



### **Suggestions for Competitions Following the COVID-19 Pandemic**

The USHJA Competition Management Committee met and discussed steps competitions could take as our industry and sport emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic. Below are suggested practices organizers can consider as they plan for events and take steps to help competitors and staff stay as safe as possible. Organizers are strongly encouraged to abide by guidelines provided by local governing entities in implementing chosen practices. We are fully aware that types of shows, location, types of facilities and other regional differences will influence both the practicality and necessity of executing these practices. We encourage organizers to use this list as a guide and to determine additional practices specific to their circumstances.

#### **In the Show Office**

- Limit the amount of people in the show office to one person per show secretary at a time
- Complete preparation prior to the competition, such as secretaries reviewing exhibitor information and calling in advance to obtain such information, to limit exhibitor time spent in the show office
- Install Plexiglass barriers for secretaries in the office
- Encourage online entries and consider providing a discount for those who complete their entries online
- Require all entries be completed in advance to reduce filling out of entries in the show office
- Enable feed/bedding orders and add/scratch forms to be made via email or through self-service office software
- Enable online check-out or a computer for self-service with disinfectant wipes
- Provide trainers their customers' bills by Sunday morning or earlier for them to review prior to going to the show office
- Assign one or two horses to secretaries before check-out to speed up the process and reduce time a person would need to wait in line
- Allow trainers to schedule appointment times to check out
- Provide disposable pens and encourage exhibitors to bring their own writing utensils and sanitizer

#### **In the Barn and Competition Areas**

- Institute hand washing and/or sanitation stations in all barn and competition areas
- Discourage exhibitors congregating in one area and encourage safe social distancing protocol
- Post signage about maintaining social distancing
- Enable stabling separation with maximum space between animals
- Sanitize all stalls before and after use

- Make shade tents larger to allow for more space between horses/handlers
- Encourage the use of work gloves in the schooling area for setting jumps
- Enforce thorough and frequent communications from announcers to ensure exhibitors are aware of ongoing procedures and any new protocol
- Have in-gates create an accurate time schedule that is updated and posted orders so riders know when to get prepared to show and reduce congregating in holding areas
- Ensure in-gate communications are thorough and frequent in order for horses to stay in their stalls until needed in the schooling or holding areas
- Supply small, individual bottles of water at in-gates instead of large water coolers
- Create a method of awarding ribbons and trophies that has less hand-to-hand contact
- Close the show to spectators, providing signage at the entrance
- Only allow VIP tents or other large areas for viewing or dining to be used in line with state and local regulations

### **Staff, Show Personnel and Vendors**

- Advise all competition staff to wear face masks, in accordance with state and local regulations
- Hold a staff meeting prior to the show to discuss issues, procedures, etc.
- Instruct food service and vendors to develop ways to eliminate lines and streamline service
- Ensure restrooms or portable toilets are cleaned and sanitized often and stocked with wipes and hand sanitizer

### **Judges and Officials**

- Advise all officials to wear face masks, in accordance with state and local regulations
- Utilize local officials to reduce travel
- If multiple judges are to be in one stand, ensure all parties are comfortable with the small quarters
- Provide a “goodie bag” for officials that includes disinfecting wipes, sanitizer, etc.