

## British Horseball Field of Play Restart Plan

Horseball is a game played on horseback where points are scored by shooting a ball through a hoop at either end of a playing pitch. The sport is like a combination of polo, rugby, and basketball. Teams are made up of a maximum of six riders, with four riders per team on pitch at any one time. The other players (subs) are mounted and stand on the side lines. Passing the ball by hand, players attempt to score a basket after at least three consecutive passes. Prior to a league competition commencing, vet inspections take place each morning to assess horse fitness along with passport checks and vaccinations by BHA vet.

### Summary of game and equipment to assist

<b>Pitch</b>	The pitch is on average between 60-75 metres long x 25 metres wide. At each end is a large inflatable wall and net which houses the goal.
<b>Goals</b>	The baskets are 1-metre diameter hoops hooked vertically at 4.50 meters off the ground.
<b>Ball</b>	The ball is a T4 soccer ball surrounded by 6 leather handles.
<b>Teams</b>	Each team is composed by up to <b>six players</b> with possible mixed gender, with four players per team on pitch at a time.
<b>Referees</b>	The game is ruled by <b>three referees</b> , one as chair ref. and two on the opposite side of the pitch on the side lines – all on foot.
<b>Duration</b>	Two 10 minute periods, separated by a three-minute half-time rest period.
<b>Kickoff</b>	The ball is on the ground, on the 10 meters line. The starting team must pick it up at a canter.
<b>Scoring</b>	A team scores when the ball goes through the basket, after <b>at least three passes</b> between three different players of the team.
<b>Line-out</b>	After a score, the game is restarted by a line-out: the ball is thrown into the air between two lines of two players of each team and one player must reach up to catch the ball in order for the game to continue.
<b>Passes</b>	You can pass the ball in any way and in any direction. <b>Three passes</b> required between <b>three different co-players</b> is needed before it is allowed to score.
<b>Pick Up</b>	If the ball falls on the ground, it must be picked up without dismounting.
<b>Tackling</b>	Seizing the ball from an opponent is allowed. This takes place by riding alongside the opposing “ball handler” and reaching across to obtain the ball, with close contact kept to a minimum.

Risk	Specific Items	Controls already in place during normal horseball	Further mitigation actions to mitigate COVID-19 Risk
<b>Infecting others with COVID-19</b>	Vet inspection and horse walk	The horse walk takes place in one arena with vetting in a second arena – teams have staggered times to arrive to avoid congestion.	<p>All players and vetting staff to wear masks during this time period.</p> <p>Vet to wear gloves for handling of passports.</p> <p>Each player will have their temperature taken prior to entering the arena.</p> <p>Call one team at a time for vetting/trot up – one team member will be responsible for handing team passports to the vet and collecting afterwards to minimise multiple persons handling documents.</p>
<b>Infecting others with COVID-19</b>	Equipment set up	A dedicated team will set up the arena – the equipment will be thoroughly cleaned prior to it arriving at the venue.	<p>The equipment team will wear gloves when handling the equipment</p> <p>Once erected, an anti-bacterial spray will be used over the equipment</p>
<b>Droplet transmission (being unable to maintain social distancing during play)</b>	Warm up area	Playing area is large indoor arena with no pitch set-up	Social distancing must be maintained during warm up. Only two teams allowed at any one time.
	Playing area	Playing area is large covered arena	No change as playing space is large, open and well-ventilated.
	Numbers in arena when game in play	<p>Players are limited to six maximum per team, with four per team on the pitch at any one time</p> <p>Game overseen by three referees</p> <p>Coach or team leader / water carrier</p> <p>Horse walkers for half-time allowed on side of pitch.</p>	<p>Player number remains at six, with two subs mounted on side lines</p> <p>Referees on side lines – Chair ref and two side lines</p> <p>One coach or team leader with waters per team on side lines.</p> <p>Water bottles will be clearly identified for each individual.</p>

			Horse walkers are no longer allowed at half time – players must remain mounted and walk horses or dismount and walk to avoid contact of tack between multiple persons.
Line outs	Two players from each team form a line out (at least five metres from the side line).  Players from each team are positioned 1m distance against their opposing player and side by side whilst one player throws the ball into the air between the players.		(No mitigation required)
Contact points during play	Contact points are limited to tackling that takes place side by side.  The duration of contact is minimal and across the horse so no direct face to face contact		No change, but umpires will monitor and take action if contact points become sustained.
Officials	Game supported by five officials – three referees, scorer and timekeeper		All roles still completed, but with a minimum of 2m distance between them.
Balls	Players provide balls.		BHA to provide new balls.  No one outside the field returns the ball.  Ball handles sanitised after each 10 minute period (reminder that ball has an impenetrable outer covering).
Horse tack and equipment	Horse tack and equipment can be shared if required between horses.		No sharing of horse tack or equipment between players. Horse tack to be sanitised where used by multiple people between uses (generally tack is not shared).
Referee – whistle and shirts	Chair ref provides own shirt and whistle, and BHA to provide other refs with ref shirts and whistles for the weekend.		At the end of weekend shirts to be collected and boil washed by Head of Referees  Whistles are to be put into sterilising solution and then into mouth wash at the end of weekend.
Radios	Handheld radios provided by BHA (for referees and officials)		Radios sanitised before use by another referee / official between users.

	Paperwork and scorers	Game paperwork is completed by scorer and time keeper Timers/score board supplied by BHA	Game paperwork only completed by scorer and placed into folder. Pens provided.  Scoreboard/timer electronic equipment to be sanitised after every game – wipes provided.
Infection – spread of COVID-19	Commentators box	Commentators to be limited to one or two persons at any time in the commentary box  Use of microphone to be used by only one person – sanitise and wipe down after each use	No commentators – or same person for the day.
Population risk (reducing the numbers of people involved to a minimum)	On-site	As we play indoors at the venue there is a large separate viewing gallery overseeing both arenas.	No public encouragement of attendance and minimise the number of spectators to the teams that are playing only so people remain in their family bubbles and enforce social distancing in line with venue requirements.  Limit attendance to one player plus one person per horse (in line with other disciplines) unless vital support is needed e.g. young player support.  All attendees to maintain social distancing.  All vehicles (cars, trailers and lorries) must be parked a minimum of 5m apart, but venue to dictate.  All attendees' details will be logged and monitored to ensure that NHS Test & Trace information is collected and numbers managed.
	Overnight stays	Because horseball takes place over a weekend, overnight stays will take place and follow the guidelines of venue and their restrictions.	Prior to competition, discuss venue requirements and distribute information to all players
	Stabling overnight		Turn out allowed only in team bubbles. No sharing of grooming equipment or tack. Stabling as agreement with venue – social distancing to be adhered to with teams to stable together.

	Travel	No restrictions on travel	<p>Travelling should be undertaken with people from the same household.</p> <p>Travel should remain as local as possible.</p>
	Hospitality	No restrictions on hospitality	Venue requirements for use of café and bar on site to be adhered to if allowed to be open. However, if closed this would deter socialising and potential breach of social distancing
	Catering	No restrictions on catering	Encourage players to bring their own food and drink, although venue hospitality café and bar will be open (but no sitting in to eat allowed at present) – updates ongoing as COVID-19 guidance continues.
	Briefings	Daily briefing/ref update to be carried out inside arena.	<p>Briefing to take place with social distancing observed.</p> <p>All pre-event information relevant to the games and event to be shared either via email, website or social media platforms and posted externally at venue.</p>
	Results and prize-giving	Results and prize giving normally carried out on site at the end of the event.	All results will be posted online following the event and prizes distributed by post.