



**All ESP Comments / Applied Methods/ and Actions as of 8.18.21 are in Red Text**

**\*\* All Updated 5.18.21 USEF COVID-19 Action Plan Updates are listed in this color text.**

## **Mandatory Requirements for Competition Organizers**

### **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 unmasked for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period\* beginning 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).*

Any person who is not fully vaccinated and who has been in close 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 as having occurred when a person not fully vaccinated comes into **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 is unmasked and results in the need to quarantine unless the exposed individual is fully vaccinated (but those individuals must still monitor for symptoms for 14 days post-exposure). 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. If required to be worn, face coverings/masks must fully cover the nose and the mouth while being worn. \*\*\* 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. We encourage everyone to remain wearing face masks

### **Amended PBIEC Policies for Face Masks Requirements Effective 8.18.21:**

-All persons (Vaccinated and Unvaccinated) are still required to wear face masks: In the show office, while inside the public bathrooms.

-For those that are vaccinated AND observing social distancing outdoors, face masks will be optional. Good judgement should be taken to avoid very close contact to the extent possible. We also ask that you keep a mask available while on the grounds for use in required situations.

**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, 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.

**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.

**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**.

**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.). **Our Summer Show Series typically attract a limited spectator base. With this in mind, as of 8.18.21, PBIEC is open to general spectators. Credentials will no longer be a requirement for entry to the facility. Due to the COVID-19 Delta Variant, ESP reserves the right to return to credential requirements in order to regulate spectator numbers if crowds exceed our expectations.**

**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.* **All persons entering competition grounds are required to self-monitor their temperature once daily prior to entering the competition grounds. As of 8.18.21 ESP will continue to check everyone’s credential and temperature before they are allowed access to the grounds. Anyone with a temperature of 100.4° F (38° C) or higher may not enter the facility. Everyone will be checked at entry point gates A-H with a touchless thermometer before they are allowed access through the gate.**

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



*COVID-19 Action Plan for Competitions – Revised 8/18/21*

## **D. General**

**USEF-Licensed competitions must operate in accordance with state and local requirements. In the absence of state or local requirements, USEF recommends compliance with CDC guidelines. In an effort to mitigate the risk of spreading COVID-19, Competition Organizers can impose more restrictive requirements if they so choose.**

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 in the referenced appendices 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.

**USEF Competition Organizers must work with state and local governments and public health authorities prior to the start of the competition to help determine the applicable requirements for their competition. Competition Organizers are encouraged to consult their insurers and legal counsel as well.**

If permission from a state or local government agency or public health authority is required in order for a competition to be allowed to operate, competition organizers must have obtained verifiable permission from those entities prior to conducting the competition(s).

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

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. 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%

## **E. Agreements**

- Ensure that all participants, licensed officials, and volunteers, provide emergency contact information and execute 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. **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 and ESP COVID-19 action plan.**
  - Ensure vendors and service providers are included in the communication and training requirements associated with the Plan. **Vendors 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. 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](http://PBIEC.coth.com). under the competitors tab.**

## F. Access

- **All persons entering competition grounds are required to self-monitor their temperature once daily prior to entering the competition grounds. As of 8.18.21 ESP will continue to check everyone's credential and temperature before they are allowed access to the grounds. Anyone with a temperature of 100.4° F (38° C) or higher may not enter the facility. Everyone will be checked at entry point gates A-H with a touchless thermometer before they are allowed access through the gate.**
- ***As of 8.18.21, PBIEC is open to general spectators. Credentials will no longer be a requirement for entry to the facility. Due to the COVID-19 Delta Variant, ESP reserves the right to return to credential requirements in order to regulate spectator numbers if crowds exceed our expectations.***
- The following individuals are not allowed to enter the competition grounds:
  - **Anyone** who exhibits [COVID-19 symptoms](#), including a temperature of 100.4° F (38° C) or higher,
  - **Anyone** who has tested positive for COVID-19 within last 10 days,
  - **Anyone** who has tested positive outside of the past 10 days, but is still symptomatic, or
  - 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 Participant temperature monitoring responsibilities.**

**\*\*\*Questions regarding access to competition grounds and eligibility to participate in competition that may not be clearly identified under the points above must be directed to [ksacco@usef.org](mailto:ksacco@usef.org) or [dsaliling@usef.org](mailto: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.**

• 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](mailto:ksacco@usef.org).

○ 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 required to remind all [competition staff](#), [service providers](#), [sponsors](#), [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 O](#)).

Mandatory Requirements for Competition Organizers – *continued*

## G. Signage

- ○ Competition Organizers must post signage on their website, in their prize list and throughout the competition grounds that lists the competition COVID requirements. **Posted at all entrances as well as appropriate signage throughout the property.**
- • Competition Organizers must post signage at all entrances to the competition grounds which identifies the symptoms of COVID-19 and states the following: **Posted at all entrances as well as appropriate signage throughout the property.**
- 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 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 and those who are **fully vaccinated**). 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.).
  - *Sample poster: [Symptoms of Coronavirus Disease](#)*

- STOP! - If you proceed past this entry point you attest to the following:
  - ✓ I do not have a temperature of 100.4° F (38° C) or higher;
  - ✓ I am NOT experiencing any possible COVID-19 symptoms (e.g., Fever or chills, 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
  - ✓ 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.

- **USEF Poster: *STOP! If you proceed past this entry point, you attest to the following***

- Competition Organizers must 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.

- *Sample Poster: [CDC – Stop the Spread of Germs](#)*

## H. Face Coverings/Masks

- Competition Organizers of USEF licensed competitions must comply with state and local requirements regarding use of face coverings/masks. In the absence of state or local requirements, USEF recommends compliance with CDC guidelines. In an effort to mitigate the risk of spreading COVID-19, Competition Organizers can impose more restrictive requirements if they so choose. You can find recommendations for proper use of face coverings/masks via the [Centers for Disease Control & Prevention website](#).

### **Amended PBIEC Policies for Face Masks Requirements Effective 8.18.21:**

-All persons (Vaccinated and Unvaccinated) are still required to wear face masks: In the show office, while inside the public bathrooms.

-For those that are vaccinated AND observing social distancing outdoors, face masks will be optional. Good judgement should be taken to avoid very close contact to the extent possible. We also ask that you keep a mask available while on the grounds for use in required situations.

When state or local authorities, or a competition organizer requires the wearing of a face covering/mask at a competition, the following applies:

- 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 the lowering the face covering/mask to eat or drink. The face covering/mask must be immediately replaced over the nose and mouth when finished.
- If an individual requires modification to this face covering/mask requirement, please contact the Competition Organizer.

Any Individual may choose to wear a face covering/mask even when not required, and can do so without penalty.

## I. Spectators

- Subject to state and local restrictions, spectators are permitted to attend USEF-Licensed competitions and are subject to the same requirements as all other persons on competition grounds, including the Plan requirements.
  - *As of 8.18.21, PBIEC is open to general spectators. Credentials will no longer be a requirement for entry to the facility. Due to the COVID-19 Delta Variant, ESP reserves the right to return to credential requirements in order to regulate spectator numbers if crowds exceed our expectations.*
  - Spectator capacity: Competition organizers must take into account the relative size of their venues and comply with any state or local capacity restrictions.
  - Competition Organizers must provide multiple sanitization stations throughout the spectator seating/viewing areas if spectators are present.
  - Competition Organizers must make multiple PA announcements throughout each competition day to remind spectators of the competition's COVID-19 safety requirements.

## J. Protocols for VIP/Hospitality Areas

- If offered, all VIP/Hospitality areas must be arranged in a manner that complies with state or local requirements or the competition organizer's requirements including, but not limited to, social distancing.  
***PBIEC will not be offering VIP/Hospitality areas May- October.***

## K. Social Distancing

- Enforce social distancing requirements throughout the competition grounds at all times in accordance with state, local or Competition Organizer requirements. ***Reminders of ESP recommended social distancing will remain posted around the grounds.***
- Arrange judges' and other officials' areas to comply with state, local or competition organizer social distancing requirements. If social distancing is required, and in the event that it is absolutely impossible to maintain social distancing of six (6) feet or more, a solid, 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. ***Our state and local authorities do not currently require social***



distancing. ESP still recommends that officials wear a mask if they are sharing a work space within 6 feet of another official. ESP will supply any official with masks upon request.

## L. 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.**

## Mandatory Requirements for All Persons

### M. General

USEF-Licensed competitions must operate in accordance with state and local requirements. In the absence of state or local requirements, USEF recommends compliance with CDC guidelines. In an effort to mitigate the risk of spreading COVID-19, Competition Organizers can impose more restrictive requirements if they so choose.

**All persons on competition grounds must comply with the COVID-19 requirements in place at the competition. Failure to do so may result in expulsion from the grounds by competition management. These requirements are in effect immediately and until further notice, however, they are subject to revisions as the COVID-19 virus environment changes.**

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

### N. Waiver/Release & Indemnity Agreement for Participants, Licensed Officials and Volunteers

All participants, licensed officials, and volunteers must provide emergency contact information and execute a 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 form provided by competition organizer or accessed via the links above. **ESP is also asking for accurate cell phone numbers and email addresses to use in the case of notification requirements.**

### O. Access

- As of 8.18.21, PBIEC is open to general spectators. Credentials will no longer be a requirement for entry to the facility. Due to the COVID-19 Delta Variant, ESP reserves the right to return to credential requirements in order to regulate spectator numbers if crowds exceed our expectations.*

- All persons entering competition grounds are required to self-monitor their temperature once daily prior to entering the competition grounds. As of 8.18.21 ESP will continue to check **everyone's credential and temperature** before they are allowed access to the grounds. Anyone with a temperature of 100.4° F (38° C) or higher may not enter the facility. Everyone will be checked at entry point gates A-H 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 exhibits **COVID-19 symptoms**, including a temperature of 100.4° F (38° C) or higher,
  - Anyone who has tested positive for COVID-19 within last 10 days,
  - Anyone who has tested positive outside of the past 10 days, but is still symptomatic,
- or
- \*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.*

*\*\*\*Questions regarding access to competition grounds and eligibility to participate in competition that may not be clearly identified under the points above must be directed to [ksacco@usef.org](mailto:ksacco@usef.org) or [dsaliling@usef.org](mailto: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.*

- 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.
- Any individual on competition grounds who tests positive for COVID-19 within 14 days of the conclusion of the competition, is required to report such result to the Competition Organizer.
- 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.

## **P. Face Coverings/Masks**

- All persons on competition grounds must comply with the face covering/mask requirements in place at the competition.
- -All persons (Vaccinated and Unvaccinated) are required to wear face masks: In the show office, while inside the public bathrooms.
- -For those that are vaccinated **AND** observing social distancing outdoors, face masks will be optional. Good judgement should be taken to avoid very close contact to the extent possible. We also ask that you keep a mask available while on the grounds for use in required situations.

- You can find recommendations for proper use of face coverings/masks via the [Centers for Disease Control & Prevention website](#).
- When state or local authorities, or a competition organizer requires the wearing of a face covering/mask at a competition, the following applies:
  - 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 the lowering the face covering/mask to eat or drink. The face covering/mask must be immediately replaced over the nose and mouth when finished.
  - If an individual requires modification to this face covering/mask requirement, please contact the Competition Organizer.

## Q. Social Distancing

- All persons on competition grounds must comply with the social distancing requirements in place at the competition. **Reminders of ESP recommended social distancing will remain posted around the grounds.**

## APPENDIX A

### Recommended Best Practices for Competition Organizers

The following Recommended Best Practices are not mandatory, but have been provided to assist Competition Organizers with determining risks and developing measures to mitigate those risks.

#### A.1. General Considerations

- To the extent possible, limit the number of entrances and exits to the venue to manage crowding, social distancing and venue limitations.
- 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.
- Communication – Use radio, phone and online communication methods as much as possible and communicate important information frequently throughout the competition grounds.
- 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. **In any case where an exhibitor meeting needs to be held, officials to suggest social distancing will be on hand.**
- 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 is not hosting any VIP areas between May and 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.

#### A.2. Considerations for Facilities, Staff, Medical Personnel, Service Providers & Volunteers

- 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 wear or change PPE (face mask/face coverings, etc.) when moving between stables; and
- Do not linger or socialize in stables or anywhere else on competition grounds while performing or after completing work.

- Cleaning/Sanitizing Locations

- Provide hand sanitization stations with access to soap and water or alcohol based hand sanitizer at each competition area and schooling/warm up area. **All rings continue to have handwashing sinks with antibacterial soap and disposable towels. Automatic hand sanitizer dispensers are also at every ring and placed throughout the property.**
  - Provide hand sanitizer to all officials, ring crew, office staff and maintenance staff. **Provided**
  - Frequently sanitize surfaces touched by many: door handles, arena gates, wash racks and hoses, etc.
  - Ensure frequent cleaning and sanitizing of bathrooms, provide soap and water or alcohol based hand sanitizer in bathrooms. **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. 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.**
- Prohibit the use of public water fountains. **These have been disabled. New Water coolers have been installed at the ingates with disposable cups and “handleless” 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.**

- Competition Office

- 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 2020 we introduced electronic entries to be made and signed remotely. Signs have been placed on the outside of the office for rules and guidelines. As always, ESP exhibitors can manage all of their entries online through our [ShowGroundsLive.com](http://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. **There is now a separate entrance and exit with direction arrows on the ground and social distancing place markers.**
- 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](mailto:jglosson@equestriansport.com) or Hali Miller @ [CASEY255@GMAIL.COM](mailto:CASEY255@GMAIL.COM)**

- Establish appointment times for checkout at the competition office. **SGL online close out capability provided. You may also request bills to be printed in advance by emailing Jennifer Glosson @ [jglosson@equestriansport.com](mailto:jglosson@equestriansport.com) or Hali Miller @ [CASEY255@GMAIL.COM](mailto: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.
- For onsite food-service, consider requesting provision of pre-packaged food only.

### A.3. Competition, Schooling and Exercise Area Considerations

Utilize posted orders of go and/or published ride times including online orders of go and ride times. ○ 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 if there are 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 brief, with social distancing protocols or mask requirements encouraged. Walks 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.**

Consider utilizing individual water bottles versus community water coolers. **Water coolers have been installed at the ingates with disposable cups and “handleless” 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. **Limited seating will be supplied. The seating that has been provided are tied down to encourage social distancing.**
- Consider restricting 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.
- 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.**
  - Schooling areas - Provide sanitizing items (spray bottles, wipes) at each competition arena and schooling/warm-up area and advise individuals to wipe down jumps or other equipment after use. **We encourage gloves when using schooling jumps in the common areas. We will provide rubber gloves upon request. 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. **Masks worn OR maximum of one person per schooling standard will be suggested per schooling jump. Each schooling jump will be spaced at least 8’ apart to encourage people on both sides to use social distancing. . Signage suggesting maximum occupancy without masks will be placed around areas that need to be defined. (Such as shade tents or offices.) In any case the show grounds is over 59 acres so there should never be a reason that social distancing cannot be observed based on the horse counts expected throughout the summer series**
  - In classes where participants compete collectively, the Competition Organizer should 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. 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 as separate classes, or split and held in or more than one section. **This communication will be done in advance of the class by online notification or by ringside announcement.** For example:

- 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.
- 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..**

#### **A.4. Stabling Considerations**

Restrict access to the stabling areas to veterinarians, athletes, officials, grooms, trainers and other essential personnel. **We encourage that all barn areas to 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. **We encourage that all barn areas to 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 preformed 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.**

## **APPENDIX B**

### **Recommended Best Practices for Competition Participants**

**The following Recommended Best Practices are not mandatory, but have been provided to assist Competition Participants and Support Personnel with determining risks and developing measures to mitigate those risks.**

#### **B.1. Access & Monitoring Considerations**

Provide non-contact thermometers (e.g., temporal or infrared) to barn staff and require temperature monitoring throughout the day. 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. We encourage that all barn areas to be restricted to grooms, trainers, athletes and other essential personnel (Vets are included). 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 consider having 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 vaccinated 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 unvaccinated 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.

## **B.2. Cleaning & Sanitizing Considerations**

- Provide hand sanitizer, masks, and other PPE deemed necessary to your barn staff and other personnel and encourage them to use these items on a regular basis.
- 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.

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### B.3. 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 for classes 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.

**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 consider remaining 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 please remember parents and friends should not be in the barn areas to keep occupancy low.

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.

**Thunderstorms. PLEASE consider going to your cars in the event of any delay.** We do not encourage a situation where large groups of unmasked people congregate in a small area. 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. It is ESP’s continued pledge to make whatever changes we can to ensure everyone’s safety and wellbeing.