



**** All Updated 4.20.21 USEF COVID-19 Action Plan Updates are listed in this color text.**

Mandatory Requirements for Competition Organizers

All ESP Comments / Applied Methods/ and Actions in Red Text

C. Definitions

CDC – Centers for Disease Control. All activity that occurs at a USEF-licensed competition must be conducted in accordance with CDC guidance protocols.

Competition Area/Schooling Area - For purposes of this document, any reference to competition area and/or schooling area includes rings, arenas, fields, cross-country fields, and any other areas designated for competition, schooling or exercise purposes.

Competition Organizer – For purposes of this document, Competition Organizer includes any individual or entity that acts as competition manager, licensee, and includes any designee(s) with management authority over the competition and its operations.

Competition Staff – For purposes of this document, competition staff includes any individual who is employed or contracted by competition management. Competition staff includes, but is not limited to, ring crews, jump crews, stable crews, competition office staff, medical personnel, awards crew, in-gate personnel, paddock managers, announcers, licensed officials, scribes, etc. • **Officials** - *Any reference to officials, or licensed officials includes all types of competition officials (see GR113). For the purposes of this document, any individuals participating in an approved educational activity for a USEF or Recognized Affiliate licensing program (e.g. apprentices, training program participants, dressage applicants observing or sitting, clinicians, instructors, etc.) are also considered officials and must comply with all applicable requirements within the Action Plan.*

Close Contact– For purposes of this document, close contact as [defined by the CDC](#) is someone who was within six (6) feet of an infected person for at least **a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period* beginning** starting from two (2) days before illness onset (or, for asymptomatic patients, two (2) days prior to test specimen collection) until the time the patient is isolated. It is important to note that close contact has occurred regardless of whether one, or both individuals is wearing a mask. (Refer to CDC FAQ).

***Individual exposures added together over a 24-hour period (e.g., three 5-minute exposures for a total of 15 minutes).**

Anyone who has been in contact with an individual who is confirmed or suspected to be COVID- 19-positive should quarantine in accordance with CDC Guidelines.

COVID-19 Incident or Outbreak – For purposes of this document, an incident is defined as a report of any COVID-19 related event or occurrence including, but not limited to, an individual who is exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19. An outbreak is defined as multiple COVID-19 related incidents or occurrences.



Definitions - *continued*

Exposure – For purposes of this document, exposure is considered close contact with a COVID-19- infected individual (exhibiting symptoms or confirmed by a positive test result) within a distance of six feet for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more and results in the need to quarantine. While the ideal quarantine time is still considered to be 14 days, it is recognized that a shorter quarantine period may balance significant societal burdens against the progressive smaller possibility of spreading the virus over time after exposure accordingly. An individual may discontinue quarantine:

- After Day 10 following close contact (exposure) without testing if no COVID-19 symptoms are present, or;
- After Day 7 if no COVID-19 symptoms are present and after receiving a negative COVID-19 test result (testing must occur on Day 5 or later after exposure)

After discontinuing quarantine, all individuals should:

- Monitor for symptoms for 14 days after exposure
- Immediately self-isolate if symptoms develop and contact a personal healthcare provider or public health authority
- Wear a face mask/face covering, maintain social distancing of at least six feet from others, and wash hands frequently

Face Masks – For purposes of this document, any reference to face masks includes cloth face coverings, N-95, KN-95 and surgical masks. Competition Organizers must provide facemasks or face coverings to competition

staff, volunteers and officials. **Face masks and face coverings must fully cover the nose and the mouth while being worn.**

***The CDC recommends wearing cloth face coverings in public settings where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain. Cloth face coverings should fit snugly but comfortably against the side of the face, be secured with ties or ear loops, include multiple layers of fabric, allow for breathing without restriction and be able to be laundered and machine dried without damage or change to shape.

Isolation – Separation of a person or group of people known or reasonably believed to be infected with a communicable disease and potentially infectious, from those who are not infected to prevent the spread of the communicable disease.

Participants – For purposes of this document, any reference to Participants includes owners, lessees, riders, athletes, parents, vaulters, drivers, trainers, coaches, grooms, longeurs, navigators, personal care assistants (PCAs), and any other required support personnel/staff that are essential for providing care to the horses and/or the athletes.

PPE – Personal Protection Equipment.



Definitions - *continued*

Quarantine – Separation of a person or group of people, known or reasonably believed to have been exposed to a communicable disease but are not yet symptomatic, from others who have not yet been exposed, to prevent the possible spread of the communicable disease. *Please refer to Exposure definition above for quarantine guidance.*

Social Distancing – Also called “physical distancing,” means keeping a minimum of 6 feet (about 2 arms’ length) space between yourself and other people outside your immediate household, as well as avoiding congregate settings or a concentration of individuals in a single area. **(For consistent compliance ESP does not allow exceptions to social distancing requirements INCLUDING family members and/or people of your immediate household.)**

Immediate Household – Individuals consistently living in the same house or dwelling. Members of a household may or may not be related. For purposes of this document, immediate household may also be referred to as same household or own **household (For consistent compliance ESP does not allow exceptions to social distancing requirements INCLUDING family members and/or people of your immediate household.)**

Public/Spectators – For purposes of this document, spectators refers to the general public, fans, or any individuals who are not directly involved in the competition by way of being a participant, **a parent**, a member of competition staff, a service provider (e.g. media or photographer), volunteer, or other support personnel (farrier, veterinarian, etc.). **Extended family members (other than a parent of a participant) are considered spectators. There is to be a maximum of 5 people per horse: the rider, trainer, groom and *two additional person* If you are not one of five people allowed for a horse on the grounds, you will be considered to be spectating.**

Service Providers – For purposes of this document, service providers are those individuals or entities who provide direct services contracted by competition management. Service providers include but are not limited to vendors, caterers, feed suppliers, photographers, videographers, media, **venue/facility staff**, cleaning service providers (including portable restroom service), and waste disposal personnel.

Support Personnel - For purposes of this document, support personnel are those individuals employed or contracted by Participants who are essential for providing **to provide care or services** to horses and/or participants. Support personnel includes, but is not limited to, veterinarians, farriers, equine therapists, **grooms**, and braiders, etc.

Symptoms – Symptoms of COVID-19 include, but are not limited to, subjective or measured fever, cough, and shortness of breath and/or difficulty breathing. Additional symptoms may include sore throat, muscle pain, headache, chills/shaking, or newly developed loss of taste or smell.

Temperature Monitoring – The daily (or alternatively defined period) non-contact body temperature testing utilizing technology that scans forehead temperature (temporal or infrared thermometer) to measure an individual’s body temperature to verify no fever is present. For purposes of this document, a fever is defined as an elevated body temperature of **100.4° F (38° C)** or higher. *This definition of fever utilizes a temperature threshold slightly lower than in CDC guidelines, but this more stringent temperature threshold prevails as the requirement.*

WHO – World Health Organization. All activity that occurs at a USEF-licensed competition must be conducted in accordance with WHO recommendations.



D. General

USEF-Licensed competitions must operate in accordance with the USEF COVID-19 Action Plan for USEF-Licensed Competitions (Plan). This plan is based on federal, state and local regulations, **WHO recommendations**, **CDC guidelines** and USEF requirements. There will be times when regulations, recommendations, guidelines and requirements may differ. In these instances, the more restrictive regulations, recommendations, guidelines and requirements will prevail and supersede all others, e.g. face masks/coverings may not be required by a state or local government but is required at a USEF licensed competition nonetheless due to CDC guidance.

If an individual needs an accommodation under the American Disabilities Act, please submit the request, along with documentation of the disability and need for accommodation, to legalrequests@usef.org. It should be noted that we are experiencing a high volume of legal inquiries at this time, and we will respond as soon as possible. Requests for accommodations will be reviewed on a confidential basis with a medical consultant.

Additionally, competition organizers must implement the USEF requirements listed on the following pages, and are very strongly encouraged to implement all recommended best practices contained herein or similar practices for mitigating risks related to the COVID-19 virus.

These requirements are in effect immediately and until further notice, however, they are subject to revisions as the COVID-19 virus environment changes.

ESP has been instrumental in helping develop these protocols with USEF since the March 2020 shutdown. We have very diligently studied and applied actions for all requirements based on our operations and facilities. We have also enhanced and added additional protocols that we feel are best for the general welfare of our exhibitors. We have been in close contact with local authorities - and any competition held at our facility will be with their knowledge and support.

USEF Competition Organizers must complete the WHO Mass Gathering for Sports Risk Assessment Tool and work with state and local governments and public health authorities prior to the start of the competition to help determine risks and mitigation measures. Competition Organizers are encouraged to consult their insurers and legal counsel as well. ESP completed the WHO Mass Gathering for Sport Risk Assessment Tool during April 2020. We are considered low risk with an impressive mitigation score of 86%

If competition organizers have any questions, please contact Katlynn Sacco by email at ksacco@usef.org or by phone at (859) 225-6981.

E. Agreements

For currently licensed competitions:

- Execute the Addendum to the USEF Licensing Agreement (provided by USEF) by the required deadline prior to the start of the competition.
- Ensure that all participants, including licensed officials and volunteers, provide emergency contact information and execute an updated *Waiver and Release of Liability, Assumption of Risk and Indemnity Agreement* required by USEF, as a condition of participation. Please ensure use of the updated form for

competitions starting on May 6, 2020, or after. This form will be made available with the entry blanks. Please note that all riders, parents and/or guardians, owners, coaches, and trainers must sign this form before any back numbers are assigned. Absolutely no entries will be accepted or processed before a back number is assigned with this process. No exceptions!

- **Prior to the start of a competition**, create an Emergency Response Plan specific to a COVID-19 incident or outbreak that includes local medical resources and addresses outbreak protocols including medical evaluation, isolation and quarantine, and reporting. **ESP has modified its emergency response plan for all accidents to include COVID-19 protocols.** If there are any instances of an outbreak, our local contracted PBCFR authorities will handle this situation in the quarantine tent located by the onsite Fire Rescue unit.
- If a COVID-19 incident or outbreak occurs, USEF and local public health authorities must be notified. **Emails will be required from all participants and competition staff so that notification may be distributed upon such an occurrence.**
- Provide training for competition staff, volunteers and licensed officials regarding all procedures and requirements associated with the Plan. **All staff have been distributed copies of the ESP Accident plan.**
- Ensure vendors and service providers are included in the communication and training requirements associated with the Plan. **Vendors will be limited but any that are allowed to be on the grounds will be included in those notified.**
- Disseminate a copy of the Plan to all applicable competition personnel- **Covered above.**
- A minimum of 14 days prior to the start of the competition, inform (e.g., via prize list/omnibus, website, social media, email, etc.) all participants, officials and competition personnel of protocols and safeguards implemented for their protection against spreading COVID-19 by providing them with a list of such measures. **With constant changes needed to be made to the USEF COVID-19 Action Plan for USEF Licensed Competitions, this document will be updated as needed on the PBIEC.coth.com. under the competitors tab.**

F. Access

- Beginning in January 2021, all persons entering the show grounds must have an ESP issued credential.
- General access to the PBIEC show grounds is limited to a maximum of 5 people per horse: the rider, trainer, groom **and *two additional persons*.**
- Require **and provide for onsite** temperature monitoring for volunteers, officials, **competition staff** and **service providers** once daily prior to entering the competition grounds. Anyone with a temperature of **100.4° F (38° C)** or higher may not enter the facility. **As implemented in May, we will continue to check everyone's temperature before they are allowed access to the grounds.** Everyone will either be checked by the thermal camera system or at entry point gates A-N with a touchless thermometer before they are allowed access through the gate. Anyone with a temperature below **100.4° F (38° C)** may enter the facility. We ask that everyone check their own temperature at home before coming to work to avoid any incident of possible exposure before this mandatory check at the entry gate.
- **The following individuals are not allowed to enter the competition grounds:** Anyone who:
 - o **Anyone who** exhibits **COVID-19 symptoms**,
 - o **Anyone who** has tested positive for COVID-19 within ~~last two weeks~~ **10 days**,
 - o **Anyone who has tested positive outside of the past 10 days, but is still symptomatic**, or
 - o ***Anyone who has been *exposed to or has been* in close contact** with someone who has **COVID-19 symptoms or has** tested positive for COVID-19 within **either** the last-7 **or 10 days (dependent upon certain criteria - refer to CDC Quarantine Options).*****Exception: Healthcare personnel who have treated patients using appropriate medical-grade PPE during the course of performing professional duties and those individuals who are fully vaccinated are exempted from this quarantine restriction.**

Refer to Appendix A for Self-Isolation/Self-Quarantine Directives in the event a person has a fever or exhibits other symptoms of COVID-19.

**Please reference Participant requirements regarding temperature monitoring for Participant responsibilities.

*****If a situation arises regarding access that is not addressed in this Action Plan, please contact USEF. Direct inquiries to ksacco@usef.org or dsaliling@usef.org.**

- Competition Organizers must notify USEF and local public health authorities, if any individual who was present on the competition grounds tests positive for COVID-19 within 14 days of the conclusion of the competition. **Direct USEF reports to ksacco@usef.org. ESP will notify all required parties once ESP management have been made aware of a positive.**
- Competition Organizers will direct the reporting individual to contact the local public health authorities (and provide the contact information) for the purposes of having the local public health authorities perform contact tracing.
- Competition Organizers are to remind all competition staff, service providers, participants, and support personnel **of their responsibility to report if they test positive for COVID-19 within 14 days of the conclusion of competition (refer to Section L).**
- Require a face mask or face covering for all staff, officials, volunteers, service providers and participants at all times while on competition grounds when not mounted on a horse, seated **riding** in a horse-drawn carriage or cart, or during in-hand classes as outlined by the procedures* below. Competition Organizers must provide face masks or face coverings to competition staff, volunteers and officials. You can find recommendations for proper use of face masks and face coverings via the [Centers for Disease Control & Prevention website](#).
- **To eat or drink, an individual must move far enough away from others to minimize the possibility of being within six feet of any other individual before lowering the mask or face covering to eat or drink. The mask must be immediately replaced over the nose and mouth when finished.**
- If an individual requires modification to this face mask/face covering requirement, please submit written request, accompanied by documentation substantiating the need for modification, to sgilbert@usef.org. It should be noted that we are experiencing a high volume of legal inquiries at this time, and we will respond as quickly as possible. Requests for modifications will be reviewed on a confidential basis with a medical consultant.
- ***In-Hand Class Procedures - face masks or face coverings that fully cover your nose and mouth are required at all times at USEF-licensed competitions, including while exhibiting horses and ponies in-hand. However, if absolutely necessary, you may lower your mask while jogging or running with a horse or pony in-hand, or while executing a pattern, but only if you are able to maintain social distancing of at least six feet while doing so. The mask must be replaced immediately once the jog, or run, or pattern, is completed.**
- ****A participant cannot be disqualified or penalized for wearing a facemask or face covering while competing. As enforced by ESP since May, these requirements will continue to be enforced by all ESP personnel. We take these basic requirements very seriously to help prevent the spread so please be prepared to wear masks and maintain social distancing at all times while on the grounds or please don't show with us.**
- ****A participant cannot be disqualified or penalized for wearing a facemask or face covering while competing. All judges will be notified. No penalties will also apply to goiter style masks that are draped around the neck. All ESP judges have been notified in writing prior to arrival at the show.**

F.1. Spectator Protocols

Spectators can be permitted on USEF-Licensed competition grounds beginning May 3, 2021, subject to the requirements listed below.

*****Please note, competition organizers may choose to impose more stringent restrictions than those listed below, including prohibiting spectators. In those instances, the competition organizer's protocols take precedence over those listed below.**

Please note that ESP will not be allowing general spectators at this time. General access to the PBIEC show grounds will continue to be limited to a maximum of 5 people per horse: the rider, trainer, groom and ***two additional persons***. All persons entering the show grounds must have an ESP issued credential. On August 24, 2020, ESP elected to stop issuing arm bands to family members. With the exception of a parent allowed with a toddler, we are asking everyone on the grounds to remain six feet apart so that the social distancing requirements remain uniform and builds on healthy distancing habits. This is very important for the effective enforcement and safety of everyone on the grounds. Please remember there is to be a maximum of 5 people per horse: the rider, trainer, groom and ***two additional persons***.

The USEF COVID-19 Action Plan remains in effect for all persons on competition grounds with the following amendments regarding additional protocols for spectators, if allowed. Please note that ESP will not be allowing general spectators at this time.

Effective May 3, 2021, if a competition chooses to allow spectators, the following protocols must be implemented:

- All USEF Spectator Protocols must be posted on the competition website and conspicuously placed at the spectator entrance(s) to the competition in a location that can be read by spectators prior to entry to the competition grounds.
- Each spectator (including a member of an immediate household) is required to comply with the Action Plan requirements. This includes, but is not limited to:
 - Wearing a **face mask/face covering at all times while on competition grounds (except when eating or drinking in designated areas, or for children under 2 years of age)*
 - Socially distancing a minimum of six feet from any other person not in their *immediate household* while on competition grounds.

**If an individual requires modification to this face mask/face covering requirement, please submit written request, accompanied by documentation substantiating the need for modification, to sgilbert@usef.org. It should be noted that we are experiencing a high volume of legal inquiries at this time, and we will respond as quickly as possible. Requests for modifications will be reviewed on a confidential basis with a medical consultant.*

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- **Spectator capacity**

Spectator capacity on the competition grounds is restricted as follows:

- *Outdoor Venues - A maximum of 40% of the ticketed spectator capacity for competitions that operate with a ticketed gate, **OR** a maximum of *400 spectators for competitions that do not ticket spectators, whichever is greater.*

- - *Indoor Venues – A maximum of 30% of the ticketed spectator capacity for competitions that operate with a ticketed gate, **OR** a maximum of *300 spectators for venues that do not ticket spectators, whichever is greater.*

- **For venues that consist of both outdoor and indoor components, the above capacity restrictions apply accordingly, however the total number of spectators at the competition cannot exceed the outdoor capacity each day.**
***Competition organizers must take into account the relative size of their venues. In some instances, the capacity numbers may be far below the maximums listed here.**

- **Spectator Access**

Spectators must enter competition grounds through a controlled and monitored access point(s).

- *Signage must be placed at the spectator access point(s) that states the following:*
 - **STOP! - If you proceed past this entry point you attest to the following:**

- ✓ **I am NOT experiencing any possible COVID-19 symptoms (e.g., Fever or chills, Cough, Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, Fatigue, Muscle or body aches, Headache, New loss of taste or smell, Sore throat, Congestion or runny nose, Nausea or vomiting, Diarrhea);**

- ✓ **I have NOT tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 10 days**
- ✓ ***I have NOT been in close proximity to anyone who has tested positive within the last 14 days***

Exception: Healthcare personnel who have treated patients using appropriate medical-grade PPE during the course of performing professional duties and those individuals who are **fully vaccinated (at least 14 days after their final COVID vaccination) are able to be in close proximity of COVID-19 infectious people.*

- ✓ **I agree to comply with all organizer requirements for attendance, including but not limited to wearing a face mask/face covering, social distancing and frequent hand-washing**
- ✓ **I understand I can be removed from competition grounds for non-compliance of spectator protocols**
- ✓ **I acknowledge that the inherent risk of exposure to COVID-19 exists in any public place where people are present. By attending this equestrian competition, I voluntarily assume all risks related to COVID-19 exposure and agree not to hold the competition, its organizers, or any of its directors, officers, staff, agents, contractors, or volunteers liable for any illness or injury.**

- **The temperature of each spectator must be taken each day prior to their entering the competition grounds. Prior to having their temperature taken, each spectator must review the posted sign (see bullet point above) and attest to the temperature taker they are compliant with all statements. Anyone with a temperature of 100.4° F (38° C) or higher may not enter the facility.**
- **Each day, each spectator must be provided with and wear a visible armband or other identifier signifying the person is permitted to be on the competition grounds.**
 - *It is recommended that spectators who are members of an **immediate household** be credentialed in a manner that visually identifies them as such (e.g., special color and/or unique number per household)*
- *Competition Organizers must provide multiple sanitization stations throughout the spectator seating/viewing areas if spectators are present.*
- *Compliance personnel, secured by competition management in addition to the USEF Stewards/Technical Delegates, must patrol the grounds to ensure compliance with these spectator protocols and all other USEF Action Plan requirements.*

- Competition Organizers must make multiple PA announcements throughout each competition day to remind spectators of the requirements to wear masks, socially distance and frequently wash hands in order to mitigate the risk of virus transmission.
- **Additional Protocols for VIP/Hospitality Areas, If Offered ESP will not be offering VIP/Hospitality areas May- October.**
 - All tables or groups of seating must be placed a minimum of 6 feet apart from other tables or groups of seating.

○ Tables or groups of seating are limited to members of *immediate households* per the

USEF definition, unless social distancing of a minimum of 6 feet between persons can be maintained.

○ Individual seating must have a minimum distance of 6 feet between seats. This includes bleacher and stadium seating.

• **Additional Resources Related to Spectators** Click on the links below to access:

- [Spectator Statement/Symptom Checker & Acknowledgement \(coming soon\)](#) ○ [USEF Printable Poster: Face Masks and Social Distancing Required](#)
- [USEF Graphic for Digital Use: Face Masks and Social Distancing Required](#)

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Please note that ESP will not be allowing general spectators at this time. General access to the PBIEC show grounds will continue to be limited to a maximum of 5 people per horse: the rider, trainer, groom **and *two additional persons***. All persons entering the show grounds must have an ESP issued credential. On August 24, 2020, ESP elected to stop issuing arm bands to family members. With the exception of a parent allowed with a toddler, we are asking everyone on the grounds to remain six feet apart so that the social distancing requirements remain uniform and builds on healthy distancing habits. This is very important for the effective enforcement and safety of everyone on the grounds. Please remember there is to be a maximum of 5 people per horse: the rider, trainer, groom **and *two additional persons***.

Mandatory Requirements for Competition Organizers – *continued*

G. Signage

- Post signage that displays all applicable federal, state and local regulations, requirements and orders as well as [WHO recommendations](#) and [CDC guidelines](#) as they relate to mass gatherings and sporting events in effect at the competition. Posted at all entrances as well as appropriate signage throughout the property.
- Post signage throughout the competition grounds that lists the requirements for social distancing and the use of face masks/face coverings. Posted at all entrances as well as appropriate signage throughout the property.
- **USEF provided posters: [Face Masks & Social Distancing](#)**
- Post signage at all entrances to the competition grounds which identifies the symptoms of COVID-19 and states the following:

- To protect others from possible transmission of the virus, anyone who exhibits COVID-19 symptoms, ***has been exposed to or has been*** in close contact with someone who has ***COVID-19 symptoms, or anyone who has*** tested positive for COVID-19 within ***either*** the last ***14 7 or 10*** days (***dependent upon certain criteria - refer to CDC Quarantine Options***) ***cannot enter the competition grounds***. Exception: healthcare personnel who have treated patients using appropriate medical-grade PPE during the course of performing professional duties. These individuals are encouraged to contact their health care provider immediately for further medical advice and must obtain documented clearance from their health care provider before entering the competition grounds. Participants must assume responsibility for themselves and their own staff (e.g. grooms, assistants, etc.). **Posted at all entrances**
- ***Sample poster: Symptoms of Coronavirus Disease*** **Posted in multiple locations throughout the property**
- Post signage throughout the competition grounds (i.e. competition office, competition and schooling areas, barns, etc.) which includes recommendations about good hygiene along with informing participants and others about ways to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission. **Posted in multiple locations throughout the property**
 - ***Sample Poster: CDC – Stop the Spread of Germs*** **Posted in multiple locations throughout the property**

H. Social Distancing & Limiting Entries and/or Stabling

- Enforce social distancing requirements throughout the competition grounds at all times. **ESP Staff will be wearing fluorescent vests displaying the constant reminder of social distancing. ESP staff members will have the authority to warn and remind anyone on ESP facility property of the necessity of social distancing. We also realize that many of you have quarantined together. We ask that EVERYONE abide by social distancing protocols while outside of your cars on the grounds. This includes members of their immediate household. With the exception of parents with toddlers, we are asking everyone on the grounds to remain six feet apart so that the social distancing requirements remain uniform and builds on healthy distancing habits. This is very important for the effective enforcement and safety of everyone on the grounds.**
- All individuals must practice social distancing (or physical distancing) at all times while on the competition grounds by staying at least 6 feet (about 2 arms' length) from any person. Everyone is required to wear masks or face coverings ***at all times while on competition grounds.*** ~~when there is a possibility of being within six feet of any other individuals, including members of their own household.~~ **Everyone should have a mask on at all times. Everyone should observe social distancing.**
- ****Exceptions***
 - *Social distancing is not required when competing in driving classes where more than one participant is seated **riding** in the horse-drawn carriage or cart.*
 - *Individuals are allowed to be seated together while being transported by golf cart (or similar four-wheeled transport vehicle), but capacity may not exceed the number of seats on the cart or vehicle and **all individuals must wear face masks or face coverings.***
- ***Congregating on or around a parked or stationary golf cart or vehicle is prohibited, ~~unless the individuals are all visually identifiable (e.g. credentialed) as immediate household members, are all wearing face masks/face coverings, and do not exceed the seating capacity of the cart or vehicle.~~***
- **ESP will not permit congregating by anyone.**
- Competition Organizers are encouraged to implement a system that visually (e.g., numbered or colored IDs or some other form of credential) identifies members of the same household.

All persons entering the show grounds must have an ESP issued credential. Effective August 24, 2020, ESP elected to stop issuing arm bands to family members. With the exception of a parent allowed with a toddler, we are asking everyone on the grounds to remain six feet apart so that the social distancing requirements remain uniform and builds on healthy distancing habits. This is very important for the effective enforcement and

safety of everyone on the grounds. Please remember there is to be a maximum of 5 people per horse: the rider, trainer, groom and *two additional persons*.

- Prohibit the public, spectators, and non-essential personnel such as guests from being on the competition grounds until further notice. **Started in January 2021, all persons entering the show grounds must have an ESP issued credential.** Posted and regulated by all ESP Staff
- *Competition Organizers must determine whether a sponsor can be present on competition grounds by assessing whether the sponsor meets the criteria of being essential to providing care to the horses or athletes, or provides direct services contracted by the Competition Organizer. If sponsors are present, they must comply with face mask/face covering, social distancing, and all other requirements. **ESP Sponsorship personnel have been in communication with sponsors. Sponsors (while observing all COVID-19 protocols) will be allowed on the property (if they so choose) for the purposes of presentations.***
- Organize horse arrivals and departures to limit contact between people. Stall assignments will be issued by aisle. In any instance where an aisle must be shared, security will regulate unloading so groups can stay apart during this process. All trailer in parking (**while allowed**) will be directed by security to give sufficient area for social distancing requirements.
- Arrange judges' and other officials' areas to comply with social distancing requirements. In the event that it is absolutely impossible to maintain social distancing of six (6) feet or more, the erection of a solid, rigid **non-porous, securely attached** divider *must be placed in the location where social distancing cannot be maintained (i.e., between, in front of and/or behind seating areas). The divider provides a physical separation and barrier between individuals and therefore must be of sufficient size to effectively and significantly reduce the risk of respiratory particulates being spread.* located in front of, and between individuals, and of sufficient size to reduce the risk of respiratory particulates being spread, must be used. **The inclusion of such dividers does not eliminate the requirement to wear face masks or face coverings. For additional specifics regarding dividers, please reference the Competition Organizer COVID- 19 Action Plan FAQs.**
All judging areas on the ESP Competition grounds have been modified to meet or exceed these requirements.
- Restrict competition office access to essential personnel only, configure the space and limit the number of office staff to comply with social distancing, and limit the number of participants who can enter the competition office at one time (e.g., schedule check- in/check-out times) **Signs have been placed on the outside of the office for rules and guidelines. There is now a separate entrance and exit. We have added five new walk up windows so that it is optional to enter the office. As always, ESP exhibitors can manage all of their entries online through our ShowGroundsLive.com. All staff radios, computers, clip boards, judges cards, etc., will be delivered to their location before the show and dropped off at a walk up window after completion. Exhibitors may also arrange for office appointments in advance by emailing Jennifer Glosson @ jglosson@equestriansport.com or Hali Miller @ CASEY255@GMAIL.COM .**
- Competition Organizers must notify USEF if entries are to be limited. **ESP reserves the right to limit total numbers of rounds allowed per ring on the competition schedule.** This may be changed as proficiency for scheduled times improves or declines. Management reserves the right to move (or cancel): classes or divisions to other rings to best accommodate those on the waiting list. At all times, no entries will be processed before: back numbers are assigned (10,000 or 20,000 numbers assigned by online **is not a back number**), a method of payment on file and all proper waivers are completed. After back numbers are assigned the entry process will open on a first come first serve basis.
- The FEI will determine whether entries may be limited in FEI classes. **Any possible FEI restrictions (if implemented) will be noted in the draft schedules and approved by the FEI.**
- Competition Organizers may limit entries to the competition and/or to specific sections/classes within the competition to manage the concentration of horses and people. **ESP reserves the right to limit total numbers or rounds allowed per ring as explained above.**
- Regardless of the scope of the limitation, the limiting of entries must be done on a first come, first served basis and relevant information must be posted on the competition website or in the prize list, as

well as at the competition office and at each competition area (i.e. ring, arena, field, cross country course). **First come first serve will be automated as described above through the SGL software.**

- Competition management must also communicate the system used for notifying and “wait-listing” individuals who submit entries after the available spaces are filled, and the method must be equally applied to all potential participants. **First come first serve will be automated as described above through the SGL software. Those placed on the “add waiting list” will be informed by the show secretaries if management determines that the adds can be accepted.**
- Configure stabling to comply with social distancing requirements in order to manage concentration of horses and people. **Described below:**
- Competition Organizers must notify USEF if stabling is to be limited. **Stabling will be limited as described below.**
- Regardless of the scope of the limitation, the limiting of stabling **MUST** be done on a first come, first served basis and relevant information must be posted on the competition website or in the prize list. **Stabling will only be offered to those who correctly fill out entries as described in the entry process. Once exhibitors are assigned numbers, the availability of stalls will be opened. Our tent aisles have been modified to a minimum 9 feet wide in order to allow for people to pass each other on opposite sides with social distancing room to spare. Please remember that all barn areas should be restricted to grooms, trainers, vets and other essential personnel. Signage in English and Spanish are placed in the barn areas.**
- Competition Organizer must also communicate the system used for notifying and “wait-listing” individuals who submit stabling requests after the available spaces are filled, and the method must be equally applied to all potential participants. **Stabling will be assigned on a first come first serve basis. Anyone on a waiting list will be notified where they are on that list.**
- Competition Organizers must publish their policy regarding entry and stall refunds within the prize list and/or on the competition website.

I. Enforcement Authority

USEF Stewards and Technical Delegates will inform individuals when they are not in compliance with the regulations and requirements in effect at the competition and shall report such situations to the Competition Organizer. The Competition Organizer has the authority under GR 702.1 and GR914 to remove from the facility any person who does not comply with the regulations and requirements in effect at the competition.

Stewards/Technical Delegates must report the removal of any person from competition grounds for non-compliance with regulations and requirements in effect at the competition in their USEF Steward/Technical Delegate Report. **ESP had great success with the majority of exhibitors being very cooperative with all COVID-19 protocols. We have however had to remove some individuals that were non-compliant with established ESP COVID-19 protocols. ESP will continue to evict and revoke credentials to any occupant who refuses to comply with any of the posted COVID-19 protocols that have been established to keep everyone safe.**

Competition Organizers are responsible for enforcing all social distancing and face mask/face covering requirements. **ESP Management will continue to enforce all of these requirements.**

Stewards/TDs are required to report compliance on the part of Competition Organizers with respect to the mandatory requirements listed above. **Any such occurrence will be reported.**

Did the Competition Organizer confirm completion of the **WHO Mass Gathering for Sports Risk Assessment Tool**? **Yes, we did.** **We are considered low risk with an impressive mitigation score of 86%**

Did the Competition Organizer adhere to the requirements listed above in Sections D-H to the best of its abilities, including posting the required signage?

Mandatory Requirements for Participants

J. General

USEF-Licensed competitions must operate in accordance with the USEF COVID-19 Action Plan for USEF-Licensed Competitions (Plan). This plan is based on federal, state and local regulations, [WHO recommendations](#), [CDC guidelines](#) and USEF requirements. There will be times when regulations, recommendations, guidelines and requirements may differ. In these instances, the more restrictive regulations, recommendations, guidelines and requirements will prevail and supersede all others, e.g. face masks/coverings may not be required by a state or local government but is required at a USEF licensed competition nonetheless due to CDC guidance. Additional requirements and recommendations specifically applicable to Vaulting competitions can be found in [Appendix C](#).

It is important to note that local public health authorities may impose more restrictive actions and protocols than those listed within this document. The USEF will continue to evaluate new information provided and will update this Action Plan accordingly.

[Participants](#) are required to comply with these and any additional Competition Organizer ***or local health authority*** requirements at all times while present on competition grounds. Failure to do so may result in expulsion from the grounds.

These requirements are in effect immediately and until further notice, however, they are subject to revisions as the COVID-19 virus environment changes.

If participants have any questions, please contact Debbie Saliling by email at dsaliling@usef.org or by phone at (859) 225-6930.

K. Waiver/Release & Indemnity Agreement

Provide emergency contact information and execute an updated state-specific [Waiver and Release of Liability, Assumption of Risk and Indemnity Agreement](#) required by USEF, as a condition of participation. If a state-specific waiver is not available, please use the [general version](#) of the form. Please ensure use of the updated form provided by the competition organizer. **ESP is also asking for accurate cell phone numbers and email addresses to use in the case of notification requirements.**

L. Access

- [Participants](#) and [Support Personnel](#) are required to self-monitor their temperature once daily prior to entering the competition grounds. Anyone with a temperature of ~~99.5° F (37.5° C)~~ **100.4° F (38° C)** or higher may not enter the facility. **As implemented in May, we will continue to check everyone's temperature before they are allowed access to the grounds. Everyone will either be checked by the thermal camera system or at entry point gates A-N with a touchless thermometer before they are allowed access through the gate.**
- ***The following individuals are not allowed to enter the competition grounds:*** Anyone who:
 1. o ***Anyone who*** exhibits [COVID-19 symptoms](#),
 - o ***Anyone who*** has tested positive for COVID-19 within ~~last two weeks~~ **10 days**,
 - o ***Anyone who has tested positive outside of the past 10 days, but is still symptomatic***, or
 - o *Anyone who has been ***exposed to or has been*** in close contact with someone who has ***COVID-19 symptoms or has tested positive for COVID-19*** within ***either*** the last 14 ***7 or 10*** days (***dependent upon certain criteria - refer to CDC Quarantine Options***). *Exception: Healthcare personnel who have treated patients using appropriate medical- grade PPE during the course of performing professional duties and those individuals who are [fully vaccinated](#) are exempted from this restriction.

Effective January 2021: Anyone who does not have a PBIEC issued pass.

- Refer to Appendix A for CDC guidelines for self-isolation/quarantine directives in the event a person has a fever or exhibits other symptoms of COVID-19. Attached

Participants and Support Personnel are required to wear a facemask or face covering at all times while on competition grounds when not mounted on a horse, seated **riding** in a horse-drawn carriage or cart, or during in-hand classes as outlined by the *procedures below. You can find recommendations for proper use of face masks and face coverings via the [Centers for Disease Control & Prevention website](#).

To eat or drink, an individual must move far enough away from others to minimize the possibility of being within six feet of any other individual before lowering the mask or face covering to eat or drink. The mask must be immediately replaced over the nose and mouth when finished.

If an individual requires modification to this face mask/face covering requirement, please submit written request, accompanied by documentation substantiating the need for modification, to legalrequests@usef.org sgilbert@usef.org. It should be noted that we are experiencing a high volume of legal inquiries at this time, and we will respond as quickly as possible. Requests for modifications will be reviewed on a confidential basis with a medical consultant.

As required since May 2020, these requirements will continue to be enforced by all ESP personnel. ESP Staff will be wearing fluorescent vests displaying the constant reminder of social distancing and all personnel will enforce face mask requirements as well. We take these basic requirements very seriously to help prevent the spread so please be prepared to wear masks and maintain social distancing at all times while on the grounds or please don't show with us.

**In-Hand Class Procedures - face masks or face coverings that fully cover your nose and mouth are required at all times at USEF-licensed competitions, including while exhibiting horses and ponies in-hand. However, if absolutely necessary, you may lower your mask while jogging or running with a horse or pony in-hand, or while executing a pattern, but only if you are able to maintain social distancing of at least six feet while doing so. The mask must be replaced immediately once the jog, or run, or pattern, is completed.*

A participant may choose to wear a facemask or face covering when mounted on a horse and cannot be disqualified or penalized for doing so while competing. **Please remember that showing in Florida heat can be very taxing on your body. Please make sure that you take this under consideration when making this decision. Please stay extra hydrated and wear devices (if you so choose) that do not contribute to Heat related illnesses such as Heat Exhaustion or Heat Stroke.

- If any person who was present on the competition grounds tests positive for COVID-19 within 14 days of the conclusion of competition, USEF, and the Competition Organizer, **and local public health authorities** must be notified immediately. Direct USEF reports to ksacco@usef.org. **Competition Organizers will provide the reporting individual with contact information for the local public health authorities who will perform the contact tracing process.**
- *****Questions regarding access to competition grounds and eligibility to participate in competition that may not be clearly identified under the points above or under**
- **Point F on page 9 must be directed to ksacco@usef.org or dsaliling@usef.org, who will consult with USEF medical experts and provide a written decision from the USEF with regard to the participant's eligibility.**

M. Social Distancing/Participation Protocols

- All individuals must practice social distancing (or physical distancing) at all times while on the competition grounds by staying at least 6 feet (about 2 arms' length) from any person who is not a member of their

immediate household. Members of the same household are still required to wear masks or face coverings ***at all times while on competition grounds-***

- * Exceptions
 - *Social distancing is not required while competing (including warm-up) in driving classes where more than one participant is seated **riding** in the horse-drawn carriage or cart. Individuals are allowed to be seated together while being transported by golf cart (or similar four-wheeled transport vehicle), but capacity may not exceed the number of seats on the cart or vehicle and all individuals must wear face masks or face coverings.*
- ◆ ***Congregating on or around a parked or stationary golf cart or vehicle is prohibited, ~~unless the individuals are all visually identifiable (e.g. credentialed) as immediate household members, are all wearing face masks/face coverings, and do not exceed the seating capacity of the cart or vehicle.~~***

As of August 24, 2020 ESP has elected to stop issuing arm bands to family members. With the exception of parents with toddlers, we are asking everyone on the grounds to remain six feet apart so that the social distancing requirements remain uniform and builds on healthy distancing habits. This is very important for the effective enforcement and safety of everyone on the grounds. Everyone should have a mask on at all times. All ESP Staff will be wearing fluorescent vests displaying the constant reminder of social distancing. All ESP staff members will have the authority to warn and remind anyone on ESP facility property of the necessity of social distancing. We also realize that many of you have quarantined together for months. We ask that EVERYONE abide by social distancing protocols while outside of your cars on the grounds. Please remember there is to be a maximum of 5 people per horse: the rider, trainer, groom and *two additional persons*.

Wash hands often and adhere to other sanitization practices throughout the day. We have secured as much hand sanitizer as possible. We have ample sanitizer dispensers placed around all entrances, ingates, bathrooms, show office as well as key areas around the grounds. If you find any dispensers on the grounds out of supply, please bring this to management's attention and it will be rectified immediately. We have also placed portable sinks at the rings supplied with high quality antibacterial soap.

Recommended Best Practices for Competition Organizers

The following Recommended Best Practices have been provided to assist Competition Organizers with determining risks and developing measures to mitigate those risks. Please note these are not mandatory, however USEF strongly encourages their implementation.

N. General Considerations

- To the extent possible, limit the number of entrances and exits to the venue to manage crowding, social distancing and venue limitations. ***We have installed security fencing at the facility to prevent anyone from getting in without going through any of the seventeen security gate check points. This was done to regulate all people accessing the property in addition to checking everyone's temperature.***
- ***It is strongly recommended that competition organizers secure additional staff or volunteers dedicated to monitoring adherence to Action Plan requirements, and who can support USEF Stewards', Technical Delegates' and Competition Management's efforts to ensure compliance with safety protocols. ESP has hired additional stewards, "COVID Cops" and personnel since May to help enforce all rules including but not limited to ESP COVID-19 Action Plan Rules***
- Communication – Use radio, phone and online communication methods as much as possible and communicate important information frequently throughout the competition grounds. ***Announcers and ingate personnel make constant announcements reminding everyone of social distancing and mask requirements.***

We have also implemented a mass text communication platform to inform everyone of changes in the schedules, ring delays or emergencies such as thunderstorms.

- *It is strongly recommended that competition organizers conduct exhibitor meetings (virtually, telephonically, or in an environment where social distancing can be maintained) both prior to and during the competition to communicate requirements and address questions.*
- VIP and other social areas are strongly discouraged unless social distancing requirements are enforced in accordance with all applicable federal, state and local regulations, requirements and orders as well as WHO recommendations and CDC guidelines as they relate to mass gatherings and sporting events. **ESP will not be offering VIP areas May-October**
- *It is strongly recommended that if people are going to travel together in the same vehicle to a competition, they should take their temperature prior to getting into the vehicle to ensure no one travels to the competition with an elevated temperature. **This should include golf cart transportation.***

O. Considerations for Facilities, Staff, Medical Personnel, Service Providers & Volunteers

Cleaning/Sanitizing Locations

Service providers and support personnel are recommended to comply with the following:

- *Register with the competition organizer and indicate when they are going to be on the competition grounds;*
- *Sign a waiver provided by the organizer;*
- *Comply with any competition organizer requirements to change PPE (face mask/face coverings, etc.) when moving between stables; and*
- *Comply with all social distancing and face mask/face covering requirements, and sanitizing best practices while on competition grounds; and*
- *Do not linger or socialize in stables or anywhere else on competition grounds while performing or after completing work.*
- *Provide hand sanitization stations with access to soap and water or alcohol based hand sanitizer at each competition area and schooling/warm up area. We have secured as much hand sanitizer as possible. We have ample sanitizer dispensers placed around all entrances, ingates, bathrooms, show office as well as key areas around the grounds. If you find any dispensers on the grounds out of supply, please bring this to management's attention and it will be rectified immediately. We have also placed portable sinks at all rings supplied with high quality antibacterial soap.*
- *Provide hand sanitizer to all officials, ring crew, office staff and maintenance staff. ESP have provided this to staff since March and will continue to do so.*
- *Frequently sanitize surfaces touched by many: door handles, arena gates, wash racks and hoses, etc. Cleaning staff covering the bathrooms will make regular trips to the office to sanitize door handles. Hand sanitizer will be placed outside the office entry and exit door. New New Water coolers have been installed at the ingates with disposable cups and "handless" levers that are pushed by cups or containers. We are encouraging all exhibitors and staff to purchase their own refillable containers to cut down on waste. Antibacterial soap dispensers have also been placed at the common wash rack area. Please encourage your grooms to wash their hands after using the common hoses.*
- *Ensure frequent cleaning and sanitizing of bathrooms, provide soap and water or alcohol based hand sanitizer in bathrooms. Each bathroom area on the show grounds will be assigned a staff cleaner to constantly wipe down all touched areas. Reminders will be placed outside and inside bathrooms to use the quality antibacterial soap that will be kept in plentiful supply.*

For the continued safety of all our cleaning staff, we would respectfully remind anyone using the bathroom areas around our cleaning crew to give them the same social distancing area as anyone else on the grounds. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

- Prohibit the use of public water fountains. The public water fountains will be disabled until further notice. New Water coolers have been installed at the ingates with disposable cups and “handless” levers that are pushed by cups or containers. We are encouraging all exhibitors and staff to purchase their own refillable containers to cut down on waste.
- Strongly encourage all competitors to complete entry forms, in their entirety, including having all requisite memberships in place, prior to entering competition office. In May we introduced electronic entries to be made and signed remotely. Signs have been placed on the outside of the office for rules and guidelines. There is now a separate entrance and exit with direction arrows on the ground and social distancing place markers. We have added five new walk up windows so that it is optional to enter the office. As always, ESP exhibitors can manage all of their entries online through our ShowGroundsLive.com.
- Strongly encourage that all entries, adds, scratches, feed & bedding orders, billing/invoicing are done electronically. Our SGL software has always allowed for adds, scratches, viewing bills and making payments remotely. With these features there is little reason that would require someone to visit the office. All feed and bedding are handled through Gold Coast Feed. Phone in orders are the primary means of ordering.
- Install clear plastic, glass or other type of protective shield/barrier in front of office staff. This has been built and installed.
- Provide hand sanitizer near the door. This is provided at entry door and inside exit door.
- Provide an ‘in’ door and an ‘out’ door, if possible. These have been provided with proper signage in English and Spanish and directional arrows placed on the floor.
- Provide markers to delineate 6 feet spacing between people in the office and in any waiting lines (e.g., markers on floor). Measured areas marked and provided.
- Prepare and email competitor bills as early as possible. SGL online close out capability provided. You may also request bills to be printed in advance by emailing Jennifer Glosson @ jglosson@equestriansport.com or Hali Miller @ CASEY255@GMAIL.COM
- Establish appointment times for checkout at the competition office. SGL online capability provided. You may also request an office appointment in advance by emailing Jennifer Glosson @ jglosson@equestriansport.com or Hali Miller @ CASEY255@GMAIL.COM

Service Providers and Vendors

- Advise any service providers (e.g. vendors, food-service, farrier, feed suppliers, waste disposal personnel) to take precautions in accordance with federal, state, local and facility regulations and CDC guidelines. All advised
- For onsite food-service, consider requesting provision of pre-packaged food only. There are several food vendor options. Most will offer grab and go selections.

P. Competition, Schooling and Exercise Area Considerations

Utilize posted orders of go and/or published ride times including online orders of go and ride times. During the show, this will continue to be provided online through our SGL software. We have designated time slots by height for back number schooling. In addition, we have made it possible to remotely “enter” through SGL a specific 15-20 time slot by height so you know exactly when you can arrive to school. Please see the time schedule for these options. Walk ups will be accommodated by ingate personnel on a first come first serve basis.

At venues with multiple competition areas, consider designating one area as primary where assigned times and/or orders of go take precedence. The priority ring will be established based on daily numbers and time constraints. This will be announced or provided by mass text notification.

Consider scheduling course walks as necessary to comply with social distancing requirements (e.g., schedule small groups in separate sections). All courses will be posted on our website for all disciplines. ALL, course walks will be extremely brief, with social distancing protocols strictly enforced and should be focused only in areas where distances are not provided. Management reserves the right to close any ring at any time to walking if protocols are not being followed.

Utilize individual water bottles versus community water coolers. New Water coolers have been installed at the ingates with disposable cups and “handless” levers that are pushed by cups or containers. We are encouraging all exhibitors and staff to purchase their own refillable containers to cut down on waste.

Limit and organize seating areas to comply with social distancing requirements. There will be extremely limited seating and placed far apart. Most ring side chairs have been anchored in six-foot distancing patterns. All bleachers have been removed. Many of the blue seats in the International Ring have been zipped tied to ensure six-foot distancing requirements. We are strongly encouraging people to stay in their cars until getting on their horse. Please note that Golf Cart occupants should not sit in golf carts violating social distancing requirements. Once the golf cart has reached its destination, all occupants should get out. Please remember, if you are looking for a chair you should probably go to your car. Spectating is not allowed at this time.

Restrict the number of people accompanying a horse to the competition area to those persons who are needed for safety or for achieving effective competition, but they all must comply with social distancing requirements. There will be numerous signs and warnings to limit each showing horse with a maximum of 5 people. Rider, Trainer, Groom and two other companions. These and all social distancing requirements will be enforced by any and all ESP personnel. All ESP personnel will wear neon safety vest displaying social distancing enforcement. This will remain a constant reminder to anyone on the grounds to remain vigilant in maintain social distancing at all times.

Schooling and exercise area provisions:

- Provide monitors to ensure compliance with requirements and best practices. Always monitored and controlled by stewards, schooling supervisors and/or ingate personnel. A maximum of one person per schooling standard will be allowed per schooling jump. Each schooling jump will be spaced at least 8’ apart to accommodate people on both sides with social distancing.
- Schooling jumps - Provide sanitizing items (spray bottles, wipes) at each competition arena and schooling/warm-up area and advise individuals to wear gloves while handling the jumps and to wipe down jump equipment after use. We encourage gloves when using schooling jumps in the common areas. We will provide rubber gloves upon request, but please plan on using your own gloves of choice. All ingates have hand washing sinks with antibiotic soap provided.
- Determine equine/human capacity in relation to the area and restrict access to a limited number in order to maintain social distancing requirements. . A maximum of one person per schooling standard will be allowed per schooling jump. Each schooling jump will be spaced at least 8’ apart to accommodate people on both sides with social distancing. . Signage enforcing maximum occupancy will be placed around areas that need to be defined. (Such as shade tents or offices.) In any case the show grounds is over 100 acres so there should never be a reason that social distancing cannot be followed based on the horse counts allowed and ordered.
- In classes where participants compete collectively, determine and communicate to participants, the maximum number of horses permitted in each competition area at one time based on the size of the competition areas and social distancing requirements. We have very large competition rings that can easily accommodate 20 riders with plenty of room to spare. In a situation where the number could be greater than 20, we will split the class. Announcers and ingate personnel will ensure that all participants will stand greater than 6 feet apart in the center line up. Ingates will also make sure that there is not grouping together upon exiting the ring. Ribbons will be handed out after pinning. But it is optional for the rider to refuse the ribbon if they are uncomfortable.

Communicate with participants if classes will be divided and held in one or more sections.

-Classes may be divided into separate classes with each class receiving separate awards.

-Classes may be split into sections with the final section being comprised of the best entrants from each of the previous split sections with one set of awards given in the final section. **This communication will be done in advance of the class by online notification or by ringside announcement.**

Consider utilizing technology for information transfer to mitigate the risk of virus spread by the manual transfer of paper (i.e. judge's cards, scoresheets, etc.).

Create a method of giving ribbons and trophies that reduces or eliminates hand-to-hand contact. **Ribbons will be hung individually on a hanger outside the ring area for pick up. We use gift certificates for distributing our awards..**

Q. Stabling Considerations

Restrict access to the stabling areas to veterinarians, athletes, officials, grooms, trainers and other essential personnel. **All barn areas will be restricted to grooms, trainers, athletes and other essential personnel (Vets are included). Signage in English and Spanish are placed in the barn areas.**

Remind all personnel in the stabling areas to comply with all best practices and guidelines in effect at the competition. **All barn areas will be restricted to grooms, trainers, athletes and other essential personnel (Vets are included). Trainers—The barn area assigned to your operation is your responsibility to operate and apply all best management practices. It is your responsibility to restrict your barn area to grooms and essential staff only. PLEASE DO NOT ALLOW YOUR CLIENTS TO LOITER IN THE BARN AREAS.** Trainers are asked to please bring all the same materials and operating protocols that you have implemented in your private barn operation since the COVID-19 pandemic started. ESP will not be providing materials in the barn areas that are essential to operate your private business. Random spot checks will be performed by ESP management or stewards to remind and enforce any observed violations to COVID-19 protocols.

Provide hand sanitization stations in the stabling area and encourage stable personnel to use frequently. **ESP will not be providing hand sanitizer in the barn areas. The barns are in close proximity to sanitizer locations and bathrooms with antibacterial soap. ESP will be providing hand sanitizer and supplies in all of the common areas. The barn area assigned to your operation is your responsibility to operate and apply all best management practices.**

Recommended Best Practices for Participants

Although not mandatory, Participants are strongly encouraged to follow the Recommended Best Practices listed below at all times while present on the competition grounds.

R. Access & Monitoring Considerations

Provide non-contact thermometers (e.g., temporal or infrared) to staff and require temperature monitoring throughout the day. **It is extremely important that all Trainers, Owners, Riders and Support personnel establish a regular practice of taking your temperature before leaving your house. Not all people that have been infected with the virus have a fever, but for ANYONE who does have a fever should not come on the show grounds under any circumstances.**

Limit access to stabling area and competition grounds to essential personnel only; discourage multiple family members from accompanying owners and riders. **Beginning in January 2021, all persons entering the grounds must have a PBIEC issued pass.** All barn areas will be restricted to grooms, trainers, athletes and other essential personnel. Signage in English and Spanish are placed in the barn areas. **Trainers—The barn area assigned to your operation is your responsibility to operate and apply all best management practices. It is your responsibility to restrict your barn area to grooms and essential staff only. PLEASE DO NOT ALLOW YOUR CLIENTS TO LOITER IN THE BARN AREAS.**

Consider having riders meet their horses at the competition or schooling areas or other pre-designated area to further limit contact in the stabling area. Trainers and your staff should give the most accurate times for when your client will show. ESP ingate personnel will be updating the SGL system to the best of their ability, however, keep in mind there are unforeseen situations that can cause delays. (Injuries, thrown shoes, thunderstorms, etc.) We ask that you have your clients remain in their cars until it is their turn to mount, warm up and **be ready to compete in the ring on time.** Please keep in mind that we will be enforcing time limits on when you are expected in the ring. Be considerate to your fellow competitors showing after you that are monitoring their posted times.

Consider the use of mounting blocks to avoid one-on-one contact between riders and grooms/assistants. Mounting blocks are available at every schooling area.

Provide adequate food and beverage supplies for your barn and your support staff for the duration of the competition to avoid unnecessary community exposure. **Trainers –** You are responsible for your staff. Please make sure you are using knowledgeable professionals that understand all COVID-19 protocols and risks. Please make sure they are taking all necessary precautions both at work and outside of work. Please do not supplement extra personnel into the horse show operation other than the staff you have employed and trusted at your personal operation. The barn area assigned to your operation is your responsibility to operate and apply all best management practices. Trainers are asked to please bring all the same materials and operating protocols that you have implemented in your private barn operation since the COVID-19 pandemic started. ESP will not be providing materials in the barn areas that are essential to operate your private business.

It is strongly recommended that if people are going to travel together in the same vehicle to a competition, they should take their temperature prior to getting into the vehicle to ensure no one travels to the competition with an elevated temperature. This should include golf cart transportation.

Riders- please rely on your trainers and their staff to give the best times for when you will show. ESP ingate personnel will be updating the SGL system to the best of their ability, however, keep in mind there are unforeseen situations that can cause delays. (Injuries, thrown shoes, thunderstorms, etc.) We ask that you remain in your cars until it is your turn to mount, warm up and **be ready to compete in the ring on time.** Please keep in mind that we will be enforcing time limits on when you are expected in the ring. Be considerate to your fellow competitors showing after you that are monitoring their posted times.

Riders, parents and owners should not be in the barn areas. If you are responsible for your own horse then you will be placed as an individual barn and separated accordingly.

Always comply with all best practices and guidelines in effect at the competition. All of the COVID-19 protocols that have been established and will be enforced are for EVERYONE'S well being. We ask that all of you take them seriously and remain vigilant.

One important note about **Thunderstorms. PLEASE plan on going to your cars in the event of any delay.** We cannot afford a situation where groups of people try to go to a single area violating the social distancing protocols. Your personal car should be your safe place at all times.

Social media posting- Please consider when posting anything on social media that is negative can be a reflection on our entire sport. ESP have done our best to address every area of our sport to make it as safe as possible to continue safely during this worldwide pandemic. Although the phrase “We are in this together” has become overused, we must depend on everyone in our sport to come together to do our individual part. ESP is

committed to enforcing all restrictions to the best of our ability, but we cannot control everyone or everything that takes place on the grounds. Negative social media can cause unnecessary hardship to our entire industry that have already suffered severe economic effects. Please take an extra look at a photo to examine if something looks out of context. Please consider posting a date when posting a photo at a horse show prior to COVID-19 protocols that may be considered a violation of social distancing by today's standards. More importantly, if you witness anything that you feel is unsafe in this current environment, Any COVID-19 protocols that are not being followed, PLEASE BRING IT TO MANAGEMENT'S ATTENTION FIRST so that we can correct the problem as quickly as possible. We are all learning how to make things safer and it is ESP's continued pledge to make whatever changes we can to ensure everyone's safety and wellbeing.

S. Cleaning & Sanitizing Considerations

Provide hand sanitizer, ~~gloves~~, masks, and other PPE deemed necessary to your barn staff and other personnel and encourage them to use these items on a regular basis. **ESP will continue to provide gloves at the in-gates upon request until further notice.**

Do not mix equipment (tack, grooming supplies, lead shanks, etc.) and sanitize between each use.

Regularly sanitize bikes/motorbikes/golf carts/car & truck door handles, stable doors, bucket handles, light switches, etc., and equipment including tack, grooming, feeding, stall cleaning materials, etc.

Again, the barn area assigned to your operation is your responsibility to operate and apply all best management practices. Trainers are asked to please bring all the same materials and operating protocols that you have implemented in your private barn operation since the COVID-19 pandemic started. ESP will not be providing materials in the barn areas that are essential to operate your private business.

T. Scheduling Considerations

Schedule competition days (ride times, schooling times, etc.) as efficiently as possible to minimize time spent on the competition grounds each day. **ESP continues to provide access to online scheduling through the showgroundslive.com software. Courses are produced on the PBIEC.coth.com website under the competitors tab each evening before the scheduled classes. Please use these tools to minimize your time on the show grounds each day.**

Additional Resources U. Resources & Reference Tools

CDC (Centers for Disease Control)

Symptoms of Coronavirus and treatment resources Resources for Large Community Events and Mass Gatherings

- Q&A on Event Planning and COVID-19
- Guidance for Organizers - Mass Gatherings and Event Preparation



Print Resources

- Poster – Symptoms of Coronavirus Disease

- Spanish Version
- Poster/Fact Sheet - What you should know about COVID-19 to protect yourself and others

- Spanish Version

- Poster – Stop the Spread of Germs
- SpanishVersion
- Poster – STOP: Stay at home when you are sick!
- SpanishVersion

- Poster/Fact Sheet – Share Facts About COVID-19

- SpanishVersion

Audio/Video Resources

- Public Service Announcement Samples for use by Organizers Reference Videos

Husch Blackwell State-by-State COVID-19 Resources

USOPC (United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee) USOPC Sports Event Planning Considerations post-COVID-19 USOPC Return to Training Considerations post-COVID-19

WHO (World Health Organization)

**WHO Mass Gathering for Sports Risk Assessment Tool o Risk Assessment Decision Tree

** *Required for use by competition organizers*

Technical Guidance: Points of Entry and Mass Gatherings

- o Q&A on Mass Gatherings and COVID-19
- o Key Planning Recommendations for Mass Gatherings
- o Considerations for Sports Federations/Sport Event Organizers when planning mass



APPENDIX A Self-Isolation/Self-Quarantine Directives

If you... Steps to take...

If you or someone in your home might have been exposed

Self-Monitor

Be alert for symptoms. Watch for **fever, cough, or shortness of breath.**

- Take your temperature if symptoms develop.

- Practice social distancing. Maintain 6 feet of distance from others, and stay out of crowded places.
- Follow [CDC guidance](#) if symptoms develop.

If you... Steps to take...

• Recently had *exposure to or* close **Self-Quarantine**

contact with a person with COVID-

19, or • • Recently traveled from

somewhere outside the U.S. or on • a cruise ship or river boat

Check your temperature twice daily and watch for symptoms. Stay home for 14 days and self- monitor. *In certain instances, quarantine can end prior to the 14 days. Refer to CDC guidance.*

• If possible, stay away from people who are [high-risk](#) for getting very sick from COVID- 19.

If you... Steps to take...

• Have been diagnosed with COVID- **Self-Isolate** 19, or •

- Are waiting for test results, or
- Have symptoms such as cough,

Stay in a specific “sick room” or area and away from other people and animals. If possible, use a separate bathroom.

fever, or shortness of breath

• Read important information about [caring for yourself](#) or [someone else who is sick](#).

Steps to take...

Self-Quarantine

- Check your temperature twice daily and watch for symptoms.
- Stay home for 14 days and self- monitor
- If possible, stay away from people who are high-risk for getting very sick from COVID- 19.

If you...

• Have been diagnosed with COVID-

Steps to take...

- Are waiting for test results, or
- Have symptoms such as cough, fever, or shortness of breath

Self-Isolate

- **Stay in a specific “sick room” or area** and away from other people and animals. If possible, use a separate bathroom.
- Read important information about [caring for yourself](#) or [someone else who is sick](#).

APPENDIX B

SAMPLE

Competition Organizer Holding Statement – COVID-19 Positive

We were notified on [INSERT DATE] that an [exhibitor / staff member / official / participant – **DO NOT INCLUDE NAME UNLESS USE IS APPROVED BY INDIVIDUAL**] tested positive for COVID-19 after attending [INSERT COMPETITION NAME]. Per the requirements of the USEF COVID-19 Action Plan, we are notifying all individuals who were in attendance at the competition.

Our staff continues to work diligently to ensure the competition venue is properly sanitized and all protocols of the USEF COVID-19 Action Plan are followed. We ask that individuals on-site remain committed to wearing face masks or face coverings, adhere to social distancing guidelines, and practice frequent hand washing and hand sanitization to mitigate risk while on-site. For additional information, please contact [INSERT COMPETITION CONTACT] at [INSERT EMAIL].

COVID-19 Action Plan for Competitions – Revised 4/20/21