



British Riding Clubs Update

13.07.2020

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.

Dressage to Music

It is still our intention to proceed with the 2020 Dressage to Music Championships. As such, qualifiers for this event may take place, following our COVID-19 guidelines, from 1 July in England and Northern Ireland (see below for details). It should be noted that the Quadrille and Pairs classes will not take place this year.

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 until this is lifted by the government.

Additional Organiser Support

In addition to the guidance we have issued to all clubs and areas regarding the safe resumption of sport, BRC are holding some COVID-19 Virtual Clinics which organisers can attend to ask any queries or questions they may have on re-starting BRC activities. These clinics are scheduled for the week commencing 13 July. Please email megan.gibbs@bhs.org.uk for further information and to book a place.

We have also 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.

We have been getting queries from our clubs as to why they cannot accept entries from non-members at competitions or training. There are several reasons behind this decision. Firstly, it is important that we have a robust system in place to contact attendees of any activity should someone in attendance test positive for coronavirus. By only allowing members on site we can provide accurate contact details if necessary (see <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/nhs-test-and-trace-how-it-works>). Secondly, it is essential that we conduct ourselves as safely as possible, both to play our part in controlling the virus and to avoid bringing equestrianism into disrepute, therefore endangering future activities, hence why we have so many guidelines in place. A member is bound by these guidelines and we can take disciplinary action against any member that acts inappropriately. We have no jurisdiction over non-members. Thirdly, sport is meant to be progressing at a steady pace with relatively low numbers. By opening to non-members, we will see a significant increase in attendees. As we begin the resumption of BRC activities we should be prioritising our own members. We understand that non-members provide a significant amount of income to our clubs and that you are keen to welcome them back as soon as possible. We will continue to look at this and hope to be able to relax this further in the coming weeks as sport resumes.

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.

Update for social gatherings: Groups of up to six people can meet in parks or private gardens, effective from Monday 1 June. The full government update can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-on-phased-return-of-sport-and-recreation/guidance-for-the-public-on-the-phased-return-of-outdoor-sport-and-recreation?fbclid=IwAR3KKiWvnTyyWteCp7fFkFnFSvElcrl401OZzv7Iq7TXfeuocCMgdlwH-fQ>

Information on groups of six can be found here: https://www.gov.uk/government/news/groups-of-up-to-six-from-different-households-can-exercise-outside-under-new-rules?utm_source=f3c5392c-9b8d-4372-9c9d-e2f48a041b85&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=daily

Outdoor gatherings of up to 30 people are now legally allowed anywhere in England (apart from any areas with local lockdown restrictions). 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.

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 in groups of no more than six. This number of six must include the instructor or any additional organiser. BRC clubs and areas may now organise training activities in-line with this maximum number. 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 max six people rule, 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 – **limited to groups of six**
- 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

Update for social gatherings: Effective 10 July; A household can meet up to 4 other households at a time - up to 15 people in total. However, a household can only meet up to 4 other households per day in total. The full government update can be found here: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-framework-decision-making-scotlands-route-map-through-out-crisis-phase-3-update/> and <https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-phase-3-staying-safe-and-protecting-others/>

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 outdoors. From 29 June the use of indoor schools is permitted providing BHS guidance is followed: <file:///C:/Users/laura.sanger/Downloads/Equestrian%20Best%20Practice%20Guidance%20Final%20amended%20220620.pdf>. **Indoor schools may be used for mounted activities only.**

- Lessons and Training – Latest government guidance states that you may exercise 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. Therefore, coaches are only advised to provide lessons to up to **four** different household groups of up to **14** riders per day. Therefore, BRC lessons and training may now take place in groups of no more than **14** from a maximum of **four** different households (**plus the coach**). These numbers must include the instructor or any additional organiser. BRC clubs and areas may now organise training activities in-line with these restrictions. The type of activity is not limited, as long as it is appropriately risk assessed. All activities must be for training, social, educational or ‘have a go’ purposes, and may not be competitive at this time.
 - 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 not currently permitted under the BRC banner.
 - Camps - These are now permitted as long as the activities fall under the ‘lessons and training’ category above. Camp activities must adhere to the max **rule on numbers and households** as detailed above. It is expected that overnight stays will be permitted from 15 July 2020 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 – These are not currently permitted under the BRC banner. It is hoped that this stance will change towards the end of July.
- 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 – These are not currently permitted under the BRC banner.
- Other BRC Activities – No other BRC organised activities are permitted at this time. It is hoped this will be reviewed mid-July.

Wales

Update: The 5-mile travel restrictions have been removed and further restrictions have been announced to the leisure sector. The full government update can be found here: <https://gov.wales/coronavirus-restrictions-relaxed-further-support-tourism-and-leisure-sectors-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.**
- 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. Indoor riding arenas and covered arenas may be available for use, depending on the venue's risk assessment and permission from their local authority and insurers. This needs to be checked with each individual venue. **Further information on this is expected around 3 August.**
 - Lessons and Training – **May now take place in groups of up to 30 people outside when organised and supervised by a responsible person.** 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 when organised and supervised by a responsible person.**
 - Fun rides – **These are now permitted under the BRC banner for up to 30 people when organised and supervised by a responsible person.**
 - Camps – **These are now permitted under the BRC banner for up to 30 people when organised and supervised by a responsible person. Overnight stays will be permitted from 25 July when tourist accommodation re-opens, 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 when organised and supervised by a responsible person. 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 – **These are not currently permitted. Further information on this is expected around 3 August.**
 - Indoor unmounted activities – **These are currently not 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.

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- Social and un-mounted events – **Permitted under the BRC banner. These should only be held outdoors and should be for up to 30 people when organised and supervised by a responsible person.**

- 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

The latest update is effective from 9 July and can be found here <https://www.executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk/news/executive-daily-update-initiatives-deal-coronavirus-9-july-2020>

BRC Permitted Activities

IMPORTANT NOTE: Any permitted activity below must adhere to the current guidance on group numbers (max 30 outdoors or six indoors) 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 – You can exercise your horse indoors in a group of up to six people with whom you do not share a household and in a group of up to 30 people outdoors 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.
- 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 in groups of no more than 30 outside or six inside. 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 – This may be done alone, with members of your own household, or in a group of up to 30 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 as long as the activities fall under the 'lessons and training' category above. Camp activities must adhere to the max 30 people rule (outside), and social distancing etc must apply. 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. 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 up to a maximum of six people.
- 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

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- 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