

## **BRC coronavirus update 16:30 Tuesday 17 March 2020**

We are understandably receiving a number of queries about the current situation regarding coronavirus and BRC events and activities. We share your frustrations and concerns and have taken time to listen to government advice, using it to make a decision on the next steps we should take within BRC.

After the government's update yesterday evening (Monday 16 March 2020), we are now able to issue the following updates:

1. We strongly recommend that no riding club activities of any nature should take place from midnight tonight, up to and including 30<sup>th</sup> June 2020. This decision has been taken to support the government's most recent advice on social distancing, reducing pressures on the NHS and the care of vulnerable individuals.
2. We would encourage committee meetings to take place virtually if possible, to enable planning for future activities once restrictions are lifted.
3. In line with this advice, we regret to announce the cancellation of the following BRC championships:
  - a. SEIB Novice Winter Championships at Arena UK on 28 - 29 March 2020
  - b. HorseHage and Mollichaff Intermediate Winter Championships at Bury Farm on 24 – 26 April 2020
  - c. FibreBeet Festival of the Horse Championships at Aston-le-Walls on 30 – 31 May 2020
  - d. NAF Five Star Horse Trials Championships at Swalcliffe Park Equestrian on 7 - 9 August 2020

With the current 30 June restriction, the first three championships fall under the time frame as detailed above. Whilst the National Horse Trials Championships fall outside of this restriction period, we are mindful that it would leave a very short window in which to hold qualifiers. Various options have been explored with regards to the event format and entry requirements, however, due to the nature of the event, it has not been possible to find a safe and viable way forward.

All championship entries that have been processed for the above cancelled events will be refunded in accordance with our refund policy detailed in Rule G2.3, which is that a 75% refund will be issued. Although our stable bookings are non-refundable, we are aware that this is a very difficult time for our members, and so we have taken the decision to refund all stable bookings in full on this occasion. The team here at HQ will be working to process these as soon as practically possible, however, please do bear with us as this will undoubtedly take some time.

This is a very challenging time for us all and we know that you are understandably worried about the on-going care of your horses. The BHS will be updating their advice and guidance on the common issues we all now face with regards to our equestrian pursuits.

We are aware that the situation is constantly evolving, and we will issue regular communications to keep you informed of any further updates in line with government advice.

The BRC team and committee are extremely disappointed to lose these events as we enjoy running them as much as you all enjoy attending. However, in the current climate it's important that we all take the responsible approach.