

NTF WEEKLY UPDATE – 08 MARCH 2024 – Issue No. 1375

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INDUSTRY NEWS

[Veterinary process for 2024 Aintree Grand National Festival](#)

BHA have written to trainers providing an update for the medical declarations and pre-race veterinary examination [process](#) for the 2024 Aintree Grand National Festival.

This year the medical declaration process will apply to **all runners in all races**. However, the information that needs to be submitted and the respective deadlines will differ depending on the race in which your horse is entered.

BHA have developed a guide to assist trainers with this process, which can be viewed [HERE](#).

The support [guide](#) sets out the specific medical declaration requirements and deadlines for trainers with horses entered in:

- The **Grand National Handicap Steeple Chase**
- The **Foxhunters' Open Hunters' Chase** and the **Topham Handicap Chase**
- **All other races** run over the Hurdle or Mildmay Course (i.e. not over the Grand National course).

As in previous years (and in line with the process for the Cheltenham Festival), trainers with runners at Aintree will be **contacted directly via email** with precise information about what you need to do, the relevant deadlines and where you can access support.

The medical and veterinary information required must be submitted using the [Equine MediRecord](#) (EMR) online system. Again, this is the same as last year.

Some trainers will be familiar with EMR, which is also being used at this year's Cheltenham Festival. For those who haven't used the system before, the EMR team will be available to provide the necessary support. You can contact them by:

- Email: info@equinemedirecord.com
- Phone (UK): +44 (0) 7469 131861
- Phone (IRE): +353 (0) 86 409 2584

As noted, all trainers with runners will be contacted directly via email – both by the BHA and EMR - with full details about what needs to be submitted, the processes to follow and the relevant deadlines.

Please note that the proper completion and submission of the forms by the times and dates specified is a **requirement of the Rules of Racing** and failure to do so will result in the respective horse being **ineligible to run**.

All runners in all races at the Aintree Grand National Festival will continue to receive a pre-race examination and trot-up at the racecourse on the morning of their race. This will be overseen by BHA Veterinary Officers.

2YOs of 2024 Restricted Bands

Please note that the restricted bandings for 2yos of 2024 will remain the same as for 2yos of 2023. For clarification those bands are:

Band	Auction Value	Median Auction Value
Open	N/A	N/A
Band A	£66,001 - £105,600	<£42,350
Band B	£39,601 - £66,000	<£28,160
Band C	£19,801 - £39,600	<£17,600
Band D	£1 - £19,800	<£8,800

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EMPLOYMENT

A reminder about changes in employment law and increased statutory payments

From 6th April 2024:

Carer's Leave - employees who have caring responsibilities for a dependent will have the right to apply for unpaid carer's leave. This is up to one week of unpaid leave in any 12 month rolling period and can be taken as days or part days. There is information in chapter 3 of the NTF employment guide.

Right to request flexible working – this is changing to a “day one right” meaning employees will be entitled to make a flexible working request from day one of their employment. This is the right to make a request, not an automatic right to change hours, days, etc but an employer can only refuse on certain grounds. Again there is detailed information in the chapter 3 of NTF employment manual

Protected period following family leave - the protected period during which employees on maternity leave, adoption leave or shared parental leave must be offered suitable employment if a redundancy situation arises will be extended. This will now cover a period of 18 months from the date of birth or placement for adoption. For shared parental leave, it will only apply where the parent has taken at least six consecutive weeks of shared parental leave. There is information in the redundancy chapter of the NTF manual.

Holiday pay – as previously advised, the Government has introduced a new way of calculating holiday pay for workers who leave part way through a holiday year. There is information and example calculations in chapter 16.2.5 of the NTF employment manual, as well as an updated holiday calculator on our website.

The way in which holiday entitlement is calculated for irregular hour workers and part year workers is changing where the holiday year commences on or after 1st April 2024 and detailed guidance will be produced shortly.

Advice and assistance with any of these changes is, of course, available from the NTF office.

Statutory Payment increases from 7th April 2024

SMP and other family leave

A reminder that the rate of statutory maternity pay, paternity pay, adoption pay, shared parental leave pay and statutory bereavement leave increases from 7th April 2024 to £184.03 per week (or 90% of the employee's earnings, whichever is lower). The first six weeks of SMP and SAP remain as paid at 90% of the employee's average earnings.

Statutory Sick Pay

Statutory sick pay is increasing to £116.75 per week.

Cap on Redundancy Payments.

The cap on basic pay for calculating redundancy is increasing to £700 a week. This is effective 6th April 2024.

MEMBER SERVICES

2024 NTF Badges

Thank you to all who have completed the application form for RCA Photo ID Accreditation. We have received 620 responses so far, meaning that we have accounted for around half of NTF badge holders. On this basis, we have agreed with the RCA that the current green NTF badges will continue to allow access to racecourses until the end of April.

We would ask that anybody who is due to be allocated an NTF badge for 2024 submits their photo via the form available below by no later than 14 April 2024:

<https://www.racehorsetrainers.org/webforms/badgerequest.asp>

We are also aware that some photos that have been submitted are not of suitable quality for use on a photo ID. Please ensure that photos uploaded need to be similar in style to passport photos, ideally a .jpeg, .png or .tif file, and of a resolution that will result in a file size of 1mb+.

It is unlikely that photos that are low resolution or which would not be suitable for a passport will be acceptable. We are in the process of reviewing photos received so far and will contact anyone who we think needs to resubmit their photo.

2024 red NTF badges will also now be delayed for a further month as they need to be sent out alongside photo IDs. This means that individuals who have not sent a photo in for accreditation by 14 April 2024 may not be able to access racecourses from 1 May.

Should you have any questions, please contact the NTF office.

The following Q&As are provided to help clarify future arrangements:

Will I have to queue to get in?

NTF members should not have to queue for any significant time. Photo IDs can be scanned by hand-held devices at entrances and NTF members will not have to queue to gain access beyond waiting for the person operating the hand-held scanner to be free to scan their ID. This would be in line with previous arrangements where the member of staff would check that they had an NTF badge.

Will I have to wear my Photo ID at all times?

No, the Photo ID is required by racecourses to ensure that sites comply with current safety guidance for sports grounds. This only requires Photo ID at the point of entry and your NTF badge will provide you with access to all areas of the racecourse that it has done in the past, once you are in (noting that the RCA recommend that Photo IDs are retained about your person in order that they are able to be shown upon request).

Access includes the O&T facility and the paddock although some additional restrictions will continue to exist at selected, high profile, meetings. Any such restrictions will be communicated in advance in the same way as they have been before. However, the RCA recommend that the Photo ID should be kept about your person during time on racecourses so as to be available on request.

How can I gain access to the racecourse if I forget my Photo ID?

In such circumstances, it will be necessary to queue at the O&T desk to gain access.

Can I get a replacement for my Photo ID if I lose it?

Yes, this can be done via the NTF office.

Can I get a replacement for my NTF badge if I lose it?

Yes, this can be done via the NTF office although this arrangement is subject to review with the RCA depending on the number that are lost throughout the year.

Can my Photo ID be uploaded to my mobile phone and will this be accepted by racecourses?

At present, no. However, we intend to work with the RCA to put this in place later this year.

OTHER BUSINESS

Nationwide Equine Carbon calculator

British Equestrian have announced the launch of the first nationwide equine carbon calculator, which has been produced by a consortium of equine organisations to help equine businesses understand their environmental impact and take steps to mitigate it. It has been pioneered by equine environmental sustainability specialists White Griffin and the Farm Carbon Toolkit – trainers may recognise the name White Griffin from its previous work for the British Horse Racing Authority. It can be found [here](#):

SMALL LICENSED YARD TO RENT 20+ boxes

Rural location 40 miles from Newmarket 2f Woodchip canter 5f woodchip gallop

1 mile grass gallop

Horse walker

Lunge pen

Turnout paddocks

Horsebox if required

Excellent accommodation available

For further details contact the NTF Office

USEFUL LINKS :

Assistance at the start :

training on racing2learn <https://racing2learn.com/course/index.php?categoryid=97>

Point to Point :

https://pointtopoint.co.uk/news_articles/making-a-british-point-at-the-sales

https://pointtopoint.co.uk/news_articles/trainers-urged-to-let-horses-race-on-in-points

Trainer Support Network :

A network of knowledgeable and empathetic people for trainers to share the burdens of their busy and challenging working life. <https://www.racehorsetrainers.org/ntf/tsn.asp>