



British Riding Clubs Update

03.09.2020

Updates appear in red



COVID-19 Update

With further announcements from the UK and devolved governments, BRC are now able to issue the following update with regards to BRC activities. It should be noted that whilst the respective governments are producing regular updates, these then require careful consideration and interpretation, to make the guidance relevant to our individual sector. The following updates are BRC's current interpretation of the most recent government guidance and are subject to change, as and when government advice is updated. All updates in this document are effective from the date of this document unless otherwise stated.

Local Lockdowns / Restrictions

Where local lockdown restrictions are in place, BRC follow the BEF guidance which can be found here <https://www.britishequestrian.org.uk/news/lockdown-changes-in-scotland-and-leicester> No BRC activities are permitted within a local lockdown area **where sporting activities are prohibited**, until this is lifted by the government.

Additional Organiser Support

We have produced a suite of template event signs which can be found on the BHS Cloud, and can be printed off by an organiser to assist at their event.

Non-Members at Events

After our previous update regarding non-members at BRC activities, we have received many queries from concerned clubs, many of whom rely on income from non-members to keep their clubs afloat. With these concerns in mind we convened a special meeting of the BRC Advisory Committee to discuss measures that can be put in place to allow non-members to participate, whilst still satisfying our requirements for resuming sport gradually and safely. As a result, we are able to announce that non-members will be permitted to enter BRC activities from today, 16 July, as long as the activities are carried out using the BRC COVID-19 guidelines and that all the correct measures are in place. Non-members will be required to sign a declaration acknowledging several conditions, including understanding their details will be stored for NHS Test and Trace purposes, and agreeing to abide by the rules. Clubs must then securely store these details in-line with GDPR guidelines. Further details on this can be found in *DS68 – BRC COVID-19 Sport Resumption Guidance v2*. This non-member declaration form is available on the BHS Cloud for clubs to download and send to all non-members attending. The form is editable and can be filled-in and emailed back to organisers before the activity. We hope that this will assist clubs getting back up and running after this downtime. It should be noted that we are relying on clubs to run all activities in-line with the current guidance and rules so as not to jeopardise the wider equestrian sport, and BRC will be monitoring and reviewing this as necessary. We thank you for your co-operation with this.

England

In the government update on 23 June, it was advised that social distancing can reduce to 1m plus from 4 July. However, BRC organisers should be aware that this is only where it is not possible to remain 2m apart, and where additional measures are in place i.e. PPE or screens.

Outdoor gatherings of up to 30 people are now legally allowed anywhere in England (apart from any areas with local lockdown restrictions), providing they are an officially organised activity and not just a social gathering in a garden for example. This is providing the organiser complies with the law, and all relevant procedures and protocols to ensure that activity is conducted in a COVID-19 secure environment are managed and policed effectively. Full details can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-outbreak-faqs-what-you-can-and-cant-do/coronavirus-outbreak-faqs-what-you-can-and-cant-do>

For BRC activities, our rules on a maximum of 6 people in an outdoor defined area, such as a lesson, warm-up ring or competitive ring, still currently stand. It would be reasonable that you could then have up to 30 people in the 'immediate vicinity', such as the area surrounding two competition rings with warm-up. There is currently no limit to the total number of people allowed on one site at any one time, but all participants should be encouraged to arrive, compete and then leave to reduce the amount of time spent on site.

The grass roots sport / leisure guidance issued by the government now includes provision for "horse stables and arenas" and can be applied to indoor riding arenas in England providing an effective risk assessment is undertaken to determine their ability to safely manage group sizes within a COVID secure environment.

There are some influential factors that need inclusion when risk assessing the size of group sessions and the purpose of this guidance is to help inform organisers and coaches, whilst also assuring the general public of the preventative COVID secure measures that are being adhered to in riding centres.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/working-safely-during-coronavirus-covid-19/providers-of-grassroots-sport-and-gym-leisure-facilities>

The maximum occupancy of each indoor facility should be limited by providing a minimum of 100 sqft per person. This equates to a required 'space' allowance of 9.2 square metres per person and using the below example; An arena dimension of 20m x 40m = 800 square metres. With a 'space' allowance of 9.2sqm per person, an arena this size would exceed any normal group session activity. It would be sensible to assume that this guidance on space per person could also be applied to outdoor activities where there is scope to increase numbers taking part.

BRC Permitted Activities

IMPORTANT NOTE: Any permitted activity below must adhere to the current guidance on group numbers (max six in a defined area) and the continued social distancing and public health, hygiene and biosecurity requirements. Riders and organisers should also consider the risk of their activity, and only partake in / organise activities where it is safe to do so, taking into account both the horse and riders' capabilities. Risk assessments must be carried out for each activity, to include the COVID-19 specific hazards and controls.

- General riding – Permitted providing you are alone, with members of your own household, or with no more than 5 other people from different households.
- Riding includes the following details:
 - Travelling – Travelling both with and without your horse, is allowed for exercising, training or facility hire. The government do not specify any limits on distance travelled at this time.
 - Many facility centres are now able to open for facility hire, which you can now use.
 - Locations – All permitted activities detailed here apply to outdoors. Indoor riding arenas and covered arenas are permitted for use from 4 July.
 - Lessons and Training – Lessons and training may now take place. **The suggested group size is six, although there is now some flexibility with this as per the updated text in red above.** BRC clubs and areas may now organise training activities. The type of activity is not limited, as long as it is appropriately risk assessed.
 - Hacking – This may be done alone, with members of your own household, or with no more than 5 other people from different households. Organised hacks are permitted under the BRC banner.

- Fun rides – These are now permitted under the BRC banner.
 - Camps – These are now permitted under the BRC banner. Camp activities must **adhere to the numbers as detailed above**, and social distancing etc. must apply. Overnight stays will be permitted from 4 July 2020 providing suitable facilities and management are in place. This would be for individuals or household groups only, per lorry.
 - Outdoor competitive riding events are permitted from 1 July 2020. There is no restriction on the type of activity. All competitions must be run in accordance with the current government guidance on group numbers, social distancing, and hygiene measures.
 - Indoor activities – permitted from 4 July – **inline with numbers as detailed above.**
- Online Competitions – BRC organised online ridden competitions can resume. BRC have restarted their leagues with Interdressage. Both flatwork and jumping classes are now included. There are no restrictions on the type of on-line competition activity permitted.
 - It should be noted that although British Dressage do not permit electronic transmission of their dressage tests without a license, it has now been agreed that BRC Clubs may use BD dressage tests for online competitions, if they are running a members only competition. The test sheets can be bought from the BD shop. If Clubs are opening it up to non-members, then they cannot use them.

BRC have re-published the BRC dressage tests that we have used in the past and these are available for free use, to help with running online competitions which are open to non-members. The tests can be found on our website, and the scoresheets are on the BHS Cloud for free download and printing. Please feel free to use these resources as required.

- Social and un-mounted events – Permitted under the BRC banner. These should only be held outdoors wherever possible and should be for no more than six people in a defined group, with a maximum of 30 people in total.
- Other BRC activities – Activities where current social distancing cannot be adhered to, such as the quadrille, pairs, or teams of four / six classes, are not permitted. This will only be reviewed when social distancing guidance is changed.
- All other BRC activities that can comply with the above guidelines are now permitted.

Scotland

BRC Permitted Activities

IMPORTANT NOTE: Any permitted activity below must adhere to the current guidance on group numbers and the continued social distancing and public health, hygiene and biosecurity requirements. Riders should also consider the risk of their activity, and only partake in / organise activities where it is safe to do so, taking into account both the horse and riders' capabilities.

- General riding – Permitted outdoors providing you are alone, with members of your own household, or with up to four other households, up to a maximum of 15 people. Additionally, members of a household should only meet with up to four other households per day.
- Riding includes the following details:
 - Travelling – Travelling both with and without your horse, is allowed for exercising, training or facility hire. There is no current restriction on travel.
 - Many facility centres are open for facility hire, which you can now use.
 - Locations – All permitted activities detailed here apply to both outdoors and in an indoor or covered arena.
 - Lessons and Training – **Coaching can now take place in sessions of up to 30 people outdoors. Multiple sessions can take place as long as the groups don't mix. Guidance for coaches, leaders, personal trainers,**

and instructors (herein referred to as coaches) is available at <https://sportscotland.org.uk/covid-19/getting-coaches-ready-forsport/>

- Hacking – This may be done alone, with members of your own household, or with up to four other households, up to a maximum of 15 people. Additionally, members of a household should only meet with up to four other households per day. Organised hacks are permitted under the BRC banner providing they can satisfy these requirements.
- Fun rides – These are now permitted.
- Camps - These are now permitted. Camp activities must adhere to the max rule on numbers and households as detailed above. Overnight stays are also permitted providing suitable facilities and management are in place. This would be for individuals or household groups only and would fall in-line with the proposed opening of camping sites in Scotland from 15 July.
- Competitive riding events – Organised non-contact sports competition can now take place outside or within a covered arena subject to Scottish Government Guidance. All sports Governing Bodies/organisations/venue operators providing such competitions must have a named ‘COVID Officer’ who will complete documented risk assessments and ensure all appropriate mitigations are put in place by the sports organisation/venue operator before any outdoor competition or event is undertaken. A template job description for a ‘COVID Officer’ can be found on the [sportscotland website](#).

Competition Bubbles have now increased to up to 30 people outdoors, although again these bubbles cannot mix. Competition organisers should ensure no two ‘bubbles’ come into contact with each other at any time throughout the day. This may be achieved with staggered starts etc.

- Online Competitions – BRC organised online ridden competitions can resume. BRC have restarted their leagues with Interdressage. Both flatwork and jumping classes are now included. There are no restrictions on the type of on-line competition activity permitted.
- It should be noted that although British Dressage do not permit electronic transmission of their dressage tests without a license, it has now been agreed that BRC Clubs may use BD dressage tests for online competitions, if they are running a members only competition. The test sheets can be bought from the BD shop. If Clubs are opening it up to non-members, then they cannot use them.

BRC have re-published the BRC dressage tests that we have used in the past and these are available for free use, to help with running online competitions which are open to non-members. The tests can be found on our website, and the scoresheets are on the BHS Cloud for free download and printing. Please feel free to use these resources as required.

- Social and un-mounted events – Permitted in accordance with the number and household restrictions detailed above. **Since Monday August 31 Scottish Government has confirmed that indoor spaces can be used for activity.**

When opening indoor facilities please refer to the sportscotland guidance on getting facilities fit for sport which can be found here <https://sportscotland.org.uk/covid-19/getting-your-facilities-fit-for-sport/>

Further info on opening facilities can be found via CIBSE (chartered institution of building service engineers) www.cibse.org

Finally a reminder that facilities should have a dedicated COVID Officer, an e-learning support for the role can be accessed here https://rise.articulate.com/share/LIEWUj-o23H_4gC1AF002jdxdrCucQC0#/

- All other BRC activities that can comply with the above guidelines are now permitted.

Wales

BRC Permitted Activities

IMPORTANT NOTE: Any permitted activity below must adhere to the current guidance on group numbers and the continued social distancing and public health, hygiene and biosecurity requirements. Riders should also consider the risk of their activity, and only partake in / organise activities where it is safe to do so, taking into account both the horse and riders' capabilities. Risk assessments must be carried out for each activity, to include the COVID-19 specific hazards and controls.

- General riding – Permitted in groups of up to 30 people.
- Riding includes the following details:
 - Travelling – Travelling both with and without your horse, is allowed for exercising, training or facility hire. There is a no travel limit.
 - Many facility centres are open for facility hire, which you can now use.
 - Locations – All permitted activities detailed here apply to outdoors. From Monday 10 August, government guidance allows for the use of indoor / covered arenas (indoor gyms / leisure centres reopened on the 10th August). However, BRC recommends that venues contact their local authority and insurer in advance and advises them of the plan to re-open these facilities.
 - Lessons and Training – May now take place in groups of up to 30 people. These numbers include the instructor or any additional organiser. BRC clubs and areas may now organise training activities in-line with these maximum numbers. The type of activity is not limited, as long as it is appropriately risk assessed.
 - Hacking – Organised hacks are now permitted under the BRC banner for up to 30 people.
 - Fun rides – These are now permitted under the BRC banner for up to 30 people.
 - Camps – These are now permitted under the BRC banner for up to 30 people. Overnight stays are permitted from 25 July when tourist accommodation re-opened, providing suitable facilities and management are in place. This would be for individuals or household groups only, per lorry.
 - Outdoor competitive riding events – These are now permitted under the BRC banner for up to 30 people. There is no restriction on the type of activity. All competitions must be run in accordance with the current government guidance on group numbers, social distancing, and hygiene measures.
 - Indoor riding activities – From Monday 10 August, government guidance allows for the use of indoor / covered arenas (indoor gyms / leisure centres reopened on the 10th August). However, BRC recommends that venues contact their local authority and insurer in advance and advises them of the plan to re-open these facilities. Indoor exercising is limited to maximum number of 30 if social distancing is possible.
 - Indoor unmounted activities – Activities held in an indoor school, such as demos, are permitted under the BRC Banner with a maximum number of 30 if social distancing is possible. Activities held in smaller venues, i.e. village halls, are not currently permitted.
- Online Competitions – BRC organised online ridden competitions can resume. BRC have restarted their leagues with Interdressage. Both flatwork and jumping classes are now included. There are no restrictions on the type of on-line competition activity permitted.
- It should be noted that although British Dressage do not permit electronic transmission of their dressage tests without a license, it has now been agreed that BRC Clubs may use BD dressage tests for online competitions, if they are running a members only competition. The test sheets can be bought from the BD shop. If Clubs are opening it up to non-members, then they cannot use them.

BRC have re-published the BRC dressage tests that we have used in the past and these are available for free use, to help with running online competitions which are open to non-members. The tests can be found on our website, and the scoresheets are on the BHS Cloud for free download and printing. Please feel free to use these resources as required.

- Social and un-mounted events – Permitted under the BRC banner. These should only be held outdoors and should be for up to 30 people.
- Other BRC activities – Activities where current social distancing cannot be adhered to, such as the quadrille, pairs, or teams of four / six classes, are not permitted. This will only be reviewed when social distancing guidance is changed.
- All other BRC activities that can comply with the above guidelines are now permitted.

Northern Ireland

BRC Permitted Activities

IMPORTANT NOTE: Any permitted activity below must adhere to the current guidance on group numbers and the continued social distancing and public health, hygiene and biosecurity requirements. Riders and organisers should also consider the risk of their activity, and only partake in / organise activities where it is safe to do so, taking into account both the horse and riders' capabilities. Risk assessments must be carried out for each activity, to include the COVID-19 specific hazards and controls.

Sport Ireland has produced some useful guidance and Return to Sport Course which can be found here:

<https://www.sportireland.ie/covid19/return-to-sport-and-physical-activity?fbclid=IwAR2-Qfuhlop35cx22oL3C1jFGXlclbnkt-L1h0Uht84H22xAa7Uaqj7T9dw>

- General riding (not BRC organised activities) – You can exercise your horse indoors in a group of up to ten people from a maximum of four households and outdoors in a group of up to 15 people with whom you do not share a household, but you must maintain social distancing and all COVID-19 hygiene measures. Maximum ventilation measures should be observed.
- All organised BRC activities - From 10 August 2020 there is no limit on the number of persons who can gather for organised indoor or outdoor equestrian activities, this includes equestrian competition / horse racing. These organised activities can take place at equestrian centres, riding schools, competition venues or outdoor locations. This is permitted provided that;
 - The person responsible for organising or operating the gathering complies with the conditions set out in the Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (No. 2) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2020.
 - This includes carrying out the required risk assessment, which meets the requirements of the [Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations \(NI\) 2000](#).
 - Takes all [reasonable measures to limit the risk of transmission](#) of coronavirus including implementing the preventative and protective measures identified in the risk assessment and complies with any [relevant guidance from a Northern Ireland Department](#).
 - In respect of indoor sport (competitive) activities, the relevant facility is not capable of facilitating more than 5000 spectators.

Provided these conditions are followed, there is no legal restriction on the number of persons that can take part in organised equestrian indoor or outdoor activities and spectators can also attend.

The Department for Communities has produced guidance on the safe return of limited spectators to indoor sport events. Please note the social distancing requirement is 2m. Please read the full information here <https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/communities/covid-19-guidance-on-the-safe-return-of-spectators-to-indoor-sports-events.pdf>

- Riding includes the following details:
 - Travelling – Travelling both with and without your horse, is allowed for exercising, training or facility hire. The government do not specify any limits on distance travelled at this time.
 - Many facility centres are now able to open for facility hire, which you can now use.
 - Locations – All permitted activities detailed here apply to outdoor areas and indoor from 17 July.
 - Lessons and Training – Lessons and training may now take place with no limit on numbers. These numbers include the instructor or any additional organiser. The type of activity is not limited, as long as it is appropriately risk assessed.
 - Hacking – This may be done alone, with members of your own household, or in a group of up to **15** people from different households. Organised hacks are permitted under the BRC banner with no limit on numbers.
 - Fun rides – These are now permitted under the BRC banner with no limit on numbers.
 - Camps – These are now permitted with no limit on numbers. Overnight stays permitted from 1st July 2020 providing suitable facilities and management are in place. This applies to individuals or household groups only and falls in-line with the recent update stating that camping and tourist accommodation can re-open from 26 June and 3 July respectively.
 - Outdoor competitive riding events are permitted from 10 July. There is no restriction on the type of activity or numbers. All competitions must be run in accordance with the current government guidance on group numbers, social distancing, and hygiene measures.
 - Indoor riding and unmounted activities – Permitted with no limit on numbers.
- Online Competitions – BRC organised online ridden competitions can resume. BRC have restarted their leagues with Interdressage. Both flatwork and jumping classes are now included. There are no restrictions on the type of on-line competition activity permitted.
- It should be noted that although British Dressage do not permit electronic transmission of their dressage tests without a license, it has now been agreed that BRC Clubs may use BD dressage tests for online competitions, if they are running a members only competition. The test sheets can be bought from the BD shop. If Clubs are opening it up to non-members, then they cannot use them. BRC have re-published the BRC dressage tests that we have used in the past and these are available for free use, to help with running online competitions which are open to non-members. The tests can be found on our website, and the scoresheets are on the BHS Cloud for free download and printing. Please feel free to use these resources as required.
- Social and un-mounted events – Permitted under the BRC banner.
- Other BRC activities – Activities where current social distancing cannot be adhered to, such as the quadrille, pairs, or teams of four / six classes, are not permitted. This will only be reviewed when social distancing guidance is changed.
- All other BRC activities that can comply with the above guidelines are now permitted.

Isle of Man, Jersey and Guernsey

These guidelines must be read in collaboration with your own government guidance at the time. This may alter some of the guidance, i.e. numbers allowed to meet in groups or distance for permitted travel.

Further Information

To support clubs and areas in starting to organise activities, BRC have produced a Datasheet with considerations for safely resuming activities, along with a template COVID-19 risk assessment. It should be noted that these remain working documents and are subject to change as further government updates are released. However, they will give our organisers an idea of the measures that should be in place for the resumption of our sport. The Datasheet and Risk Assessment can be found on the BRC website and BHS Cloud.

END OF UPDATE