

LAYOUT OF COURSES

3.6 (a) **Overall Layout Considerations**

Some time should be taken to consider the following key points (not exhaustive) when considering changes to a site for a Point-to-Point:

(i) **Access and Egress.**

- Roads and gates available for normal movement to and from the course to avoid queues on public highways.
- Routes and waiting area for emergency vehicles including Air Ambulance

(ii) **Horse Box Park.** Close to road. Shady with through draught if likely to be hot. Access to water. Preferably away from public but easy to reach from Parade Ring and course (but preferably not visible before winning post).

(iii) **General Public.** Car park in line with expected numbers, and plans in place for overflow. Movement through the day should not naturally bring them close to Officials' area or horse box park

(iv) **Serious Incident/Emergency.** Layout of site, including routes in and out, allow Officials and external emergency vehicles to handle any incident without serious adjustment required.

(b) **Course Modification**

Plans to alter the course away from the known circuit, require consultation with the Local Inspector in good time ahead of the meeting and if necessary further consultation should take place with the BHA Inspector.

(c) **Position of Start**

There should not be an excessive run up to the first fence. A distance, where practicable, of between 100 yards and 120 yards is recommended.

(d) **Marking of Course**

Where it is necessary to fence any part of the course to prevent the public from encroaching on to the track during the course of a race the uprights used to support the ropes or tapes should be of wood, rounded to minimise the chance of injury to horse or rider. Organisers must consult their BHA Inspector if they wish to use any material other than the above. The use of metal stakes is not satisfactory. It is strongly recommended that as much of the home straight as possible is railed to provide a well-defined line for tired (and possibly drifting) horses towards the end of the race.

Public car parking should be organised in such a way that it is not possible to park immediately adjacent to running rail or ropes/tapes which define the racing line. (See also 'Health and Safety' section 6.3).

(e) **Bends**

Bends should be clearly marked with flags or boards which may be supported by black and white hurdles, plastic rail or round bales. The use of a single round bale to denote a bend is to be avoided. In each case the supports must be secure with the markers positioned so that they do not interfere with oncoming horses/riders.

The use of roped bends to mark the inside of the racing line is not permitted. Where rope is essential, course markers must be used to keep runners off roped bends. Clerks of Courses are advised to consult their BHA Inspector should they wish to source plastic running rail.

Bends and course markers should always be supported by a bundle/faggot of birch or padding (i.e. foam) attached to their outside.

(f) **Extra Course Markers**

Organisers are advised to retain a number of spare course markers in the event that bad weather necessitates 'dolling out' certain false or waterlogged patches of the track.

(g) **Marking of Course Site**

Critchley and Severn plastic are not acceptable materials for use anywhere on the Point-to-Point Course.

Note: Not all of the requirements highlighted in sub-sections 3.4, 3.5 and 3.6 need to be complied with in the case of Hunt Members races being run over natural country.

NUMBERS BOARD

- 3.7 A numbers board must be provided and suitably positioned to be clearly visible to the public and be of an appropriate size to advertise the maximum number of runners and riders, colour changes, overweights, blinkers, tongue straps and the going.

CONSTRUCTION OF PARADE RINGS

- 3.8 It is recommended that the parade ring is large enough to accommodate the number of horses equivalent to the maximum safety factor, allowing not less than 16ft per horse, and is double railed with child resistant fencing. Properly fixed orange/blue plastic mesh material can be used for this purpose. If a metal crowd barrier is being used to define a parade ring, it must be fronted by an inner rope at least 6ft inside it. Where a winners/unsaddling enclosure is incorporated into the parade ring, sufficient additional space must be provided over and above the 16ft per horse.

Besides Officials, only owners and riders with horses participating in the race should be allowed access to the parade ring. A sign confirming that children under the age of 12 (or older if stipulated by Health & Safety requirements and/or the Organisers) are prohibited from entering the parade ring must be installed.

WINNERS/UNSADDLING ENCLOSURE

- 3.11 Individual (i.e. partitioned) stalls for the first four horses in each race are not recommended. An “open plan” area for these horses is a better alternative. Where provided, stalls must be made sufficiently wide for the horses’ comfort and to minimise the risk of connections, photographers etc. being kicked or squeezed against the partitioning.

COURSE WATERING/HARD GROUND

- 3.12 Organisers are strongly encouraged to liaise with their Stewards and BHA Inspector if the going is likely to be Hard (i.e. the ground is impenetrable with a stick of not less than ½ inch diameter tip). If the ground is considered to be officially “Hard” the meeting MUST be abandoned/postponed.

Before plans are made to water a course Organisers MUST ensure they have obtained a water extraction licence where it is necessary to do so.

To maximise the efficiency and consistency of any watering carried out Organisers should take account of the following “best practice” guidance:

- Every effort must be made to achieve an overall consistency of ground conditions of the racing surface/by-pass areas and to avoid any rutting thereon from vehicles during application of water.
- ‘Spiking’ the ground, if possible, will assist in the penetration of the water.
- If the water is to be dispensed from a bowser then it is best to dispense it sideways from the bowser.
- Organisers should take care that watering does not continue so close to the first race time that the conditions become very slippery. Advice should be taken when deciding whether to water on the raceday itself.

COURSE REINSTATEMENT AND MAINTENANCE

- 3.13 It is strongly recommended that the course is reinstated or ‘put back’ within 24hrs-48hrs of a Meeting - especially when the venue stages more than one fixture during the year. In these cases ‘treading in’ and the use of a Cambridge Roller (conditions permitting) are recommended. The BHA Inspector can provide general advice on sports turf equipment.

Organisers must contact their BHA Inspector prior to implementing any large-scale de-compaction work that they are intending to carry out. This includes the use of any ‘earthquake’ machine or ‘shakeaerator’.

FINISHING POST

- 3.14 A board 2ft wide backing the far side finishing post. It must provide enough contrast for the Judge to be able to clearly identify the finishing line.

The board will prevent others filming the finish from the far side along the finishing line.