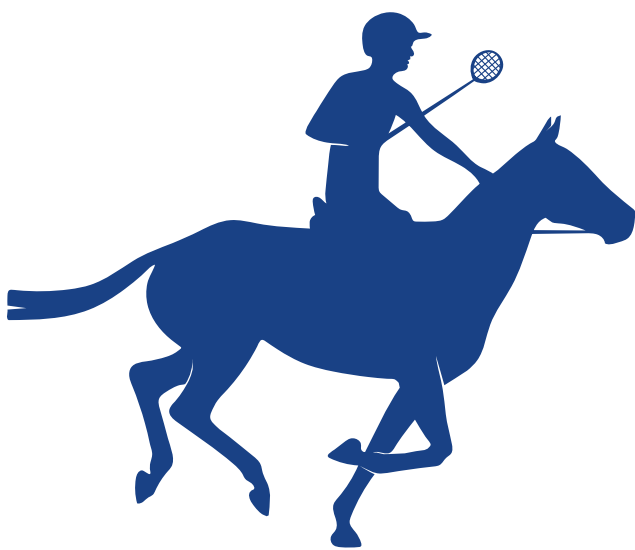
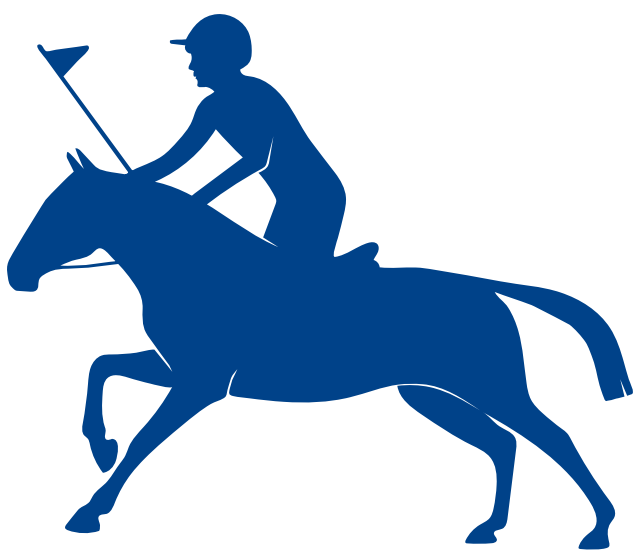
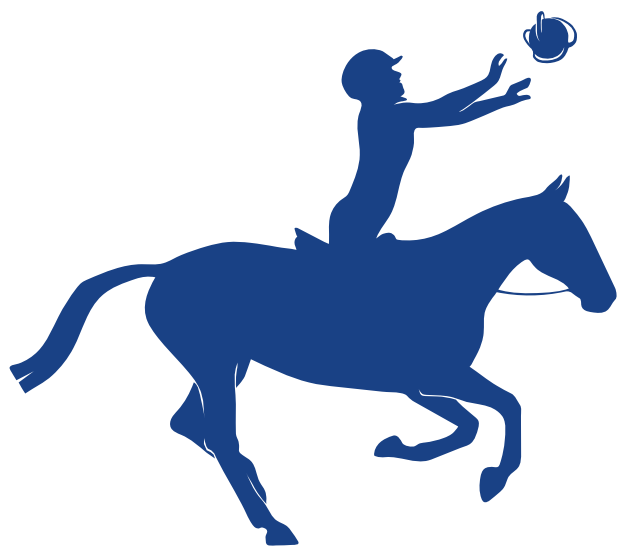


Return to Equestrian Team Sports Action Plan

20 July 2020



Introduction

British Equestrian is the National Governing Body for horse sports in the UK, and is an umbrella organisation representing the interests of 3 millions riders, vaulters and carriage drivers in Great Britain via 18 independent member bodies. British Equestrian plays an active role in representing the common interests of its member bodies to various organisations, including the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS).

Following the release of the Return To Recreational Team Sport Framework by DCMS on 10 July 2020 – designed to minimise the COVID-19 transmission risk while taking part in recreational team sport and enable participants to make an informed decision about their own risk – British Equestrian has worked with four of its member bodies whose disciplines are considered to be team sports to prepare an action plan for each discipline. This action plan will sit alongside the guidance contained within the Return To Recreational Team Sport Framework, which must also be implemented by organisers.

The three equestrian disciplines considered to be team sports are:

- Polocrosse
- Mounted Games
- Horseball

Each discipline has prepared a risk assessment and identified areas to mitigate the transmission of COVID-19 via droplet transmission and fomite transmission, and to reduce the number of people involved in the vicinity of the field of play to inform modifications to the activity and /or rules of the game as required. For clarity, The Pony Club, who deliver activity covering all of these disciplines, have been involved in the preparation of this action plan and their policy is to always follow the member body guidance for each discipline.

The following action plan details a standard approach to event management for equestrian team sports, which will be implemented by event organisers – which are the governing bodies themselves or The Pony Club – alongside existing government social distancing guidelines, followed by each discipline's risk assessment and resulting modifications to activity and/or rules of the game.



Please be aware that the guidance in this document relates to Equestrian Team Sports training and competitions in England only.

Event management action plan

Prior to activity

Number of people

Attendance at equestrian team sports events will be the absolute minimum in order to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19, limited to the participants and officials, and vital support where necessary, for example parents or guardians for under-18s. For the avoidance of doubt, no members of the public or spectators are permitted.

This restriction will be managed via managing entries prior to the event, providing clear guidance to participants and officials and by organisers not permitting members of the public to attend.

Pre-attendance official symptom check

All event attendees must undergo a self-assessment for any [COVID-19 symptoms](#). Nobody should leave home to participate in equestrian team sports if they, or someone they live with or a member of their support bubble, has symptoms of COVID-19.

Symptoms are currently recognised as any of the following:

- A high temperature
- A new, continuous cough
- A loss of, or change to, their sense of smell or taste

Should an individual have demonstrated any such symptoms, they must follow [NHS guidance on self-isolation](#).

Travel to events and training

Participants are encouraged to follow best practice for travel including minimising use of public transport and limiting car sharing. People from a household or [support bubble](#) can travel together in a vehicle.

See the government's [safer travel guidance](#) for passengers for further information.

Prior to activity (continued)

Arrival at venues and parking management

Event organisers should strictly limit the time spent congregating at a venue before activity begins, and meet-up times should reflect this. This includes participants arriving at the venue already dressed for competition and ready to begin the warm-up. Parking should be stewarded to ensure social distancing measures can be carried out. Exceptions may be made where safety and safeguarding measures require it, for example supporting disabled athletes with minimum time spent waiting or in changing rooms if available. Participants are encouraged to use the facilities available to them in their lorries.

NHS Test & Trace

Event organisers should support Test & Trace efforts by collecting written information on participants at both individual training sessions and all events, and store this in line with their member body's data protection policies. This must be detailed enough to allow NHS Test & Trace to contact all participants if an attendee becomes ill with COVID-19. These records must be kept for 21 days following each event.

Facility usage

Facility compliant with guidance related to COVID-19

Event organisers should ensure that the facility is compliant with current UK Government legislation, including legislation and guidance related to COVID-19. A risk assessment should have been completed and risk mitigation measures put in place, and each facility must have a specific facility operations plan in place.

Movement on site

All venues must have entry and exit and parking arrangements that ensures social distancing can be maintained. Venues must display the appropriate signage to facilitate movement at all points throughout the facility and car park. Venues will implement traffic flow systems where possible and appropriate. Venues will outline socially distanced areas for teams, officials and spectators. Venues will ensure that all accessible provision within the site and the facility are available.

Facility usage

Toilets

Toilets will need to be opened for 30 minutes pre event, during the event and for 30 minutes following. Steps that will usually be needed:

- Where possible, attendees should use toilet facilities available in their own lorries.
- Using signs and posters to build awareness of good handwashing technique, the need to increase handwashing frequency and to avoid touching your face, and to cough or sneeze into a tissue which is binned safely, or into your arm if a tissue is not available.
- Consider the use of social distancing marking in areas where queues normally form, and the adoption of a limited entry approach, with one in, one out (while avoiding the creation of additional bottlenecks).
- To enable good hand hygiene consider making hand sanitiser available on entry to toilets where safe and practical, and ensure suitable hand sanitising and/or washing facilities are available.
- Setting clear use and cleaning guidance for toilets, with increased frequency of cleaning in line with usage. Use normal cleaning products, paying attention to frequently hand-touched surfaces, and consider use of disposable cloths or paper roll to clean all hard surfaces.
- High ventilation in indoor facilities is paramount to reducing transmission of COVID-19 – keep facilities well ventilated, for example by fixing doors open and opening windows where appropriate.
- Special care should be taken for cleaning of portable toilets and larger toilet blocks.
- Putting up a visible cleaning schedule, and keep it up-to-date and visible.
- Providing more waste facilities and more frequent rubbish collection. Toilets capacity should be managed via entry and exit as per [government guidelines](#).

Changing rooms and showers

Participants and officials should arrive dressed for competition and shower at home. Use of changing and shower facilities must follow [government advice on the use of indoor facilities](#), where available. If these facilities remain closed, exceptions may be made where safety and safeguarding measures require their use, such as supporting disabled athletes, a child needs a change of clothing etc.

Facility useage (continued)

Clubhouses and hospitality areas

Venues will use clubhouses and hospitality facilities in line with [government guidance on hospitality settings](#). Groups in clubhouses and hospitality facilities must be restricted to gathering limits and spread out in line with wider government guidance.

High ventilation in indoor facilities is paramount to reducing transmission of COVID-19 – keep the facilities well ventilated, for example by fixing doors open and opening windows where appropriate. If facilities remain closed, exceptions must be made for essential activity such as provision of first-aid or access to essential equipment for the event.

Covered arenas

Large, open and well-ventilated equestrian covered arenas (these are sometimes termed ‘indoor’ arenas by equestrians but, due to their size and ventilation, are not considered indoor for the purposes of this guidance) may be used in line with previously approved [government guidelines for recreational sport](#).

General hygiene

Participants and officials must be reminded to refrain from spitting or rinsing out their mouths on or around the playing area.

During activity

Social distancing in activity

Participants and officials should strictly follow the protocols identified for the relevant discipline to reduce risk of COVID-19 via droplet transmission or fomite transmission in the discipline specific sections of this action plan.

Social distancing must be observed (unless specified in the sport-specific sections) while warming up, and the sharing of equipment should be limited as far as possible. Participants and officials should avoid unnecessary breaking of social distancing such as hand-shakes, huddles, face-to-face confrontation with opponents and officials, and scoring celebrations such as high-fives.

During activity (continued)

Social distancing during breaks and post-activity

All participants and officials must remain socially distanced during breaks in play, with spaced areas for equipment and refreshment storage for each individual, including officials and substitutes. Coaching staff and substitutes should, for example, spread out and maintain social distancing guidelines.

Water bottles or other refreshment containers should under no circumstances be shared. Participants are advised to bring their own, in a labelled or highly distinguishable container.

After activity, participants must maintain government mandated social distancing for social interaction. This includes in any available clubhouse facilities or other venue participants congregate in afterwards.

Use of equipment

The sharing of equipment, such as bibs, must be avoided where possible, particularly that used around the head and face, for example helmets. Where equipment is shared, equipment must be cleaned before use by another person. Based on the fomite transmission risk assessment, where common equipment is shared or passed during the course of play, each equestrian team sport has considered this in their plan to reduce risk.

Participants should take their kit home to wash it themselves, rather than have one person handling a large quantity of soiled materials. Where kit must be shared or kept together (for example last-minute stand-in players, shortage of kit, or an essential club function), each person handling it must wash or sanitise their hands immediately after.

Adherence to measures

Participants and officials must be clear that they are opting in to participating, as defined in the sport-specific guidance with regard to risk and risk mitigation and as part of the pre-event materials. They should be reminded that their participation is dependent on them adhering to the principles of this action plan and that failure to comply may result in their ejection, disqualification or removal from the event.

During activity (continued)

Shouting

There is an additional risk of infection in close-proximity situations where people are shouting or conversing loudly. This particularly applies indoors and when face-to-face. If possible, participants and officials should therefore avoid shouting or raising their voices when facing each other during, before and after events.

First aid treatment

Injuries during events should still be treated because participant wellbeing is paramount. The best way for first aiders to protect themselves and others is through rigorous cleaning, personal hygiene and regular hand hygiene. An increased frequency of cleaning and disinfection of all surfaces and equipment, using standard household cleaning and disinfection products, is recommended. Face coverings are also advisable when undertaking treatment.

After contact with an injured participant, first aiders should clean their hands thoroughly with soap and water or alcohol hand sanitiser at the earliest opportunity. This advice is applicable to all situations, regardless of whether there was close contact or the minimum social distancing was maintained. Avoid touching the mouth, eyes and nose.

First aiders, or their equivalent, should keep a record of each participant they have come into contact with for NHS Test & Trace purposes. See [further information](#) for those who may need to act as a 'first responder' role in a sports setting.

Spectators

No spectators should be admitted to events, as identified earlier in this document. However, any non-playing or competing participants or officials should remain socially distanced, adhering to gathering limits and spread out, in line with wider government guidance.

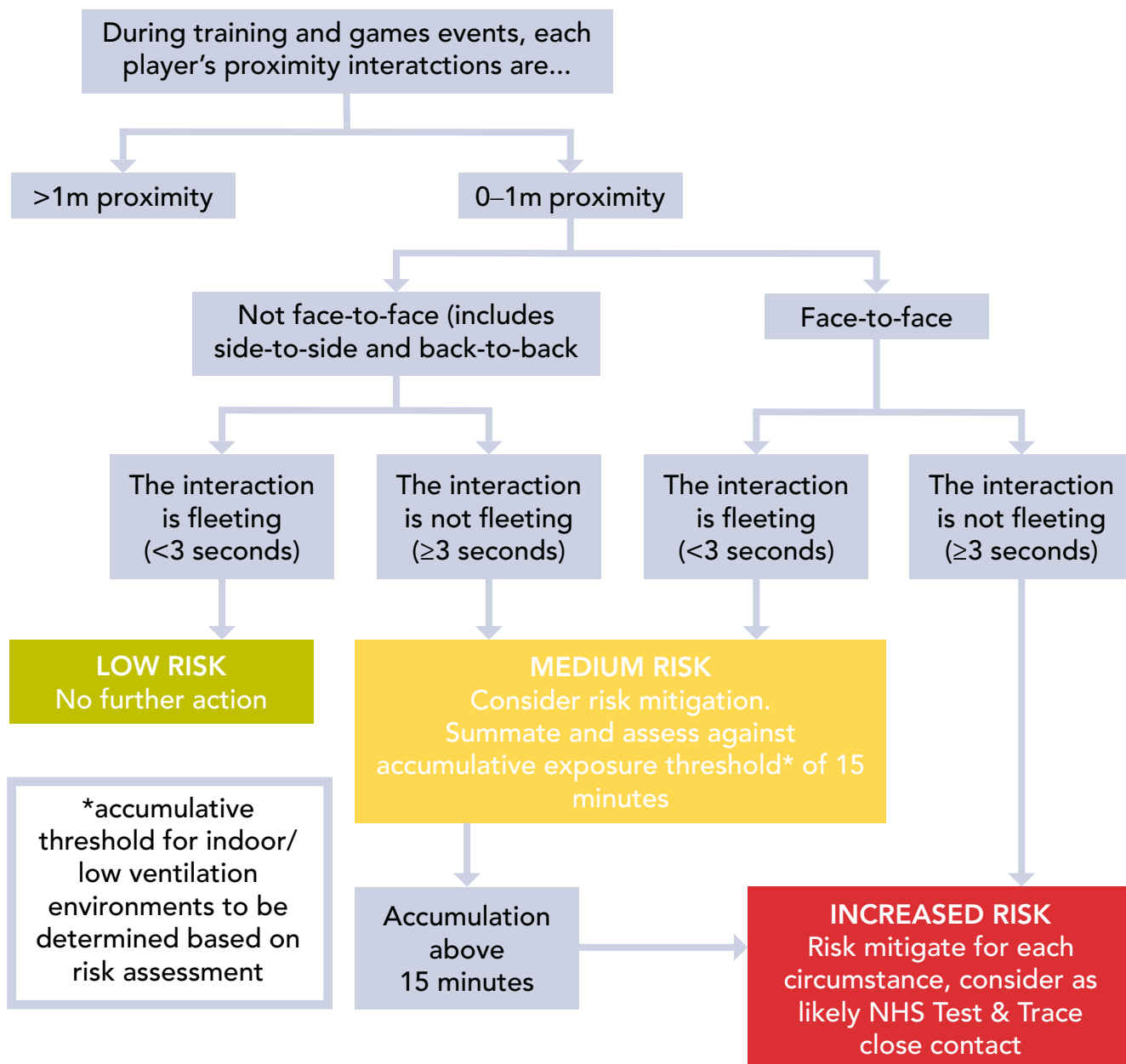
Face coverings

Face coverings

All face coverings and decisions regarding their usage must comply with [government guidance](#).

Risk assessment

Each equestrian team sport discipline has been risk assessed using the flowchart below to identify the potential risks of droplet transmission in addition to reviewing the potential fomite transmission to inform the following modifications to activity and/or rules of the game.



Progress statement for each discipline (20/07/20)

Polocrosse: Risk assessment and Modification To Activity plan submitted to DCMS (20th July 2020).

Mounted Games: Risk assessment and Modification To Activity plan submitted to DCMS (20th July 2020).

Horseball: Risk assessment and Modification To Activity plan in preparation.