

3 August 2020

Update for candidates and trainers

This update is valid for all Stage 2 Coaching assessments, from 4 August 2020 and until further notice.

Delivery of assessments during Covid-19 has posed some questions surrounding delivering the Stage 2 Coaching assessment, particularly the lead rein lesson, whilst still following the relevant Nation's guidance on social distancing and PPE guidance.

The lead rein lesson

Learning Outcome 5 – Be able to coach a lead rein lesson

Standard assessment practice would be for the candidate to lead the pony whilst coaching the rider. This poses concerns regarding social distancing so we are able to adapt our standard assessment practice until further notice.

- The rider being coached can be an internal member of staff or client of the assessment centre.
- The pony/horse can be led by a member of staff, or family member of the rider. We recommend the rider and leader are in the same 'social bubble' if possible.
- The candidate can provide instructions and guidance to the leader to mount and dismount the rider or the rider can do this independently (if appropriate and safe).

The candidate will coach the beginner lesson, ensuring the pony/horse is under control by directing and advising the leader as required. The candidate should be aware of their communication skills with the leader in addition to the rider and be ready to provide support to the leader as required ensuring safe handling and leading practice is followed.

As with any lesson, the candidate should carry out a short assessment with the rider and leader to determine their experience. Their lesson should be focused on progressing the skills of a beginner rider and adapting their lesson plan where necessary to meet the rider's needs. The candidate should position themselves appropriately at all times and remain observant throughout.

As per the assessment criteria, if any skill is not demonstrated or seen from the candidate (for example assisting to mount the rider or leading the pony/horse whilst coaching), the assessor may ask questions to check knowledge and understanding.

The arena can be shared if a risk assessment deems suitable social distancing can be maintained.

The candidate should be trained to prepare to deliver the lead rein lesson with themselves as the leader, or for a leader to be provided. For example, if the candidate is an internal candidate at the assessment centre and is already mixing/working with the rider supplied for the lesson, then an additional leader will not be required as the candidate and rider are already in a 'social bubble'.

For further details on the assessment criteria, please refer to the [Qualification Specification](#) available to download from our website.

Face coverings during the Stage 2 coaching assessment

Different regulations exist for wearing face coverings in different parts of the UK. Please ensure you check your relevant National Government's guidance.

The general guidance is, if you are in an enclosed public space where social distancing may be difficult to maintain and where you come into contact with people you do not normally meet, then a face covering is advised for those that are able to wear one. Medical exemptions should be respected.

Stage 2 Unit 4: Stage 2 Coaching update

A face covering is something which safely covers the nose and mouth; this could be a reusable or single-use face covering or a scarf, bandana, religious garment or hand-made cloth covering which securely fits around the side of the face.

For many BHS assessments, they can be delivered in an outdoor, or well ventilated large covered arena, with social distancing maintained, therefore a face covering may not be essential. Where a distance of two metres cannot be maintained in an indoor setting, wearing a face covering is considered to be appropriate mitigation. Children under 11 are not required to wear a face covering.

We recommend it is up to the centre to decide their protocol for face coverings based on their risk assessment, and the candidate is required to follow the centre's guidance. Should the centre not require a face covering to be worn, the candidate can still choose to wear this for the assessment.

If a face covering is worn, the assessor, leader, rider, or other member of staff at the centre, can request the covering to be removed if they rely on lip reading, facial expressions and clear sound when the candidate is communicating to them.

Contact us

If you have any queries regarding a BHS assessment, please contact the Education Team:

02476 840508

education@bhs.org.uk