



the **showing council**

Blueprint

**Guidance for the  
Resumption of Showing**

# **GUIDANCE FOR THE RESUMPTION OF SHOWING – 15V**

(There is one update to Version 15V of the Blueprint, in *italics & bold*, but it is recommended you read this version in its entirety, so you do not miss anything)

**Please take all reasonable precautions and employ common sense when implementing any guidance in regard to COVID-19 restrictions.**

## **Introduction and Background**

In 2020 the pandemic caused by COVID-19 spread rapidly across the world causing considerable ill health, deaths and widespread disruption to the normal functioning of society which has necessitated significant changes to everyday life.

All competitive showing in Great Britain was suspended from 18<sup>th</sup> March 2020. It was agreed by The Showing Council that affiliated showing should resume when it is safe and appropriate to do so, with the support of Government and in-line with the gradual easing of restrictions. Member bodies of The Showing Council have collaborated to develop a blueprint for this process. With the publication of the government road-map, it is imperative show organisers take note of the guidance within this document.

The objective of this document is to support Showing Council Member Bodies affiliated show secretaries and show venues running affiliated classes in preparing their operational plans to mitigate risk to health of personnel required to deliver shows. **The operational requirements will be different for each show venue**, and the detail within this document is designed to provide suggestions and tools to assist secretaries in developing their own plans, and to enable a consistency of approach in relevant areas so as to enable more efficient communication, implementation and adoption of new working practices. The proposals within this document are not mandatory and **it is IMPERATIVE that each secretary considers the detail within this document in-line with their own site, circumstances, requirements and risk assessments, to ensure that the processes and procedures they implement are appropriate for their venue.**

This document should not be read in isolation but should be considered in conjunction with Government guidance on relevant issues.

Please note the current event guidance on the EIF website at [www.eventsindustryforum.co.uk](http://www.eventsindustryforum.co.uk)  
By registering at no cost on this web site show organisers will constantly have access to the up-to-date guidance to which these notes and brief is supplementary.

This document is intended as a guide for showing. This is intended as an evolving document and will be constantly updated, so please check the version you are using. Show secretaries may contact the Head of Public Health of the local authority that covers the venue if they have any further questions on risk assessment.

These guidelines were facilitated through meetings with a number of The Showing Council member bodies with the aim of creating a useful document for all member bodies and beyond.

**This guidance relates to England. Further / different restrictions currently remain in place for Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland; there is a separate Blueprint for Scotland (see link [www.theshowingcouncil.co.uk/commonpolicies.asp](http://www.theshowingcouncil.co.uk/commonpolicies.asp) )**

## General

1. The official definition of Organised sport is: 'activity must be formally organised by a qualified instructor, club, national governing body, company or charity and follow sport-specific guidance where appropriate.' If you fit these criteria, you should be able to safely implement this document in all areas. If you feel you do not meet these criteria you will be subject to the rule of 6.
2. Guidance must be adhered to by show organisers until such time as government restrictions change. This must be in addition to and support the shows risk assessment plan which should specifically include a Covid19 risk assessment, to minimise the risk of infection/transmission. The Risk Assessment of the Organiser MUST be compatible with and work alongside the Event Venues Risk Assessment.
3. Show organisers must confirm with the venue that the local authority has been contacted and notified of the event / show taking place. It is recommended the local authority is sent a copy of this document in order to demonstrate the measures being taken by the show organiser.
4. From the 29<sup>th</sup> March 2021 government guidance for England changed from stay at home to stay local. With this in mind an example might be that competitors should not drive past one show to attend another.
5. Each show must confirm with their insurers that they will be staging a competition and liaise with them regarding any requirements they may have of the venue.
6. Regulations and guidance must be shared with exhibitors in the schedule.
7. No equipment should be shared on the day between exhibitors or officials.
8. A Rider must not ride for multiple stables at a single show.
9. A Covid-19 officer is strongly recommended. A course can be taken online at <https://www.virtual-college.co.uk/courses/health-and-safety/prevent-covid-19>. This person should have authority to ensure social distancing is maintained, with the support of the societies. Anyone not adhering to social distancing WILL be reported to the appropriate Society.
10. Recommend Covid-19 signage on site encouraging social distancing and regular hand washing. Examples of where this may be necessary include the secretarial area and the side of the ring, or anywhere that a queue might form.
11. Hand sanitisers or wipes should be available for use at entrance/exit to venue/facility where possible.
12. It is recommended that if the show secretary's office is open to competitors a Perspex screen is installed.
13. Anyone who is symptomatic or suspects they have been exposed to the virus should not take part in any activities and remain at home. People classified high risk by the NHS guidance should be discouraged from attending shows.
14. If permitted on the showground, dogs MUST remain on leads at all times.
15. The number of people on site at any one time must be restricted in accordance with government guidelines, with consideration given to the implementation of social distancing measures.

## Assistance with establishing the definition of Indoor vs Outdoor Arenas.

16. **Show organisers will need to liaise closely with their venue in order to establish the latest regulations or guidance that they are working to (in particular if Tiers or local restrictions are in place). It is necessary to make contact with the local authority, either directly, or via the venue, to ensure they are aware of any event. This includes whether your venue is classified as an indoor or outdoor space. For the latest information on the current lockdown restrictions / road-map and how this relates to equestrianism please go to [www.britishequestrian.org.uk/news](http://www.britishequestrian.org.uk/news)**
17. **Please refer to <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/working-safely-during-coronavirus-covid-19/providers-of-grassroots-sport-and-gym-leisure-facilities> this is helpful if working in indoor spaces.**

## **Numbers in attendance at the venue**

18. The Event Industry Forum Website is useful for information when holding Events; see the following link <https://www.eventsindustryforum.co.uk/index.php/11-features/14-keeping-workers-and-audiences-safe-during-covid-19>
19. **It is important to ensure that social distancing between different households or support bubbles is maintained at all times, and between staff and performers. In addition, those operating venues or running events following Covid-19 Secure guidance should take additional steps to ensure the safety of the public and prevent large gatherings or mass events from taking place.**
20. It is recommended that ALL Organisers ensure that their sufficient personnel available that are aware and can manage the show in the event of one of the organising team requiring testing as a result of a contact or feeling unwell and becoming infected with Covid 19.
21. **Outdoor Events and Number of Competitors permitted – SOCIAL DISTANCING RESTRICTIONS TAKE THE ABSOLUTE PRIORITY OVER THE NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS ALLOWED IN AN ARENA. IF THERE ARE ANY UNCERTAINTIES, PLEASE FOLLOW THE RULE OF 6. The total number permitted in any outdoor arena should be based on one horse per 100sqm, depending on the overall size.**

*For example:*

- a 60 x 20m arena = 1,200sqm space, which would allow 12 competitors at any one time
- a 70 x 40m arena = 2,800sqm, which would allow up to 28 competitors.

**Your venue should be able to provide you with all necessary Arena dimensions.**

22. In Working Hunter classes there is no limit on the number of competitors as each horse/pony will enter the ring individually.
23. If the layout or shape of the arena does not lend itself to all horse/ponies completing the go-round together safely with the 2-metre distancing remaining in place, then the class should be split in two for the go round phase. Care must be taken with the change of rein to ensure all horses/ponies are back on the same rein before continuing in the faster pace.
24. In the line-up, all competitors must remain at least 2 metres apart. Show organisers may wish to place safety markers on the floor to indicate where competitors must line up.
25. **Indoor Events – Organised indoor sport for both adults and children can return, subject to sport-specific guidance. For number of competitors permitted in the indoor spaces, please follow the capacity model outlined in Point 21.**

**Capacity Limit for the Indoor space overall - Spectators (outside of the competition) of either 6 people (the rule of 6) or 2 households can now take place.**

**The maximum occupancy for each indoor facility should be limited by providing a minimum of 100sqft per person (the measurement of 100sqm in Point 21, only applies to the direct arena space, for those on horseback).**

***However, it is essential to remember that everyone must remain socially distanced whenever possible. All must observe full PPE requirements.***

## **Spectators**

26. *From the 17<sup>th</sup> May 2021 spectators are allowed, but they must follow the gathering limits. Although they may now spectate indoors, they must be grouped in groups of no more than 6, or two households. It is possible to have more than one of these groups inside at any one time, with the members of each group socially distanced, and an obvious amount of space between them and the next group. Common sense must be applied at all times. The ventilation / capacity limits include spectators, not just participants, so care must be taken to ensure that the number of people indoors doesn't get too high, due to spectators wandering in. For organised outdoor sport this could still mean being closed to the public yet permitting family groups to be admitted or those directly connected with the competition.*

## **Test and Trace**

27. Show organisers must run one of two Test and Trace systems. Either utilise the National Health Service QR Code App for scanning (necessary posters are available to download and print from the government website) OR secretaries must provide a template document to be completed by the competitor in advance, listing names and addresses of all attendees and vehicle registration numbers. In line with GDPR requirements, this information will not be shared beyond the show secretary and security provision, however it is a condition of entry that the information could be provided to outside authorities if a Track and Trace situation becomes necessary. This information should be destroyed at 21 days. It is advised this information is collected electronically in advance to reduce competitors bringing paper forms to the show. Tools such as Survey Monkey are a suggestion, and these can help you create quick and easy online surveys to gather the required information.

If you have any questions about the implementation of a Track and Trace system, please contact your affiliated body or local authority.

Assistance with the NHS QR Code can be found here <https://www.gov.uk/create-coronavirus-qr-poster> or speak to your venue and see if they use one already.

## **First Aid Provision**

28. The number of first aiders must be suitable for the personnel on site, and all first aiders must have appropriate PPE in line with current Government advice.

## **Veterinary and Farrier Provision**

29. Where a vet or farrier is located on the showground, social distancing measures should be adhered to so far as is possible, and appropriate PPE worn. Generally, this is accepted as being a surgical face covering, as it is recognised that further PPE is not appropriate in the vicinity of horses for this type of work.
30. Random testing for illegal substances will still be in operation, and the vet taking the sample will wear appropriate PPE. The rider or handler must hold the horse for testing and not give to a third party.

## Pre-Arrival

### **Entries**

31. All entries must be in advance of the day. No substitutions on the day. This is to reduce contact in secretary areas and to help with timetabling.
32. Online entries are encouraged. The handling of cash on the day is discouraged. Total entry numbers accepted will be dependent on venue capacity. Consideration should be given to the parking area to ensure sufficient space for social distancing, the warm-up area and ring capacities.
33. No horses/ponies may be brought to the showground that are not competing or are a travelling companion.

### **Numbers**

34. No back numbers to be collected on the day of the show to avoid unnecessary congestion in the secretarial area. Suggestions regarding back numbers include show secretaries emailing numbers to be printed by exhibitor, exhibitors providing their own back number (or bridle number) or numbers posted out in advance of the show.

### **Notification of attendees including Organising Team Judges Officials and Volunteers**

35. At least 24 hours ahead of show day, names and addresses of ALL those attending should be submitted to the show secretary, along with vehicle registrations which should be checked on arrival. It is the responsibility of the exhibitor named on the entry form to ensure that the correct information is provided. No changes can be made on the day, and anyone not previously notified to the secretary will be prohibited from entering the showground.
36. A maximum of 3 people may attend the show per horse. This includes the rider. Under 18s must have a parent or guardian with them. Update as of 14<sup>th</sup> April 2021 - Carers are permitted to attend if they are carers for people with disabilities or adults who need to supervise under-18s in a safeguarding role; this would count as an additional person to the maximum of 3.
37. No members of the public to be admitted to the showground.

### **Final class times**

38. At least 24 hours ahead of show day, final “not before” times for classes should be shared with exhibitors.

## Arrival

### **Parking**

39. Parking in line with government and venue regulations (currently 2 meters)
40. Parking areas should be supervised to ensure social distancing is observed with space left for safe loading and unloading of horses. These locations should also display Show Layout plans and directional flow information.
41. Competitors must observe the gathering limits at all times (i.e., this is currently 6 people) and in all areas, including in the lorry parking areas. **It will be necessary to check for any updates on this.**

### **Toilet Facilities and Cleaning**

42. All competitors are encouraged to use the toilet facilities in their lorries/trailers.
43. Any venue toilets in use must be cleaned regularly and have hand sanitisers available and it is the responsibility of the venue to clean and provide the sanitisers.

44. “Touch points” around the showground should be regularly wiped with disinfectant. This might include gates and doors.

### **Catering**

45. Food Outlets – Subject to Government Advice and venue restrictions.
46. Food and drink should be brought from home wherever possible (If Event venues wish to provide an on-site catering facility, then it is recommended the organisers fully document this handover of responsibility and ensure the appropriate measures are in place to manage this function as per the Event venue’s guidelines and the current government regulations)

It is recommended no alcohol be brought onto site by participants. The sale of alcohol on showgrounds is not advised at this time. If any Event venue wishes to sell alcohol, then it is recommended the organisers fully document this handover of responsibility of Licencing and the respective Licensing objectives in all aspects to the Event centre.

*Please see the latest hospitality guidance here <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/working-safely-during-coronavirus-covid-19/restaurants-offering-takeaway-or-delivery#takeaways-2-3>*

### **Movement on the Showground**

47. Where possible, one-way systems should be implemented to allow social distancing. This may be one entry point to each ring for horses and grooms, and one exit point.
48. One-way horse walks should be encouraged where possible with appropriate signage.
49. All pedestrian and equine walkway signage must be adhered to.

### **Horse Related Activity**

#### **Warm-up**

50. Ensure sufficient space in the collecting ring to allow competitors to warm up while adhering to social distancing regulations *as specified in Rule 19 & 21*. The collecting ring must be stewarded at all times.

#### **Stabling**

51. **From 12<sup>th</sup> April 2021 overnight stays are permitted, with a horsebox providing accommodation. If you are travelling horses / ponies it is reasonable to expect these to be stabled in order to support any overnight stay. If staying away, it will be necessary to remain in your bubbles and to take all necessary social distancing measures required under the government guidance. Any location or venue supporting overnight horsebox parking and stabling will need to take all appropriate social distancing measures. Any catering facility will only be permitted if outside and any bathroom facilities must meet all PPE requirements.**

#### **Judging of Classes**

52. In the ring the line-up must be spaced according to current recommendations on social distancing (2 metres); this will also apply to In-Hand classes.
53. In ridden classes animals may be stripped for the conformation assessment provided a 2-metre distance can be maintained between each of the competitors. Grooms may only enter the ring at an appropriate time to play their role when indicated by the steward; Grooms should not remain in the ring any longer than is absolutely necessary. Only 1 groom may enter the ring per exhibitor. The groom must wear a face covering at all times when in the ring. Riders will also need to wear a face covering when dismounted. Both Rider and Groom will try to maintain the

- maximum distancing possible whilst working. Both competitor and groom must stick to their own 2 metre space allocated whilst in the ring. **The attending groom will be responsible for the rider being able to remount the exhibit. Stewards will not be able to assist with this.**
54. When an animal is presented and trotted up for the conformation assessment, the judge must remain at a distance of 2 metres from the competitor and exhibit at all times. It is recommended Judges wear a face covering for this section and Judges must not touch exhibits.
55. **Ride judges are permitted to return from the 17<sup>th</sup> May 2021 – please see point 56 below:**
56. **Operational Notes to assist with the return of the Ride Judge, not before 17<sup>th</sup> May 2021:**
- a) All horses must be pulled into line at least 2 metres and this should be marked out in advance using a safe method to mark the ground (spray, small cones or dots etc.)
  - b) Competitors must wear a face covering at all times when not mounted in the ring.
  - c) Grooms will not enter the ring until their exhibit has been ridden.
  - d) Grooms must be wearing a face covering at all times when in the ring.
  - e) The legger-up must wear a face covering at all times when in the ring.
  - f) Horses will be pulled forward not less than 2 meters in front of the line.
  - g) The legger-upper (wearing a mask) moves in to sanitise reins and saddle/stirrups/leathers and makes any necessary adjustments. It is advisable to ensure any sanitiser is leather-friendly before use.
  - h) The ride judge will approach the horse from the front and near side and go directly and prepare to be legged up.
  - i) The legger-up will keep a 2m distance until appropriate, i.e., the judge is ready to be legged up.
  - j) The legger-up will approach directly from behind the ride judge. The judge will already be facing the horse, with their back to the legger-up.
  - k) The leg up will take place and the legger-up will step immediately to a 2m distance, as will the competitor (wearing a face covering), when safe to do so.
  - l) Whilst the judge is mounting, the competitor (wearing a face covering), will stand at the front of the horse.
  - m) The judge should return to the back of the line to be met by the competitor, not less than 2m from the back of the line.
  - n) Before the competitor returns the exhibit back into line, the ride judge should walk through the 4-metre gap directly to the next exhibit (see Appendix 2 attached).
  - o) The competitor of exhibit which has just been ridden must remain in place until the legger-upper has sanitised their tack.
  - p) All PPE precautions should be taken by all involved, at appropriate moments:
    1. The legger-up should sanitise the reins before the ride judge approaches any exhibit and after any exhibit has been ridden.
    2. Legger-up will sanitise hands between each leg up.
    3. The ride judge should sanitise hands before and after each class commences (every exhibit should be sanitised before and after the ride judge rides).
    4. Competitors and grooms must sanitise their hands at regular intervals. Grooms should wear gloves if possible.

**For pictorial guide to assist with the return of the Ride Judge, please refer to *Appendix 2* (separately attached).**

57. Rosettes should be individually presented for the competitor to pick up themselves from a basket or on a tray that the steward / judge will hold *out at arm's length whilst wearing a face covering. They should not be presented directly.* If a rosette is dropped it will be collected by the steward and taken to the secretary's office. Shows may choose to send rosettes out after the show or have a safe central point for collection after the class. Sashes and trophies should not be presented in the ring.
58. Stewards should provide their own pens and clipboards if at all possible. Any shared equipment should be thoroughly cleaned in advance of use and again before re-use.
59. If marks are to be used, stewards will need to take all necessary PPE precautions (for example, face coverings and regular hand sanitising) as per the government guidelines in order to keep a safe distance from the judge and any other steward. For example, instead of working face-to-face, stewards could work side-by-side, or back-to-back. It is necessary to avoid working face-to face (See Appendix 1).
60. Judges and stewards are advised to provide their own food and drink.

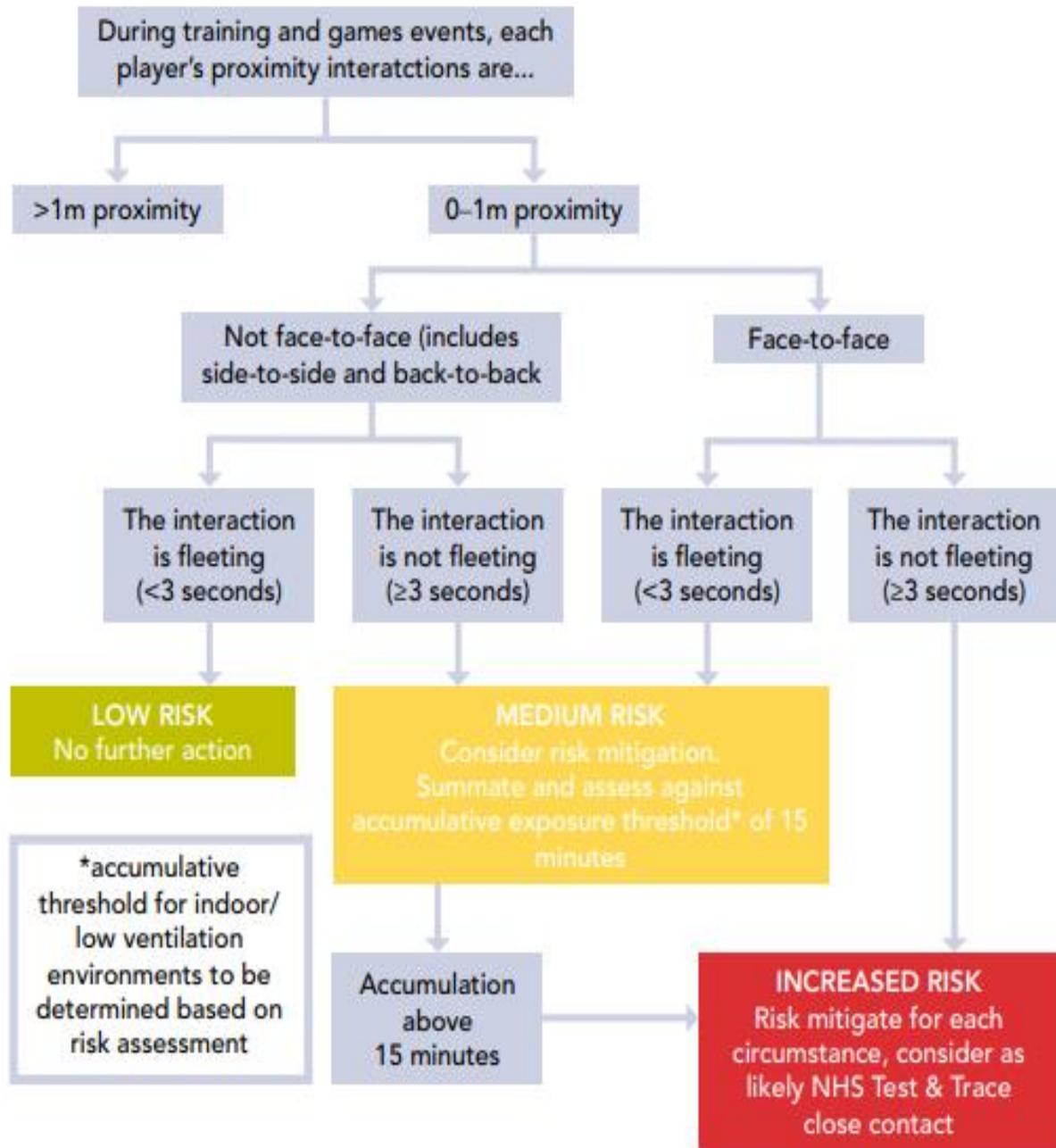
## **PPE**

61. The use of face coverings is recommended for judges and stewards. The WHO advises against the use of face coverings for competitors but if worn they must be soft and not attached to the hat.
62. Individuals are responsible for their own PPE provision; however, it is advisable for the show organisers to keep a small stock of PPE (face coverings, nitrile gloves) to use in case of emergency.
63. When social distancing is not possible, face coverings **MUST** be worn i.e., stewards, medical teams, grooms who do not reside with the rider.
64. Hand sanitisation to be available in each ring for the use of the judge and steward.

## **After Classes have been judged**

65. Competitors must leave the showground as soon as they are finished and must remain in the vicinity of their own lorry when not competing. Socialising or watching classes in which there is no involvement should be heavily discouraged.
66. All competitors must take all litter home. There may well not be any facilities to dispose of litter on the showground. No litter dropping will be tolerated at all due to the risk of contamination.
67. No mark sheets will be available at the show office but may be viewed online after the show.
68. If Photographers are providing on-site facilities to view and purchase photographs, they must carry this out in an appropriate format so as to ensure all government guidelines are adhered to. It will be necessary for the service provider to carry out a full risk assessment and share this with the Event Organiser/s. It is advisable sales are managed via an online facility.

**APPENDIX 1 - Operational Plan Diagram for Risk (supplied by British Equestrian)**



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