

NTF WEEKLY UPDATE – 07 JUNE 2024 – Issue No. 1384

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MEMBER SERVICES

2024 NTF Badges

The application form for the next round of photo ID accreditations will remain open until 11pm on Sunday 9th June.

At this stage, we still have a large number of badge holders who have yet to be provided with photo IDs and we anticipate that they may have difficulties in gaining entry to racecourses without them.

The form is available [HERE](#)

Racing Post [Members' Club](#) online discount increased to 50%

We are pleased to be able to announce that the discount applied to Racing Post Members' Club for NTF members that was put in place in 2022 has been increased to 50% (previously 25%).

This offer is open to all NTF members and can be activated when subscribing by using a discount code that can be provided by contacting Jill Crook at the NTF office: Email: j.crook@racehorsetrainers.org T: 01488 71792

If you have any queries please contact the Racing Post's dedicated customer service team at help@racingpost.com.

NTF Fees

Members are asked to note the communication that was sent out on May 24th regarding increases to NTF fees that came into effect on 1st June. A full explanation of the background to, and specifics of, the fee increase are available [HERE](#)

INDUSTRY NEWS

Racecourse going

We have received complaints in recent weeks about the provision of going at some racecourses. We have requested that the BHA investigate events at these courses which, in both cases, seemed to water excessively ahead of a wet forecast.

We will be meeting with the BHA in the coming weeks to discuss the process by which we can request the BHA to investigate such feedback and how it will be dealt with.

The intent of this is to drive continual improvement in the quality and accuracy of information that is provided to trainers to support running plans.

Should you wish to provide feedback on going conditions, or other facilities, at any fixture, please do so by accessing the feedback form that is available [HERE](#)

Sleip motion analysis trial

The BHA announced on Tuesday that the Sleip motion analysis technology would be trialled at existing pre race trot up examinations. Many trainers will already be familiar with Sleip, which offers a simple way of tracking points on a horse's moving body using a smartphone and providing stride-by-stride analysis – helping to detect any asymmetries in a horse's gait. For more information on Sleip <https://sleip.com/>

From 12 June 2024, Sleip will be available for use at all Summer Jumps fixtures where all-card trot ups are due to take place. This will be on a trial basis, with trainers invited to volunteer to help BHA veterinary officers test whether the technology could be used more widely on a raceday.

The technology will then be gradually introduced for testing at all-card trot-ups at Flat fixtures from mid July and then at National Hunt fixtures in the Autumn, giving as many trainers as possible the opportunity to see how it works and provide feedback.

As the trial is voluntary, the results captured by Sleip motion analysis will not contribute to decision-making on raceday about whether or not a horse is considered suitable to race. This will continue to be determined by BHA veterinary officers in the normal way.

To gain a better understanding of the trial the NTF has asked William Jarvis to attend the following days where the all card trot ups will be taking place.

12th June Fontwell

15th July Windsor

16th July Nottingham

If members have any concerns please reach out to William on the day or contact George Noad g.noad@racehorsetrainers.org in the NTF office.

The full press release by the BHA can be found [here](#)

Equine Influenza Vaccinations – Updated Deadline

Please note that as of 1 June 2024, the deadline for having equine influenza vaccination information uploaded and approved on the Weatherbys Vaccination App was amended as follows:

- Trainers will now have until 4pm on the day a race closes to resolve any issues with horse's vaccination status.
- The deadline for the Trainer's veterinary surgeon to verify vaccinations will continue to be 9am the day after the race closes.

This follows a review of the trial introduced last year to give trainers additional time after entries had closed to address any outstanding issues with their horse's vaccination status.

As part of the trial, the deadline was extended from midday on the day of the race to 9am the following day.

However, it has become evident that the 9am deadline does not allow sufficient time for updates on the Vaccination App to be manually processed – leading to delays in getting information out to participants and the public.

As such, trainers will continue to be given additional time to ensure the correct information has been recorded on the Weatherbys App, but the deadline has been brought forward to 4pm on the day the race closes, rather than 9am on the following day.

Veterinary surgeons will still have until 9am the day after entries close to verify the vaccination records, and the email reminder system will remain in place to help reduce the likelihood of a situation where a horse is not qualified to race.

Changes to the Rules of Racing

Use of Ice Prior to Racing

The use of ice on a horse prior to racing will not be permitted once the horse has arrived at the racecourse, unless approved by a BHA veterinary officer.

Previously, ice was allowed to be applied to a horse on a racecourse up until two hours before the start time of a race, and within two hours if approval was granted.

As ice can be used to mask pain, it has now been agreed that ice or other cooling devices can only be used once a horse enters a racecourse if permission is granted by a veterinary officer.

Rule (E) 9.2 will be updated accordingly on 1 July 2024.

Use of Equipment in Racecourse Stables

An addition to the Rules intended to make clear what equipment is not permitted to be used on horses in the racecourse stables area.

Unless approved by a BHA veterinary officer, items designed or advertised to have an effect on the horse's body system, such as magnetic boots, magnetic rugs and massage pads, should not be brought onto racecourse property.

Rule (E) 9.3 will be added to the Rules on 1 July 2024.

Sensory Hair Removal

The removal of sensory hairs (more commonly known as whiskers) will no longer be permitted, bringing British racing into line with other international equestrian disciplines.

Unless removed by a veterinarian on welfare grounds or to allow for treatment, the sensory hairs around a horse's mouth, nose and eyes can no longer be clipped, shaven or removed in any way.

This change has been made to help ensure a horse's tactile sensory function is not compromised, which can happen if sensory hairs are removed.

Rule (D)3.3 will be added to the Rules on 1 July 2024.

Use of Lip Chains

An amendment to the Equipment Code for lip chains to provide greater clarity about the circumstances in which they can be used on a racecourse.

From 1 July, lip chains can only be used if the chain is covered and connected to a lead rope which is under the control of a handler on the ground.

A trainer can also now apply a lip chain without permission from a veterinary officer.

Veterinary officers will be monitoring to ensure lip chains are being used in the right way, to help avoid any discomfort to the horse or injury to others if used incorrectly.

Paragraph 18 of the Equipment Code will be updated to reflect this change.

Horse Welfare Board: Racecourse Galloping and Schooling Race Survey

Recent studies have shown that schooling race and galloping opportunities on racecourses provide a valuable stepping stone from the home training grounds to the first experience of a competitive race environment.

The BHA's Equine Safety Steering Group (ESSG) has deemed this area worthy of further exploration, and this HWB survey is the first step on that journey.

The purpose of the survey is to gauge the level of support British trainers would give if it were possible to implement a similar system in the UK to that run in Ireland.

We shall be liaising and working with the Point-to-Point Association (PPA) and the Racecourse Association (RCA) throughout the project.

Your feedback at this stage will be pivotal to the direction taken, and a high response rate is vital to the credibility of the survey, so please do complete this if you can.

Conscious of your time pressures, we have deliberately made the first section short with 16 multiple choice questions. It should take no more than five to ten minutes to complete. The final questions allow free text answers, so those of you who wish to give more expansive thoughts and feedback can do so there.

The survey is anonymous, and raw data will be discarded once analysed, so please speak freely.

Additional information can be found in Jane Hedley's MBA paper: [Evaluation of Racecourse Galloping and Schooling activity](#) - J Hedley November 2023

and if you have any queries or would like to discuss the idea further, please contact Pip Kirkby: pkirkby@racehorsewelfare.co.uk

Thank you for your time. Please access the survey here - [Racecourse Galloping and Schooling Survey](#)

Placings appeals

Where placings are altered following a steward's enquiry, the timeframe under the rules for submitting an appeal to the BHA are as follows:

2 working days - In cases where the jockey is suspended and appeals that suspension

7 days - In other cases

We are currently discussing options with the BHA that will enhance communications to trainers in cases where the right of appeal will be open to them and will provide a further update in due course.

The NTF legal expenses insurance policy does not cover representation at placings appeals – however the NTF team is on hand for members to discuss the processes for an appeal, the format of a notice of appeal and what the Judicial Panel will consider at an appeal.

Owner disputes

We have a considerable number of trainers contacting us regarding unpaid debts or other owner disputes and looking to use the NTF legal expenses insurance scheme.

To have cover under the insurance scheme, there needs to be reasonable prospects of success – what will help your prospects is having a paper trail of communications with the owner.

These do not necessarily have to be anything formal – a simple email confirming to the owner that you in accordance with their instructions you are doing x, y or x can be invaluable as contemporaneous evidence as to what has been verbally agreed.

Having good paperwork in place can also reduce the time required by the legal expenses solicitors to respond to a matter thereby helping keep costs down and keep premiums down.

Racing Industry Accident Benefit Scheme (RIABS)

When completing the RIABS Claim form, please note that all six pages must be kept together and signed, in Part A and Part B, for the claim to be processed.

The GP must see the details stated in pages 1 - 4 to complete and sign Part B.
The trainer must see the form is complete to sign Part A.

[Link to RIABS](#)

OTHER BUSINESS

Take Your Pooch on a Mooch!

This August, the [Great North Air Ambulance Service](#) are challenging you and your furry friend to complete 30, 60, or 90 miles to keep our whirlybirds flying to those in need. More details [HERE](#)

USEFUL LINKS :

Royal Ascot 2024 – Trainer [MINI-GUIDE](#)

Careers in Racing Jobs Board : <https://recruit.careersinracing.com/>

National Racehorse Week - 7 – 15 September 2024 : [SIGN UP](#)

HMRC – New [VAT Scale charges from 1st May 2024 – 30th April 2025](#)

Assistance at the start : [Training on racing2learn](#)

Point to Point : [Pointing Route to Training Under Rules](#)

Trainer Support Network : A [network of knowledgeable and empathetic people](#) for trainers and [Available Roles](#)

IFAR's Global Aftercare [Newsletter](#)

Great British Racing (GBR) - [Latest Update Jan – Apr 2024](#)