

Dear Trainer,

We are writing to advise you of the medication declaration process for the **Aintree Grand National Festival 2022**, 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 FOXHUNTERS' OPEN HUNTERS' STEEPLE CHASE**
- **THE RANDOX TOPHAM HANDICAP STEEPLE CHASE**
- **THE RANDOX 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 2022** to the day of the relevant race at the Aintree Grand National Festival.

The proper completion and submission of the forms by the specified 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**.

Please note that there will be **NO** dispensation this year for any submissions received after the deadline, even if the initial intention has been to not run, i.e. if the decision is later taken to declare to get the entry fee back, this will not be possible without Form A having been submitted by the deadline.

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. In line with last year, **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 of all horses competing at the Aintree Grand National Festival must have completed and submitted a Medication Declaration Form (**Form A**) by **17:00 (GMT) Thursday 31st March 2022**. This form has two parts:

- Part One: This is for any medications which were given to the horse **between 21st February and 30th March 2022 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 *etc*) that have been given to the horse in the **six months up to Wednesday 30th March**.

Trainers with a runner that participated in the Cheltenham Festival need only complete Form A from 8th – 30th March.

[This applies ONLY to horses that participated at the Cheltenham Festival.](#)

Form A must be completed online by 17:00 (GMT) Thursday 31st March. Please note, horses will be **ineligible** to race at The Festival if Form A has not been received by the stipulated deadline.

The online form can be found here:

<https://www.cognitofrms.com/BritishHorseracingAuthority/aintreefestivalmedicationforma2022>

The Form 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:

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

The guide to completing the form is available via:

<https://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. This year, the code will be emailed to you no later than 72hrs 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 30th March** after submission of Form A and must be submitted online by 20:00 (GMT) the day before raceday.

The link to Form B will be emailed to you after the Medication Declaration 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 the 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 Grand National 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 **1st 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 are required to submit **TWO** medication records to the BHA for every Grand National Festival runner in the three races named above.
 - **Form A** (submitted in advance) covers all medications given between 21st February – 30th March 2022 and any medication with a long-term effect given in the previous six months up to and including Wednesday 30th 2022. This must be submitted **online by 17:00 (GMT) Thursday 31st March 2022**.
 - **Form B** includes any medication or treatment administered since **Wednesday 30th March**. Form B must be completed online by **20:00 (GMT) the day before raceday**.
 - Forms must be **completed** and **submitted** by the deadline specified. Failure to do so will result in the respective horse(s) being **ineligible to run**. There will be **NO** dispensation this year for any submissions not made by the deadline.
- 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 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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