



# Returning Safely: Horseracing behind closed doors

**British racing is ready to return safely when the public health situation allows.**

The public can have confidence in our ability to hold events behind closed doors when the UK government allows more industries back to work from 1 June at the earliest. We have the right experience of managing complex health and safety risks – controlling the risk of infectious diseases in horses (though this virus does not affect them) and reducing the risk of injury to jockeys in **10,000+ races** per year.

Our industry and many of our **20,000 staff** have adapted to training and caring for thoroughbred racehorses while following social distancing regulations. Racing is a non-contact sport taking place outdoors and has already returned or continued safely behind closed doors in France and Germany, Australia and the United States.

We are working with Public Health officials to protect those coming back to work, the local communities in which events take place and the wider public, against the risk of transmission of Covid-19. We can resume a sport that generates **£4.1 billion** annually, put back to work an industry at the heart of many rural communities in England, Scotland and Wales and allow our horses to return to what they are bred for.



## THIS IS OUR SIX-POINT PLAN FOR RETURNING SAFELY BEHIND CLOSED DOORS:

### **1. A phased return under central control with clear accountabilities**

Our plans, drawing upon our own and international experience, will be implemented at racecourses that have been inspected and selected for their suitability. The sport's regulator, the British Horseracing Authority (BHA), has worked closely with local racecourses to manage risks.

### **2. Managing the health and safety of participants and the risks of spreading infection**

All those attending will be medically screened before arrival, with guidance provided for safe travel to and from racecourses. We have detailed plans for social distancing, including reconfigured courses, redesigned changing facilities and one-way flows of people, as well as deep cleaning and PPE.

### **3. Use of medical services and equipment**

Our plans limit the use of NHS resources, with private ambulance and hospital cover used apart from in the most exceptional cases. We have taken advice from Public Health officials on testing and protective equipment to ensure there is no impact on health and social care.

### **4. Engaging all participants, staff and officials ahead of resumption**

All staff and participants attending will need to read the guidance on social distancing and public health before they can attend any meeting.

### **5. Engaging local communities to provide reassurance and information**

We will update local residents, businesses and authorities on how our events are being operated safely, including prevention of any crowd gatherings.

### **6. Broadcasting and coverage of resumption**

We are working with broadcasters to explain the steps taken to limit risks to participants while promoting good public health behaviours and responsible gambling messaging to audiences watching and enjoying the sport on TV.

## THE BENEFITS OF RESUMING RACING



We will get our **people back to work**, protect their livelihoods, and allow thousands of majestic thoroughbred horses to races as they have been bred and trained to do.



This will **reduce the burden on the taxpayer** by allowing staff across British racing to be un-furloughed and generate significant revenues to pay for public services.



Our big summer Flat races are the showcase for a world-leading racing and breeding industry and keep **international investment flowing into the UK**, creating jobs and prosperity.



The best races are free to watch on ITV, bringing live sport back to our screens, **lifting people's spirits** and making lockdown restrictions easier to bear.

## HOW BRITISH RACING IS SUPPORTING THE NATIONAL EFFORT TO COMBAT CORONAVIRUS



Racecourses and local training centres **supporting their local NHS** and communities – acting as drive-in testing centres, storing medical equipment to enable enhanced coronavirus patient capacity, and providing meals to vulnerable residents in their local communities



Encouraging people to **stay healthy and active** through 'Jockey Fit' home exercises, while promoting public health messaging through key racing industry figures



Observing social distancing guidelines while continuing to provide round-the-clock **care and attention for the thoroughbred racehorses** which we cherish so highly



Supporting our own industry in addition to Government packages, with **£28 million in emergency financial assistance** to tackle immediate hardship, support employees and employers across the sector, and to uphold equine welfare



Development of a **Mental Health and Wellbeing Toolkit** to support our people during the outbreak

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Ross Hamilton, Head of Public Affairs  
rohamilton@britishhorseracing.com  
07770 349261