

Coronavirus (COVID-19) – Member Q&A

Update: 30 April 2021



Coaching and training

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

Across Great Britain, all travel restrictions have been removed so you're free to transport horses to venues/other yards and your coach can come to you. Please note that there are still restrictions in place around the use of indoor schools with coaches:

- England – one to one training activity only, or a single household plus coach. Group activity is expected to be permitted at the next stage, from 17 May onwards.
- Scotland – no restrictions, although please note that the coach is included in permitted number totals for group activity.
- Wales – the hire and use of indoor schools is not currently permitted, outside of your own private facilities. This is expected to be permitted from 3 May, restricted to up to a maximum of 15 people at any one time, including the coach.

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 full risk assessment.

National competition and events

What competitions are permitted across the home nations?

From 26 April onwards, all organised competition and training has been able to resume across England, Scotland and Wales, without any travel restrictions, including crossing borders to compete. In Scotland, covered arenas are classified as outdoor sport facilities by the Scottish Government so there are no issues around competing indoors.

In England, indoor arenas can only be used by a single individual or household/bubble. In line with [Sport England advice](#), event officials (judges, writers, score collectors, etc) do not count in the total numbers, so competitions can use indoor arenas within these restrictions. Where an indoor arena is used for warm up, it should be done on a 'one in, one out' basis. This is due for review on 17 May when permitted numbers are likely to be increased, including group activity.

In Wales, the use of indoor arenas for organised activity is not allowed currently, so only venues with suitable outdoor arena space are running, in distinct groups of up to 30 people. The next review is due on 3 May, when it is expected that indoor facilities will be able to re-open.

Are there additional measures in place to follow under COVID when competing?

The COVID-19 hub on the BD website hosts toolkits, with detailed protocols for competitors, organisers, judges and coaches. These documents outline what extra precautions are in place to keep everyone safe while taking part in BD activity. They are updated frequently, so make sure you check in regularly. These approved protocols are what enable us to continue running safely, so your full co-operation is appreciated.

What BD major events have been cancelled?

The following shows/series have been cancelled or rescheduled since the beginning of the year. We've managed to get 60% of fixtures back into the calendar for members as part of our resumption plans.

Series/Show	Dates	Status
Vale View High Profile	8 – 10 January	Cancelled
Petplan Winter Area Festivals x 12	January – February	Postponed and rescheduled (see below)
Winter Regionals x 8	February – March	Postponed and rescheduled (see below)
Myerscough Premier League	02 – 07 March	Postponed and rescheduled to 30 April – 5 May
Keysoe CDI 3*, CDI U25/Y/J/P	19 – 21 March	Cancelled and replaced with Wellington CDI
Equissage Para Winter Championships at Myerscough	25 – 28 March	Postponed and rescheduled to 23 – 25 May
NAF Winter and Petplan Area Festival Championships	14 – 18 April	Postponed and rescheduled to 28 June – 02 July
Para Home International, Keysoe	30 April – 02 May	Cancelled
Senior Inter Regional, Keysoe	01 – 02 May	Cancelled
BD Youth Inter Regional, Keysoe	26 – 27 June	Cancelled
Shearwater Young Horse, BD 7YO, BD Young Pony qualifiers, Myerscough	From 03 March	Postponed and rescheduled from 16 April
Ideal Saddles Combined Training Championship Series	January – April	Postponed, dates under review

What are the new dates for the Winter Regionals?

We have confirmed dates and venues for the eight Winter Regionals, with schedules now available online for all shows.

Venue	County	Revised dates
Wellington Riding	Hampshire	1 – 4 May
Morris Equestrian Centre *	East Ayrshire	12 – 16 May
Myerscough College	Lancashire	18 – 22 May
Vale View Equestrian	Leicestershire	20 – 23 May
Codham Park	Essex	22 – 25 May
Prestige Equestrian	Gloucestershire	27 – 29 May
Merrist Wood College	Surrey	29 May – 4 June
Bishop Burton College	East Yorkshire	01 – 04 June

Further information [is available here](#).

When will the qualification ratios from the Regionals to the Winters be published?

They're [available online now](#) and will be on display at your Regional near the Secretary's Office.

Have the Petplan Equine Winter Area Festivals been rescheduled?

Yes, existing qualifications will be valid for the following rescheduled dates:

Venue	County	Revised dates
Keysoe	Bedfordshire	30 April – 02 May
Beacons Equestrian	Carmarthenshire	01 – 04 May
Parwood Equestrian Centre	Surrey	06 – 09 May
Vale View Equestrian	Leicestershire	06 – 09 May
Northallerton Equestrian Centre	North Yorkshire	07 – 10 May
Morris Equestrian Centre	East Ayrshire	12 – 16 May
Speedgate Events	Kent	13 – 16 May
Prestige Equestrian	Gloucestershire	13 – 15 May
Solihull	West Midlands	14 – 18 May
Aintree Equestrian Centre	Merseyside	27 – 30 May
Gordon Dressage Group at The Cabin	Aberdeenshire	29 – 30 May
Kingston Maurward College	Dorset	1 – 3 June

Further information is [available here](#).

Is there a confirmed date for the NAF Five Star Winter Championships?

The rescheduled Winters will be at Hartpury College in Gloucestershire and will run over Monday 28 June to Friday 2 July. The [Championship website is now live](#) with a timetable and schedule.

What's happening with Quest?

The 2021 Quest season got underway on 29 March, under new sponsorship with Saracen Horse Feeds. There have been a number of positive changes to the series to cover both My Quest and Team Quest with more opportunities than ever for members to participate in Quest competition:

- The qualification requirement for a member/team to obtain a minimum of two Quest scores to earn a place on the regional leader boards remains unchanged.
- Members and teams will be able to nominate their chosen regional leader board at the start of the season. This must be done with head office within two months of the rider/team first competing in the 2021 Quest season.
- Six regional leader boards will run and extra Quest Regional Finals will be added to the existing eight shows, geographically mapped throughout the regions to ensure that there is good coverage across the country. Members will be free to choose their nearest regional final.
- The Saracen Horse Feeds Quest Regional Finals 2021 will be split, with venues hosting either the open sections or U21 sections for Team Quest and My Quest.
- With an increase in the number of Regional Finals, we're able to increase the numbers taking part in each class from 15 to 25 in Team Quest and from 20 to 30 in My Quest for each section.

Qualification period	Regional Finals	Championships
29 March – 31 August 2021	Mid-Sept – early October	Bury Farm, Buckinghamshire 28 – 31 October

Will the Shearwater Young Horse, BD 7yo and the BD Young Pony Championships happen in 2021?

Only one fixture hosting qualifiers for Young Horse and Young Pony sections has had to be cancelled due to the lockdown, at Myerscough College on 3 March. We can confirm that these classes will be added to the

rescheduled Premier League fixture, from 1 – 5 May. Further updates will be issued in due course on the [dedicated website page](#).

Is there a rescheduled date for the Equissage Pulse Para Winter Championships?

The Equissage Pulse Para Winter Championships, covering Bronze, Silver and Gold sections, was due to take place from 25 – 28 March but will now run 23 – 25 May at the same venue, Myerscough College. An important consideration in rescheduling these championships was the requirement for overnight accommodation for Para riders. With hotels only able to re-open after 17 May, this provided a limited window for alternative dates. Information on qualification for the Equissage Pulse Summer Championships in Bronze, Silver and Gold is in the [BD Operational Plan](#).

Can I still be classified for Para competition?

Arrangements are currently being finalised to offer Para classification evaluation hubs. Applications will continue to be accepted to start the process as and when future classification sessions have been confirmed. Further details are available on the [BEF website](#) or email [Felicity Towers](#).

What are the plans for the summer season?

With the qualification window shortened to three months, Summer Regionals and Summer Area Festivals will now operate under 'island points' rules. This means that the total points required by the end of the qualification period (up to and including 30 June 2021) has been reduced by half for most classes.

Summer Regionals – Revised Points

Level	Revised points needed	Revised points from qualifiers	Minimum % required
Prelim Silver	10	10	66%
Prelim Gold	10	10	66%
Novice Silver	10	5	67%
Novice Gold	10	5	68%
Elementary Silver	8	4	65%
Elementary Gold	9	5	67%
Medium Silver	6	3	64%
Medium Gold	8	4	65%
Advanced Medium Silver	5	3	64%
Advanced Medium Gold	7	4	65%
PSG & Inter I Silver	3	3	64%
PSG & Inter I Gold	3	3	64%

Summer Petplan Equine Area Festivals – Revised Points Requirements

Level	Revised points needed	Level	Revised points needed
Prelim Bronze	4	Medium Bronze	2
Prelim Silver	5	Medium Silver	3
Novice Bronze	4	Advanced Medium Bronze	2
Novice Silver	5	Advanced Medium Silver	3
Elementary Bronze	4	PSG & Inter I Bronze	1
Elementary Silver	5	PSG & Inter I Silver	2

The requirement for one score of 60%+ for each section/level to be gained from a qualifying test (marked with a Q in the schedule) remains for 2021.

Petplan Equine Summer Music Area Festivals – Revised Qualification Requirements

Level	Revised score required	Level	Revised score required
Prelim Bronze	1 x 63% or higher	Medium Bronze	1 x 63% or higher
Prelim Silver	1 x 63% or higher	Medium Silver	1 x 63% or higher
Novice Bronze	1 x 63% or higher	Advanced Medium Bronze	1 x 63% or higher
Novice Silver	1 x 63% or higher	Advanced Medium Silver	1 x 63% or higher
Elementary Bronze	1 x 63% or higher	PSG & Inter I Bronze	1 x 60% or higher
Elementary Silver	1 x 63% or higher	PSG & Inter I Silver	1 x 60% or higher

The calendar remains largely unchanged but we will obviously continue to monitor the impact of COVID and contingency plans made should any dates be impacted. The Summer Regionals and Area Festivals will take place on their original scheduled dates in July and August.

International Competition

Are international competitions running?

The government has confirmed that the current restrictions on international travel will remain in place until at least 17 May, which rules out competing overseas for all bar those riders classified as elite athletes under the criteria issued by DCMS and UK Sport. Elite athletes are currently defined only as those riders campaigning for selection for the Olympic and Paralympic Games in Tokyo. These athletes may still travel to international competition, subject to any local restrictions, and are eligible for exemptions as per the [government guidance](#).

We appreciate there are many other members with international ambitions, including our U21 riders campaigning for age specific FEI European Championships later this summer. However, based on the current government requirements, these groups are not eligible for exemptions and therefore unable to travel abroad prior to 17 May. Wellington has now been approved as a CDI3* with classes for Big Tour, Small Tour, U25, Young Riders, Juniors, Children on Horses and Ponies and is running from 11 to 16 May. The FEI has confirmed that scores will count towards Olympic MER qualification.

Domestic FEI competitions:

Dates	Venue	Classes
11 – 16 May	Wellington	CDI3*/U25/Y/J/P
07 – 11 July	Hartpury	CDI3*/CPEDI3*
09 – 13 August	Bishop Burton	CPEDI1/2/3*
05 – 07 October	Keysoe	CPEDI1/2/3*
08 – 10 October	Keysoe	CDI3*/U25/Y/J/P
16 – 20 December	London Excel (was Olympia)	CDI-W

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

The Premier League season will run largely as planned, including a revised date for Myerscough, which will provide qualification opportunities, alongside any new fixtures and test riding days that we can be scheduled. Further details on these extra dates will be communicated to these riders directly as soon as plans have been finalised. The relevant selection policies will also be updated and reissued to reflect restrictions on international travel and limited opportunities to compete.

Will I still be able to get an FEI passport?

We continue to work remotely with skeleton staffing arrangements in place at head office, but our International Officer can still process FEI documentation on request. Please allow extra time for passports to be processed and [email Lianne Martin](mailto:Lianne.Martin@britishdressage.co.uk) to make the arrangements.

Membership and horse registration

I've let my membership and/or horse registration lapse, how do I renew?

You can do both online at www.britishdressage.co.uk – click on the member login at the top right of the screen on a desktop or via the menu on the top right on a mobile device. If you've visited the website and logged on before, you'll need your email and password. If you've forgotten your password during lockdown, use the grey 'forgot password' button to reset. If it's your first time, use the green button to set your password.

Head to 'My Profile' and you can renew, upgrade or register a horse there. We have some helpful ['how to' videos on the website](#) to walk you through the common membership tasks. Alternatively, you can call the membership team on 02476 698832 or 836 and they'll get any subscriptions up to date for you.

I'm not clear on my eligibility for some classes and sections, what's the easiest way to find out?

In the [BD Members' Handbook](#) there are easy to follow flow charts which ask a number of questions – if you answer yes to any one, you're ineligible and need to consult the next section/level.

I haven't had a paper copy of the Members' Handbook this year, why?

For 2021, we made the decision to go green – by not printing hard copies we're supporting our commitment to reducing our paper use and helping the environment. The [BD Members' Handbook is now online](#) and easy to access and view. It's hosted on a platform which you can search the content fully and bookmark key sections – plus you can download to your digital devices so you'll always have the rules to hand. However, hard copies are available on request for those that require a physical copy.

What happens if I compete without a valid membership and/or horse registration?

If you compete without a valid membership and/or horse registration your results may be excluded from any shows you attend while your status is lapsed. However, most importantly you're not covered under the BD Members' insurance to compete at a venue with your horse or undertaking any other equestrian activity. Please ensure that you're all up to date to save any disappointment and lost points towards those all-important qualifications.

I'm not sure of my current membership or horse registration status, how can I check?

If you're not sure on the membership status of you or any of your horses, a quick check can be done on your [member portal online](#).

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 refer to the BD Members' Handbook for details.

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.

Do I get this type of cover with 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 insurances you get as a member have been developed in line with member needs by experienced insurance professionals to provide specialist cover.

Equine vaccinations

What is BD doing about the six month booster requirement?

In recognition of some veterinary practices offering a reduced service during lockdown, the requirement for horses to have had a booster vaccination within six months and 21 days of a competition has been waived for the remainder of the summer season, up to **30 June 2021**. Please note that the 12-month rule remains in place for all BD registered horses, regardless of whether or not you are competing – it is vitally important that your horse still has its annual vaccination.

We strongly recommend that owners get up to date with the six monthly booster at the earliest opportunity to minimise the risk of equine influenza spreading once horses begin mixing again. We would also advise you to check with your competition venue before making an entry, as some may still stipulate six-month vaccinations due to their own restrictions.

I'm still in my 12 month booster period but haven't had a vaccination in the last six months, when do I need to have a booster to comply from 1 July?

Your horse will require a booster within six months +21 days of the competition, so if you're competing on 1 July, you need the horse's record to show they have received a vaccination since 10 December 2020. Remember that you need to leave seven clear days between your injection and next competition. So, if you must have a booster before a competition on 1 July, the injection should be given no later than 23 June.

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.

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 attending a competition. Please note that the three month amnesty period (until 30 June 2021) applies to the six monthly boosters only to allow for a transition period, but the 12 month requirement remains in place regardless.

Not all vets have been carrying out vaccinations. 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 2021 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.

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 if I'm 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're unable to get them completed you'll need to start the process again when vets are able to resume normal practice.

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.

It's not my fault my horse couldn't be vaccinated – why should I have 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 a 12 month vaccination is necessary in order to protect against EI. Beyond this point the efficacy of the vaccine is no longer guaranteed. We need to ensure that this requirement remains in place to prevent a resurgence in the number of cases again.

I'm concerned about the EHV-1, should I start vaccinating my horse against it?

Generally veterinarians are advising against vaccination to prevent neurological EHV-1 at present in competition horses. The vaccine is not licensed for neurological herpes and there's no proof that it helps to prevent this form of the disease. Unless you can guarantee that any horse who is vaccinated for the first time does not come into contact with the virus for at least five weeks, vaccination could actually make any case worse. In-foal mares are still recommended for vaccination.

Maintaining the [highest levels of biosecurity](#) at all times, particularly where new horses are arriving on to the yard is the best control of any outbreak. Everyone should familiarise themselves with the symptoms of a number of [equine diseases](#) such as EHV, equine influenza and strangles and consult their vet immediately if they have any concerns about horses in their care.