

## Discipline-specific guidelines for FEI Eventing Events taking place during the Covid-19 pandemic

### Purpose

This document provides FEI Event Organisers (“OCs”) with detailed guidance for the management of FEI Eventing Events during the Covid-19 pandemic. The measures outlined aim to apply to all aspects of the Event the hygiene and social distancing principles necessary to reduce the risk of Covid-19 transmission.

This document must be read and used in conjunction with:

- The [FEI Policy for Enhanced Competition Safety during the Covid-19 Pandemic](#), and in particular article VII “Recommended Best Practice for FEI Event Organisers” which provides general guidance for all FEI Events.
- The [Veterinary-specific Guidelines for FEI Events taking place during the Covid-19 Pandemic](#) which outline the veterinary processes applicable in each FEI discipline.

*These guidelines are best practice recommendations. They do not intend to replace the regulations and policies imposed by the national and local health authorities, but to supplement them with considerations that are unique to Eventing.*

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## I. Best Practice

Please refer to « Best Practice Recommendations » from the [FEI Policy for Enhanced Competition Safety during the Covid-19 Pandemic](#).

It is recommended in particular that the below measures are implemented – taking into account that these main principles are applied throughout the Event:

### **SOCIAL DISTANCING:**

- Enforce social distancing requirements throughout the venue at all times.

### **ENHANCED COMMUNICATION:**

- Communication plan to be prepared in advance to make sure that all persons attending the Event are informed about the measures applying at the Event before they enter the venue and know who to contact in case of need; (NB: a checklist for OCs is available at <https://inside.fei.org/fei/covid-19/return-to-play/resources>);
- Emergency Response Plan instructions in relation to Covid-19 should be communicated to applicable personnel and included in the Covid-19 Communication Plan for the Event.

### **SANITIZING AND PERSONAL PROTECTIVE MEASURES:**

- Provide hand sanitiser and PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) to all Officials, warm-up & arena crew, show office staff (masks) and maintenance staff (masks; masks and gloves for staff in charge of cleaning);
- It is strongly recommended that face masks are worn at all times except when mounted on a horse (training or competing);
- Provide hand sanitisation stations with access to soap and water or alcohol based hand sanitiser throughout the grounds (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/cleaning-disinfecting-decision-tool.html>);
  - OC to check all hand sanitiser points are operational before site opens and that the OC has adequate hand sanitizer for the number of people attending. These points should be available for the duration of the Event and designated staff to monitor supplies and maintain throughout the Event;
  - Sanitary facilities should be sufficient to prevent crowding (with possible designated sanitary facilities throughout venue for participants, Officials, personnel, Cross Country control staff, spectators).

#### **VENUE ACCESS AND CIRCULATION:**

- Limit the number of entry points to the venue;
- Control vehicle access to venue (i.e. only accredited vehicles to be given access to venue) Consider implementing 'print at home' car pass and public ticketing (even if free of charge) to facilitate control at venue entrance;
- Define clearly signed one-way system throughout the venue;
- Separate parking with a minimum distance of 2 metres between vehicles for:
  - Lorry park
  - Volunteer, owner, Officials, OC, service providers car park
  - Public car park.

#### **SCREENING:**

- Where possible, have a screening plan (temperature screening and standard Covid-19 screening questions);
- Designate a member of the Event organisation to be responsible for preparing and overseeing the Covid-19 screening plan;
- Assess number of screeners required to adequately cover competition entries each day and designate specific personnel that will fulfil these duties with a schedule;
- Anyone failing screening should seek outside medical attention.

#### **NON-COMPLIANCE:**

As with any measures taken by the OC under the [FEI Policy for Enhanced Competition Safety during the Covid-19 Pandemic](#), anyone refusing to comply with the risk mitigation measures put into place by OCs under these Guidelines may be asked by the OC to leave the venue.

## **II. Practical recommendations to enforce social distancing**

- Encourage all activities to take place in the outdoor/open air as much as possible;
- Limit non-essential activities that encourage gatherings;
- Provide as much information as possible to Athletes, Officials, and volunteers online before the event. Post venue flow maps at competitions grounds entrances and signage throughout the venue including recommendations about good hygiene, ways to reduce the risk of Covid-19 transmission (if possible, maps to be posted online);
- Catering outlets as well as trade stands for essential competition goods to adhere to social distancing protocols in queuing a consumption and sanitary measures;
- Limit permitted persons in show office to minimum and only authorized staff members in order to respect social distancing.

## 1. Athletes

- As much as possible, information should be coordinated and sent out by the OC beforehand directly to the Athletes entered including timetables, time sheets, course plans and results should be online, clearly time and date marked. OC to publish as much information as possible on website or via social media, to avoid circulating and sharing paper;
- Consider implementing 'print at home' bibs;
- Restrict the necessity of Athletes and/or team to designate 1 representative per National Federation to meet with the OC including visiting competition Office, providing medical or next of kin information. Arrangements for bibs to be collected should be made;
- Where possible, encourage entry fees to be paid via bank transfer;
- If a person receives a SARS-CoV-2 positive test result or is diagnosed with Covid-19:
  - while present at the event; or
  - after the event, if the health authority who tested/diagnosed the person considers that they may have contracted the virus or could have infected other persons while attending the event,

this person should inform the OC immediately.

The OC must then immediately inform the relevant health authorities in order to enable any Covid-19 case isolation, contact tracing and contact quarantine measures required by the domestic law and policies.

## 2. Officials / Volunteers

- Organise video conferences for briefing of Officials, Fence Judges and Volunteers before the Event;
- Stewards, Officials, OC, competitors to ensure and enforce social distancing during all parts of the competitions, arrival, veterinary examinations, horse inspection(s), warm-up, Dressage/Cross Country and Jumping tests;
- Discussion between Officials or hearings with Athletes should preferably take place outside, wearing masks.

## III. Show office & administration

Taking into account the Recommended Best Practices for FEI Event Organisers in the [FEI Policy for Enhanced Competition Safety during the Covid-19 Pandemic](#), a plan must be devised and implemented to ensure social distancing and adequate hygiene:

- At the various steps of the event administration (such as invoicing, orders etc.)
- In the show office
- During staff, volunteers and Officials briefings
- For shuttles and all venue vehicles

Regular cleaning and disinfection schedules must be established for all areas and equipment in the venue, including Judges box(es), score box(es), press & commentator box(es), volunteers material.

Pre-packaged individual food and bottled drink should be made available to personnel, Officials and volunteers if necessary.

#### **IV. Stabling**

- Masks should be worn at all times by everyone present in the stables;
- Organize a clear one-way circulation traffic from the examination on arrival to the allocated stabling to minimise face-to-face contact;
- If possible, Horses to be allocated in alternate stables with space to store all equipment in spare stables, alternate solution to be included depending on layout of stables;
- When possible, temporary stables should be spread out;
- Minimum stable staff in stables for minimum time necessary and not to congregate in stable corridor area; OC to monitor arrival to stables to avoid crowding and ensure space for waiting while maintaining social distancing;
- Maximum of 2 persons allowed in stable area with each horse at any time;
- Farrier to have designated work area and to wear mask while within working within 2 metre safe distance. Only one person to walk a horse to the farrier;
- Avoid sharing of material, equipment or grooming kit, if sharing is necessary, thoroughly wipe with sanitising material after use (before it is used by other people).

#### **V. Consequences of the removal of a team member due to Covid-19**

If a team member has to leave the event due to SARS-CoV-2 contamination or suspected contamination (positive test, Covid-19 diagnosis, notification of close contact with an infected person by the relevant health authorities), the removal from the team will be considered as due to medical reasons and the consequences for the team will be determined as prescribed in article 530.2 of the FEI Eventing Rules.

#### **VI. Horse inspection, warm-up and competition areas**

- Face masks should be worn at all times except when mounted on a horse;
- Stewards to ensure steady flow of Athletes and horses to the horse inspection, warm-up and competition arenas without excessive queuing/crowding and observing a one-way system in and out of the horse inspection, holding box and arenas if necessary; preventing also non-essential personnel from congregating in entrance and exit;

- It is recommended that several schooling arenas be proposed and additional practice fences be available to limit social contact.

## VII. During Competition

It is strongly recommended that face masks are worn at all times except when mounted on a horse.

### 1. Dressage

- Ensure social distancing is maintained in Judge boxes;
- At each rotation of the Judges/scribes, the table, chairs and all materials should be carefully cleaned with a sanitising solution;
- When possible, no paper scoresheets should be given out at the competition. Scoresheets may be requested following the competition and sent via email.

### 2. Cross Country

- Ensure Athletes & Officials respect social distancing during course walks;
- Equip fence Judges, builders, stewards, fence repair team and course volunteers with relevant PPE and individual cleaned charts, radios, pens...;
- Fence Judge Equipment to be made available before start at each fence;
- Only 1 person per horse in addition to Athlete to attend start;
- OC/TD to insist that specific start times be respected, and ensure interval start times avoid overcrowding in Cross Country warm-up;
- Consider separating functions in Cross Country control (scorer, controller, commentator) with Perspex shields;
- OCs to keep volunteers working in same pairs/ teams throughout the Event as far as possible and avoid Volunteers having to change position in their task allocation;
- Designated area for each horse in finish area;
- All participants to wash hands with soap and water on entry and exit to cooling /wash down area;
- No sharing of tack, buckets or any other equipment between Athletes/Grooms.

### 3. Jumping

- Where possible, have separate entry and exit points to the warm-up and competition arenas;
- In the competition arena, consider having the same team into place to put back the poles for designated obstacles (each person handling the same side of poles);
- Have the poles disinfected when changing teams;

- The Ground Jury box should only be accessible to the minimum required staff/Officials;
- For boot and bandage check, provide hand sanitiser for the appointed Officials.

#### **VIII. Medical Services – Athletes falls & injured Athletes**

- Medical service providers should always wear a mask and gloves when tending injured athletes;
- Anyone else providing help should wear a mask, sanitise hands frequently and maintain adequate distance whenever possible;
- The Athlete should be given a mask (unless in medical distress);
- The medical facility and ambulance will be managed in accordance with the requirements from the local health authorities.

##### **DIGNITY TENT:**

- Consider the addition of a “Dignity Tent” on Cross Country: a designated area on Cross Country to assess cases of “light” falls or injuries athletes to ensure the ambulance is sanitized for fallen athletes requiring more assistance and treatment.
- The Event Safety Officer (or Chief Medical Officer) to review location on course (or nearby), staffing and supplies.
  - This space could be provided as a gazebo or sturdy tent with a door, with at least a chair and a table;
  - It should be placed near the ambulance so that crew can have access to ambulance easily and necessary medical supplies;
  - It should allow social distancing and an “outdoors” sheltered area.

#### **IX. Prize giving, Awards and End of competition**

- As of 1 September 2020, the [Covid-19 guidelines for prize giving protocols and media activities at FEI Events](#) apply to all FEI Events. Under these guidelines, the wearing of face masks is mandatory for everyone involved in prize givings, including athletes unless they are mounted on a horse or driving a carriage. There is also a specific protocol for podium presentations;
- Where possible, encourage prize money to be paid via bank transfer.