

## Summary Information for Trainers

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### 1. Introduction

Firstly, our continued thanks to Trainers, and your representatives', for your sustained efforts in ensuring biosecurity requirements in relation to Equine Influenza are maintained – your understanding, teamwork and organisation in this area is much appreciated.

Following liaison with the NTF, we wish to provide Trainers with regular status updates and planned initiatives pertaining to a range of racecourse operations which may affect you, with a view to providing you with advance notification and the opportunity to provide feedback.

This summary document aims to provide you with clarity and direction on BHA aims and objectives pertaining to racecourse operations, in a consolidated format, which hopefully is useful for planning your raceday.

We would welcome your feedback as to this documents usefulness and if there is anything else we can regularly update you on. Please provide to: [emarley@britishhorseracing.com](mailto:emarley@britishhorseracing.com)

### 2. Starting Team Updates

As we launch into the turf Flat Season, we would like to update you on a few areas affecting race starts from stalls.

#### 2.1. Loading Process

As you are aware, the normal loading procedure is for horses drawn in the **odd** numbered stalls to go in **first**, then **even** numbered stalls. Generally, horses that need blindfolds are loaded first, and certain horses are given special dispensation to load late, due to their past behaviour.

It is important to make clear what time parameters are given for loading horses, especially those who are reluctant.

Generally, we guide our team to give a horse a maximum of 2 minutes to load, if the process is started early enough, and no other horse is loaded. Horses are normally not given over 1 minute if there are runners already in the stalls (with 4 Pushers, Blindfold and/or a Twist). This is all in the interests of fairness and safety; we wish to avoid horses standing for excessively long periods, risk them becoming unsettled/having an accident and being consistent in our operations.

#### 2.2. New Flat Horses for Trainers

If you acquire a new flat horse(s) which has raced in GB or overseas, please do not hesitate to contact our starting team for their stall's behavioural history. We keep accurate records on domestic loading operations and have good relationships with relevant starting personnel in foreign jurisdictions, therefore can help furnish you with any information of this nature you require.

#### 2.3. Blindfolds

Blindfolds are a regular loading aid if all other attempts fail i.e. turns, pushers. We respectfully request your help in getting horses' familiar with this aid. If our team knows a horse is unfamiliar with a blindfold, we will try to place one on slightly away from the stalls in the interests of safety, to gauge the horse's reaction before attempting a load.

If you do not want a horse to have a blindfold please inform the starter(s) prior to the race.

Also, if you feel strongly that your horse should never be presented with a blindfold at any stage of its starting career out of stalls, please inform the Starters and we will note this on your horse's stall behaviour record, which all the team have access to, and we will abide by your wishes.

### 3.1. Blindfold Design

We are always looking to enhance equipment and following several occasions of blindfolds getting stuck/not pulled off in time, along with the increased use of headgear, we are investigating ways to adapt the design and have introduced practical training on blindfold removal on the Jockeys courses at the BRS and NRC.

We have looked at the French design, with a rope attached, however on consultation with some jockeys and trainers its was felt that there was risk of the rope getting tangled, thus a potential safety issue.



We are trialling a design, with a silk underside, which is aimed at making the removal process smoother by sliding over bridle/headgear surfaces.



Naturally, this must be balanced with the need to stay in place and not come off, of its own accord. **We would welcome your feedback on this design when you see it around the racecourses (starters will be travelling the country with these adapted blindfolds) and any other design ideas that might assist Jockeys in their safe and effective removal.**

### 3. Feeding horses in official racecourse stables

In order to ensure stables meet biosecurity standards and a high standard of cleanliness, the racecourses would be grateful for your, and your teams, assistance by informing the stable



Racecourse Operations  
26 April 2019

manager of the stable number your horse has been fed in. We thank you in advance for your help in this matter.

If you have any questions or feedback on the above, please contact:

Robbie Supple (Starters Team Principal) [rsupple@britishhorseracing.com](mailto:rsupple@britishhorseracing.com)

Emma Marley (Head of Racecourse Operations) [emarley@britishhorseracing.com](mailto:emarley@britishhorseracing.com)

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