**Equine Welfare**

Before entering any competition, please ensure that you consult the RDA Weight Chart to ensure that your equine/rider/driver combination is suitable. This applies to Riding and Carriage Driving. We will be monitoring this at the Championships. Please note this applies to none disabled riders in the warm-up as well as competitors.

RDA has created an excel calculator to help groups work out the maximum carrying weight. Please see the relevant section equines in RDA, health and welfare for further information. Carriage Driving weight guidelines can be found on the right hand side of the Carriage driving page. The weight chart should be used for any rider/driver whether a participant, volunteers or coach

RDA reserves the right to check any combination considered not to comply with the limits set out on the weight charts on RDA website.

**Passports & Vaccinations**

All horses travelling to the Championships must have a valid passport from which the horse’s identification and vaccination record will be verified. The passport must contain all vaccination details which must be up to date, completely and clearly recorded, signed and stamped by a veterinary surgeon, who is not the owner of the animal. Passports with missing, altered, unclear or incomplete vaccine records will not be accepted and entry to the  event may be refused. Before unloading your horse at Hartpury you must report to the Stable Manager and have your horse’s identification and vaccination record checked by a vet.

The horse must receive a primary course of two injections against Equine Influenza. For horses that start their vaccination course before 2024, vaccines need to have been given no less than 21 days and no more than 92 days apart (only these first two injections need to be given before the horse may compete). For horses that started a course of vaccinations in 2024, the interval between these two vaccines is required to be no less than 21 days and no more than 60 days.

In addition, a third vaccination to be given. For horses that started their vaccination course before 2024, the third vaccination must be given between 150 and 215 days after the date of the second injection. For horses that started a vaccination course in 2024, the third vaccination must be given no less than 120 days and no more than 180 days after the second injection of the primary course.

Any horse that has previously had a compliant primary course of vaccines, and compliant subsequent boosters **does not**need to re-start the vaccination process. **Any horse that has had the first and second vaccinations in 2023, and is due the second or third vaccination in 2024, either the old or new date range can be used for subsequent injections in the primary course.**

Subsequent booster injections must be given at intervals of not more than one calendar year apart, commencing after the first booster injection. **Those horses attending the RDA National Championships must have received a subsequent vaccination in the preceding 6 months of the event.**

None of these injections can be given within the seven daysbefore the dayof the competition or entry into competition stables, whichever is sooner.

If your horse has not been vaccinated against equine influenza in accordance with the above requirements, it will not be permitted entry to Hartpury College.

Passports will be kept by the Stable Manager for the duration of the horse's stay. Any questions regarding vaccinations please contact the RDA vet at vet.rda@gmail.com

**Prohibited Substances**

 The use of any herbal, natural or chemical product to affect the performance of an equine in a calming (tranquillising) manner is strictly forbidden under RDA rules. The use of such products during competition has important safety and welfare consequences.

The RDA follows the lead of the FEI (Federation Equestre Internationale) and British Equestrian with respect to the medication of horses used in competition. A full list of banned substances can be found on the FEI’s Clean Sport website.

The RDA does make certain, specific exceptions to the FEI’s list of controlled and banned substances with respect to the population of horses engaging in RDA activities. Some of these medications need to be declared before National Championships to be permitted. You will need to fill in a National Championships Medication Declaration Form which is available on the equine section of the Myrda website. This then needs to be sent to the Championships Secretary before the event begins.

Medication Control Testing may be carried out at the National Championships. If a horse tests positive for a banned or undeclared substance the horse will be disqualified and the cost of the test will be passed onto the RDA Group/Competitor. This cost is approximately £500 + VAT.

It is strongly recommended that you familiarise yourself with the Prohibited Substances Policy under the National Championships section of the RDA website.

**Equine Welfare in Competition**

All equines must be five years old or over. In the case of lameness, the judge will inform the rider/driver that they are eliminated. There is no appeal against the decision. The judge may ask for a Veterinary opinion before allowing the competitor’s score to go forward for judging. Refusal to allow this inspection to take place will result in elimination. If the equine appears to be fatigued or distressed the judge can ask the competitor to retire.

 If the judge/steward suspects fresh blood anywhere on the equine during the competition, they will carry out further checks alongside an RDA Vet. If the equine shows fresh blood in the mouth or area of the spurs, it will be eliminated. If the judge/Vet clarifies that the equine has no fresh blood and is fit to continue, the equine may resume and finish the competition. The judge’s decision is final