

## Medical – Advisory Note for Fixture Secretaries

**Requirement.** Medical support for a point to point is key, and can only be carried out by properly qualified medical staff. This is laid out in the Instructions, which include BHA General instruction 11, and should be read carefully. In basic terms, the following is required:

- A minimum of two properly qualified doctors, one of whom will be designated as Senior Racecourse Medical Officer (SRMO) (see below), but some courses will require three.
- A minimum of two properly staffed paramedic ambulances.
- However, it should also be noted that – if one of the medical resources has to leave the course during the meeting – that racing can only continue if a minimum of three medical resources remain on the course (two doctors, one paramedic ambulance or one doctor, two paramedic ambulances).
- Medical support for the crowd as laid out in the Purple Guide. This is generally a doctor if there are likely to be over 2,000 people in attendance. NB: Every year, the medical staff at point to points deal with heart attacks and other medical issues which occur amongst the general public.

**Doctors.** The doctors must be properly qualified and registered as laid down by the BHA. As a result, names must be provided to the PPA Office five weeks in advance - on the 'Officials at Meetings' form - so they can be checked by the BHA Medical team. If they are not on the registered list, they are not covered by central medical indemnity insurance, which means the fixture could become liable.

**Paramedics and Ambulances.** The paramedics must be properly qualified, and the ambulances must have the facilities/drugs as laid out in the BHAGI. The SRMO will carry out a check before racing starts, so failure to comply could prevent racing from happening. It is therefore strongly recommended that fixture secretaries get the organisation providing the paramedics to sign that they have read the requirement and will comply with it.

**Paperwork.** The SRMO will be sent the necessary medical forms and paperwork by the BHA Medical team.

**Medical Red List.** The FS will receive the Red List on the Friday afternoon before the meeting. This must be provided to the Declarations Team so they can check for any riders who need to see the doctors before riding (amber) or who cannot ride on the day (red).

**Medical Standing Orders.** The fixture must also provide simple Medical Standing Orders (MSO). These should be created with the support of the SRMO to ensure that they provide the right information and comply with medical requirements. It is strongly recommended that each course has an SRMO who works with the course to create these, so that they can be forwarded to any SRMO who may be new to the course.

**Lack of Doctors.** A fixture may find it difficult to find suitably qualified doctors (the latter will know if they are registered or can act as an SRMO), or one may drop out at short notice. In such cases, the Fixture Secretary must confirm exactly who is missing (i.e. SRMO or RMO):

- Contact the Medical Equestrian Association and ask them to put out an all-points call to their list.
- Inform the PPA Office, who will in turn contact the BHA Medical team.

At some stage, a decision will need to be made as to whether to call the fixture off if the necessary medical assets cannot be found.

**Last Moment Loss of Medical Assets.** Very occasionally, a fixture may discover that they have not got the right medical assets on the day due to one dropping out. In such a case, the most senior doctor there must contact the BHA CMA as soon as possible to find out if a practical and safe way forward can be found, which is acceptable both medically and for insurance purposes, and allows the meeting to go ahead. Failure to get clearance means that a fixture (and those running it) could be liable for any mishaps.