

ISHSA COVID-19 HORSE SHOW GUIDELINES

One of the most critical considerations is the elimination of lines at horse shows, adherence to social distancing and the health and welfare of every exhibitor and show employee.

Take Every Precaution

Show management should take every precaution to ensure that gathering numbers don't exceed discrete populations during each stage of exhibition, from tack-up to exhibition. This will mean adapting events and activities to fall in compliance with local requirements for distancing. These adaptations will necessarily reduce the number of individuals in the office, restrooms, hallways, concessions, stall barns, warm up arenas and holding areas in order to safely and easily maintain social distancing.

Here are some practices to maximize the safest path to success:

Social distancing:

Designating with signage, tape, and by announcements indicating six-foot spacing for guests and staff in line (entrance, restrooms, concessions, show offices, arena entry passages, warm-up arenas accesses) to maintain appropriate distance.

Make every effort to eliminate lines through such practices as curb-side or online check-in.

At least one stall, or 10-foot distance between common collections of stalled horses. Common collections constitute groups of horses managed by a specific training barn, regardless of ownership, making every effort to ensure that no one is forced to walk through another common collection space.

Make frequent announcements encouraging spectators to keep six feet apart if they are not within families that live together.

Cleaning practices:

Clean high-touch areas like show office counters frequently with antiviral agent.

Spray hoses and other commonly touched items regularly with bio-hazard agent.

Ensure hand sanitizer containing at least 60 percent alcohol and sanitizing products are made readily available for guests and staff.

Keep restroom outer doors open wherever possible to reduce contact.

Staff Protection:

Recommend that staff wear masks.

Provide gloves for all event services, maintenance, security and event staff or any other staff with direct contact with the public.

Make available a non-contact thermometer for staff and exhibitors. No one with elevated temperature should be allowed to work in the show office or stay on the show grounds.

Staff who are considered at risk for communicable diseases like COVID-19 should be discouraged from working in show offices. Consult www.cdc.gov for information considered at risk.

Control lines should be created to maintain 6-foot social distancing spaces through the use of floor tape or other designation.

Arenas:

Space animals in show ring to maintain social distancing.

Require judges to maintain a minimum of 6 feet of distance from other judges and exhibitors.

Recommend masks for exhibitors, judges and show stewards.

Exhibitors should pick up prizes at exit rather than through staff hand off.

Maintain social distancing in wash bays.

Signage and announcer reminders should include prompts to social distance and exercise good hand hygiene.

Arena entrance / exits will be arranged so that exhibitors are not coming in close contact entering and exiting the arenas.

If social distancing is impossible in show offices, plexiglass can be used to segregate staff.

Arena Seating:

Limited occupancy to allow distancing in stands.

Controlled ingress/egress points and control of number is monitored by staff.

Create one-way traffic along concourse if possible.

Arena Grounds:

RV camping permitted with distance provisions.

Prevent gatherings in and around RVs.

Exhibitors:

Exhibitors must keep 6 feet of space between each other at all times.

The total number of horses and contestants in each competition area will be limited, based on state or local guidelines at the time of the event. Depending on regulations, exhibitors could be restricted to going to holding/warm up areas until 30 minutes prior to their run.

Liability waivers **WILL** be required to protect show management and ISHSA in the event an exhibitor or guest becomes ill during or after being at a show.

Show program and premium books should include language that requires exhibitors to comply with social distancing and gives show management the power to ask guests to leave the grounds in the event that they exhibit symptoms of communicable disease, or are not adhering to social distancing.

Conclusion:

We recognize the unique nature of each venue. Nonetheless, these guidelines represent the backbone to renewed health and vitality of the show community. It also represents a new normal, or as some have called it, a new abnormal within which show management and venue managers will require a new sense of collaboration and spark a fire or rejuvenation in the weeks and months to come and on into the next decade of equestrian events.