6.   Health and Safety

INTRODUCTION

6.1   All Point-to-Point Organisers must be aware of the DCMS Guide to Safety at Sports Grounds ('The Green Guide') as the Organisers are ultimately responsible for compliance with legislation or government guidance relating to Health and Safety issues. Chapter 18 of the 'Green Guide' makes specific recommendations in relation to First Aid and Medical provision for spectators.

Organisers are strongly encouraged to compile an up-to-date Health and Safety plan. The plan should include risk assessments and highlight (preferably pictorially) the division of responsibilities of key organisers/officials. Care needs to be taken to clarify who is responsible for the racing itself, and who is responsible for the control of the overall event and site on the day.

All employers and public liability insurances should be prominently displayed.

THE PUBLIC

6.2   Organisers must ensure that adequate procedures are in place for the safety of the public. It is suggested that members of the public and unauthorised staff should at all times be segregated from horses moving between the horse box park, race track, parade ring (which should also be provided with a child resistant fence and have access points suitably manned) and unsaddling enclosures if applicable.

All children under 12 years of age are to be excluded from the parade ring/unsaddling enclosure and a sign to this effect must be displayed. Organisers may increase this minimum age at their discretion. (see Instruction 3.8 'Construction of Parade Rings')

THE COURSE

6.3   In respect of the course itself it is suggested that adequate protection be provided for both the public and the horses and riders. How this is achieved will vary depending on such factors as location, proximity to public areas and the degree of risk to riders from obstacles and/or natural features (e.g. rivers) around the course.

Organisers must ensure that there are proper control measures in place at all access/crossing points where the horses and public can interact e.g. cars driving into the infield, public crossing points on horsewalks, etc.

Track surfaces must be inspected before each Meeting to ensure they are as level as possible. Inequalities in the surface, such as ruts or rabbit holes can prove dangerous both to horse and rider and must be eliminated.

LOADING AND UNLOADING OF HORSES

6.4   An area for the safe loading and unloading of horses must be provided in a clearly defined horse box park.

MEDICAL RESOURCES

6.5   Medical Resources must be in accordance with Instruction (10)A 'Medical Arrangements' and prepared in consultation with the course's Senior Racecourse Medical Officer (SRMO) and the BHA Chief Medical Advisor.

ORGANISERS' VEHICLES

6.6   Organisers should ensure that they or their agents comply with legislation or government guidance relating to Health & Safety issues with regard to the transportation they use at the venue on a raceday. This may include the wearing of helmets and/or non-transportation of passengers on ATV 'Quad bikes'.

LOOSE HORSES

6.7   The actions of loose horses are impossible to predict. However, horses that have fallen, unseated etc. may show a tendency to run back towards the horsebox area or horse entrance/exit to the course. If the public have access to these areas, Organisers should ensure that they are adequately protected. Organisers should also consider the adequacy of the venue's perimeter security in relation to loose horses and nearby public highways or natural features (e.g. rivers).

Horse catchers provided by the Organisers should be properly briefed as to their raceday function and, if possible, should aim to prevent loose horses from running back towards the oncoming field. Horse catchers should be equipped with a radio or mobile phone.

Owners/keepers, or their representatives, must ensure when a horse is being led in any area used for the purposes of the Meeting, that the horse is fitted with a bridle or a headcollar fitted with a chifney to enable it to be led properly. An individual may lead only one horse at any time.