions .	Groups of up to four households at a time, to a maximum of 15 people, in an outdoor environment. Up to two households at a time, to a maximum of eight people, can meet in an indoor setting. A household can meet up to four other households daily. PLEASE NOTE: the number of households per day is under review.	Larger gatherings of up to 30 people are permitted outdoors, where activity is organised and supervised. Up to two households of an unlimited number can meet indoors.
Travel distance	Any	Any	Any
Social distance requirements	2m – or 1m with mitigations in certain settings	2m	2m – or 1m with mitigations in certain settings
Riders	Groups of six people from	Four households can participate at a time,	Riders can participate in gatherings up to 30

	separate households can ride together, or five plus a coach.	up to a maximum of 15 people outdoors, or eight people indoors.	people, where activity is supervised, in an outdoor setting only.
Coaches	Can teach groups of up to five people from separate households in a session, with no limit on the number of sessions per day. You may travel to clients, or they may come to you	May instruct lessons for up to four households at a time, up to a maximum of 15 people. Coaches can meet with a maximum of four households per day. PLEASE NOTE: the number of households per day is under review	May instruct individuals or groups of up to 30 people, outdoors only. There is no limit on the number of sessions per day. You may travel to clients, or they may come to you.
Venues	Outdoor events organised by venues may have more than 30 attendees provided they have carried out a thorough risk assessment and taken all reasonable steps to mitigate the risk of viral transmission, in line with Covid-19 Secure guidance.	May open for training and exercise within the guidelines for the provision of a safe environment for staff and participants. Lessons for up to four households at a time, up to a maximum of 15 people.	May open for organised training and competition activity for groups of up to 30 people at a time, in outdoor settings only.
Covered/indoor arenas permitted?	Yes	Yes	No – likely to be from 10 August
Affiliated competition permitted?	Yes	No	Yes
Camps permitted?	Yes	Yes	Yes

It is vitally important that all facilities and equipment are cleaned regularly, before and after use, to maintain high standards of hygiene. Where possible we recommend that sharing of any tack or equipment is limited. Cleaning

protocols should be put in place to limit transmission of the virus and common touch points, such as door handles and gates, should be a particular areas of focus for frequent and thorough cleaning.

Other considerations for venues and organisers include:

- Bookings should be taken in advance, using online payment providers or over the phone
- High hygiene standards must be maintained through handwashing and toilet facilities
- Hand sanitiser should be provided in multiple locations, in addition to washrooms
- Clear signage on social distancing and hygiene should be displayed to visitors on arrival
- Toilets may be kept open, but guidance on hygiene and sanitation should be followed
- Additional space should be provided for parking to adhere to social distancing measures

We have produced a [Coronavirus Toolkit for organisers and venues](#) to help with the requirements for the resumption of training and competition activity, which we update regularly based on the latest government advice.

Can I run online dressage competitions?

Remote or virtual training and competition activity using BD tests can now resume in England, Scotland and Wales for authorised online providers. Please note that the affiliation agreement does not extend to online activity and all providers need to obtain permission separately to use BD tests in this format. A criteria sheet and application form is available on request from our Sport Operations Manager, Lou Jones.

What assistance can I get to help my business stay viable?

We understand and share the financial concerns you will inevitably have for the future of your business and our sport. We have been liaising with our colleagues across the equestrian sector to support our organisers and venues throughout the crisis to date.

We are working closely with the British Equestrian Federation and British Horse Society to provide further advice, in line with government policy, on the financial help and support packages available. The following links should provide some help assistance for equestrian employers and businesses, as well as employees and the self-employed:

- [Information for Employers and Businesses](#)
- [Information for Employees and the Self-Employed](#)
- [Financial Support for Business](#)

In addition, the [Equine Employers Association](#) and [British Grooms Association](#) have some good guidance to help and there's no requirement for membership to access this information.