

Own-Horse Participant

By Own-Horse Participant previously known as independent participant (IP) we mean a rider/driver who owns or loans (but not from an RDA group) their horse(s) but still wish to be a part of an RDA Group. They must have a diagnosed disability or condition that makes them eligible for RDA.

Any group may allow a participant who does not regularly ride/drive with them to compete 'under their banner'. This allows a participant with a disability who, for whatever reason, cannot take part regularly with a group, to have access to RDA competitions.

There are many advantages to working with Own-Horse Participants just some of the benefits are:

- Increase profile of group on the competition circuit
- Bring more participants/volunteers & support to the group
- Increase attendance at meetings, AGMs & social events.
- Boost group morale.
- Increase support network for the group

The relationship between the RDA Group and the Own-Horse Participant will vary between groups, but we recommend a written agreement is made. Acceptance to become an Own-Horse Participant will be subject to review and agreement from the group trustees.

All Own-Horse Participants need to have completed an Own-Horse Participant application form which will be kept within the group, but a copy will also need to be sent to RDA National Office. A link to the form can be found here: [Own-Horse-Participant-Application-Form-2024.pdf](#)

Some groups may choose to charge a membership fee to join their group.

Own-Horse Participants will be expected to work within the RDA UK Working together Code of Conduct. [RIDING FOR THE DISABLED ASSOCIATION INCORPORATING CARRIAGE DRIVING](#)
If the Own-Horse Participant isn't meeting the agreed and required standard their membership to that RDA Group may be revoked.

Horse & rider combinations must meet RDA requirements and therefore will undergo an assessment by the relevant discipline coach, Regional Coach or suitable regional representative using the following form: [Horse-and-Rider-Combination-Assessment-Form.docx \(live.com\)](#) & [Master-Horse-Induction-Training-and-Ongoing-Schooling-Record-2023.docx \(live.com\)](#) before competing under the RDA banner and will be re assessed annually.

An assessment fee of £40 may be charged by the assessor to carry out the assessment and travel expenses may also be charged at 45p per mile.

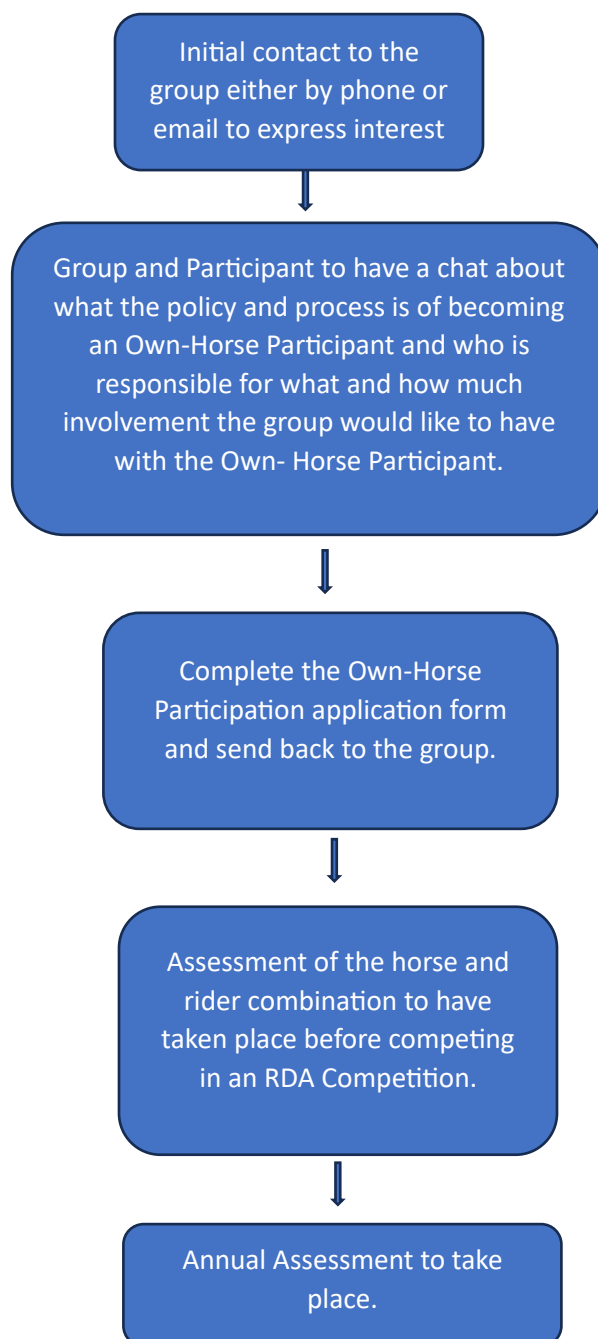
Once deemed suitable the horse is covered by RDA insurance for public liability at RDA events only, all other insurance of the horse is the responsibility of the participant or their representative. The participant, or their representative, will be responsible for all aspects of the competition; financial, provision of animals, transport to and from competition & training etc.

unless the group wishes to provide assistance. We strongly suggest that the relationship expectations be clearly laid out in writing by both parties as soon as possible.

Please note, this process is for both existing independent participants and also going forward Own-Horse Participants, if you have any former independent participants registered with your group, please can you ask them to complete the new application form and once received please send a copy on to RDA National Office. Please note unless your Own-Horse Participant is due their annual review they won't need to be reassessed.

The following flow charts will hopefully help understand the process:

Own-Horse Participants Process



Group process to register an Own-Horse Participant

