



Adaptations and Support Measures for Hot Weather at The National Championships

July 8thth 2025

We are aware that high temperatures are forecast at Hartpury this weekend during the RDA National Championships. The welfare of our participants, volunteers, and equines is our top priority, and we remain committed to the highest standards of care - treating all horses with compassion, kindness, and respect at all times.

To support this, RDA UK has already issued guidance to help RDA Groups prepare in advance for the competition. You can access the latest guidance [here](#).

Having closely monitored the forecast and consulted with our veterinary and medical advisors, we can confirm the competition will go ahead as planned. However, we are implementing additional **adaptations** and **precautions** to support everyone's comfort and wellbeing.

Adaptations and Support Measures

- **Early Stable Access:** Stables will now open at **9:00am on Thursday 10th** (previously 12:00 noon), allowing for cooler travel times.
- **Free Day Stables:** RDA UK will provide day stables at no cost, offering essential shade for all equines on site given the forecast conditions.
 - As a result, we will refund fees to those who have already booked day stables.
- **Environmental Support:** We will ensure additional shade and water is available for all horses and people outside competition arenas.
 - We will offer clear guidance to volunteers on the signs and symptoms of heat exhaustion in addition to supplying hats and sunscreen.

Riding for the Disabled Association Incorporating Carriage Driving

National Office, Lowlands Equestrian Centre, Old Warwick Road, Shrewley, Warwickshire, CV35 7AX

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President HRH The Princess Royal KG KT GCVO QSO

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- **Competition Adjustments:**

- You may be contacted with class time changes based on weather conditions. Check with the events office, join the competition WhatsApp group advertised on site, and listen out for Tannoy announcements for details.
 - The dress code for competitors has already been relaxed.
 - Rehydration tablets are recommended for participants and volunteers (as advised by our medics).
 - Volunteer roles will be rotated throughout the event to ensure everyone has a balance of time in both cooler and warmer environments.
- **Cancellations:** If your Group (or participant) decides not to attend - **a decision that lies entirely with each Group, based on your circumstances** - RDA UK will refund at least 75% of the cost of your stabling and accommodation. Any withdrawals and cancellations should be made Katie O'Brien at kobrien@rda.org.uk
 - **Dog Show Cancellation:** The fun dog show scheduled for Saturday will not take place and we strongly advise you to leave your dogs at home for their own safety and comfort.

Areas of Responsibility

While RDA UK continues to manage the overall safety and welfare framework of the Championships, **it is the responsibility of each Group to:**

- Review the issued guidance.
- Adapt your travel plans in response to the conditions.
- Make the final decision about whether or not to attend.

We hope to welcome many of you to an inspiring weekend of competition. We will remain in close consultation with our veterinary and medical advisors throughout the week. If you have any queries, please contact Fiona Harris on fharris@rda.org.uk / 07961643681

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