

Dear Trainer,

We are writing to advise you of the medication declaration process for the **Aintree Grand National Festival 2021**, including pre-race veterinary examinations. For those who had a runner at the Cheltenham Festival this year, the process is the same.

Trainers with entries in the following three races at the Grand National Festival are required to submit completed medication declaration forms.

- **THE RANDOX HEALTH FOXHUNTERS' OPEN HUNTERS' STEEPLE CHASE**
- **THE RANDOX HEALTH TOPHAM HANDICAP STEEPLE CHASE**
- **THE RANDOX HEALTH GRAND NATIONAL HANDICAP STEEPLE CHASE**

The requirements to submit **medication records** apply to all runners in these **three races**, with records covering the period from 21st February 2021 to the day of the relevant race at the Festival.

The proper completion and submission of the forms by the required time and date is a requirement of the Rules of Racing and a failure to do so will result in the respective horse being ineligible to run.

Medication Declaration Forms

There are **TWO** forms to complete and submit for the medication declaration process. Trainers must fill out forms for each of their runners. **Form A** can be completed online and **must** be submitted in advance. **Form B** will also be completed online and must be submitted by 20:00 (GMT) the day before raceday.

Medication Declaration Form A

Trainers with runners competing in the three races must have completed a Medication Declaration Form (**Form A**) by 17:00 (GMT) **Thursday 1st April 2021**. This form has two parts:

- Part One: This is for any medications which were given to the horse **between the dates of 21st February and 31st March 2021 inclusive**. These medications would include routine injections, oral preparations and creams.
- Part Two: This is for any **long-term effect medications including all joint medications and bisphosphonates, and any courses of non-steroidal anti-inflammatories (e.g. phenylbutazone, meloxicam, suxibutazone)** that have been given to the horse in the **six months up to and including 31st March 2021**.

Form A must be completed online by 17:00 (GMT) Thursday 1st April. Please note, horses will be **ineligible** to race in the above listed three races if Form A has not been received by the stipulated deadline.

The new online form can be found via:

<https://www.cognitofrms.com/BritishHorseracingAuthority/aintreemedicationforma20212>

It allows you to save your progress as you go, so you can choose whether to complete the form gradually throughout the declaration period (recommended, particularly for trainers with multiple entries), or in a single sitting.

The form includes drop-down menus that will help you to select:

- Horse's name
- Medications and treatments, including medication type, trade name and active ingredient.

The guide to completing the form is available via:

<http://media.britishhorseracing.com/bha/forms/AintreeFestivalMedicationFormAGuide.pdf>

For security purposes, you will be asked to provide a **four-digit code** before you submit the form. The code will be emailed to you directly prior to the deadline.

Medication Declaration Form B

Medication Declaration **Form B** must also be completed and submitted online. Form B outlines any medications or treatments administered to the horse **since Wednesday 31st March**, and must be submitted online by 20:00 (GMT) the day before raceday.

The link to Form B will be emailed to you directly after the Form A deadline.

Please note, horses will be ineligible to race at The Festival if Form B has not been received by the stipulated deadline.

Pre-race examination process

All runners in all races at Aintree Grand National Festival will receive a pre-race examination and trot-up at the racecourse on the morning of their race.

To minimise delays, the earlier in the morning that the pre-race examinations take place, the better for trainers, horses and veterinary staff. Therefore, we ask that horses arrive at the racecourse by midday on the day of the race.

Notification of Poor Movers

Trainers who have a horse they are planning to run at The Festival which may be described as a "poor mover" or has an "asymmetrical gait" should identify these horses to the BHA as soon as possible.

This will enable us to observe the horse, discuss and note any abnormalities in consultation with the relevant trainers and their stable veterinarians well in advance of the raceday. It will also help to avoid any last-minute dispute or disappointment and ensure that trainers have an opportunity to provide insight and information relating to these horses. We are aiming to complete discussions and assessments relating to these horses as quickly as we can, ideally by **2nd April**.

In such cases, we first ask you to send us a short video clip via WhatsApp to Gemma Grant (+44 (0) 7391 866952) – see the video [here](#) for an example. The trot-up should be on a loose lead, for 25 metres, away from and back towards the camera. Please state the name of the horse at the beginning of the video. If you are unsure whether this applies to any of your horses, please contact James Given on 07826671535 and he will be happy to discuss this with you.

Summary

- Trainers with runners in the **three races** noted above are required to submit **TWO** medication records to the BHA.
 - **Form A** (submitted in advance) covers all medications given between 21st February – 31st March 2021 and any medication with a long-term effect given in the previous six months. This must be submitted by **17:00 (GMT) 1st April 2021**.
 - **Form B** includes any medication or treatment administered since **31st March 2021**. Form B must be completed online by **20:00 (GMT) the day before raceday**.



- Any additional queries about the medication declaration process should be directed to the Aintree Medication helpdesk via aintree-meds@britishhorseracing.com or +44 (0) 20 7152 0153.
- Trainers with Aintree Festival horses that may be described as “poor movers”, or which have an “asymmetrical gait” should identify these horses to Gemma Grant at the BHA on +44 (0) 7391 866952 as soon as possible. Contact James Given on +44 (0) 7826 671535 if you require any further information or advice on this.

Many thanks in advance for your assistance with this process.

Kind regards,

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