

# COVID-19 Best Practices

AHA Recognized  
Competitions  
2020



# Introduction- Stan

The Joint Leadership Council (JLC), which includes members of the American Saddlebred Association (ASHA), American Morgan Horse Association (AMHA), American Hackney Horse Society (AHHS), American Road Horse and Pony Association (ARHPA) and the United Professional Horseman's Association (UPHA) along with input from the Arabian Horse Association (AHA), met and discussed steps competitions could take as our industry and sport emerge from the COVID-19 crisis.



# Presentation-Stan

- Included in this presentation are suggested Best Practices organizers can consider as they plan for events and take steps to help competitors and staff stay as safe as possible.
- Organizers are strongly encouraged to abide by guidelines provided by local governing entities in implementing chosen Best Practices.
- We encourage organizers to use this list as a guide, and determine additional Best Practices specific to their circumstances.



# Restarting the Show Season-Leslie

In order to commence our show season, it is recommended that competition organizers reach out as soon as possible to the individual facility owners to assure them that the following guidelines are in place to provide a safe environment for owners, exhibitors and professionals. Additionally, show organizers are encouraged to reach out to their respective insurance providers with any questions regarding levels of coverage as a result of COVID-19.



# First Considerations- Nancy

- Monitor CDC, federal, state and local guidelines regarding safe practices as well as USEF recommendations.
- Close event to the general public and spectators
- Managers should have a staff meeting prior to the show to discuss issues, protocol and procedures that will be in place during the event
- Look for supplies (gloves, masks, sanitizer, etc.) ahead of time as many places may be out or have limited numbers



# Insurance and Liability Waiver-Kelsey

- Be sure to check with your insurance carrier regarding any updates you may need to make with your policy regarding pandemics and infectious diseases
- Is there suggested verbiage that they recommend adding to your horse show waiver
- Ask your carrier if they recommend everyone on the grounds signing the waiver
- What requirements does the facility now have regarding insurance coverage



# Considerations- Leslie

- Consider limiting the number of horses you will accept
- When possible, hire local show officials—judges, scribes, and stewards—to minimize travel
- Encourage Professionals to bring only necessary personnel to minimize crowding and contact in barn areas, warm-up arenas, and surrounding the show ring
- Check temperatures of show personnel each day – have backup personnel lined up just in case



# Show Office Guidelines- Nancy

Institute a safe environment for office staff by:

- ✓ Where possible, accept online or electronic entries only
- ✓ Establish appointment times for check in and check out
- ✓ Changes (scratches/adds) to be completed electronically
- ✓ Class number sheets, scratches and daily schedules to be emailed or texted
- ✓ Set up office to provide proper social distancing guidelines – consider setting up 6 foot markers and state maximum number allowed in the office at any one time, put up plexiglass partitions





# Social Distancing-Kelsey

Social distancing throughout show grounds by:

- Limit to two people per horse in warm up arena
- At facilities where there is “moat-like rail” limit the number of people on the rail to trainers and instructors only and require those in this area to wear gloves
- Request seating areas at barns to be limited as to limit congregating
- Eliminate exhibitor parties and hospitality areas (coffee etc)
- Ensure vendors are spaced out accordingly and are set up to abide by social distancing recommendations



# Distancing in the Ring- Stan

- Create a method to present ribbons and trophies that has less hand to hand contact (Consider an alternate area where ribbons can be picked up as to reduce contact in the ring )
- All line ups within the ring would be spaced at the appropriate social distance.
- Additional two minute gate holds between classes so people can move in and out of warm up ring with no congestion
- For win photos, allow only the rider/driver/handler plus one other person—owner, assistant, etc.—to gather in the photos



# Additional Distancing Considerations- Nancy

- Place shaving orders and add/scratch requests via text, email, or office software, if applicable.
- Require food service to institute methods to deliver their food abiding by social distancing guidelines
- Configure box seating to allow for social distancing
- If space allows separate stabling areas and configure stabling for social distancing
- Consider prohibiting groom/sleep stalls



# Safety Precautions-Kelsey

- Sanitizing stations throughout show grounds and in center ring
- Provide hand sanitizer to all officials, ring crew, office staff and maintenance staff
- Provide gloves and masks to barn staff and other official personnel
- Arena should be closed at an allotted time between sessions to properly sanitize and/or clean show arena
- Disinfect chairs, radios, pencils, etc. every evening
- Provide disposable pens or encourage exhibitors to bring their own writing implements to the show office



# Signage- Leslie

Post signage around the show grounds - print-only materials have been developed to support COVID-19 recommendations. All materials are free for download on the CDC website. They may be printed on a standard office printer, or you may use a commercial printer



# Document- Leslie

Consider documenting all the precautions you have put into place through the use of photos or videos in case there is a question later on

Protect yourself and others from getting sick

## Wash your hands



- after coughing or sneezing
- when caring for the sick
- before, during and after you prepare food
- before eating
- after toilet use
- when hands are visibly dirty
- after handling animals or animal waste



# Viewership- Kelsey

Consider offering live feed (if possible) to give families and fans at home the ability to stay in touch. (This also may be a way to generate corporate sponsorship knowing that the feed is being seen by a larger audience)



# Last Thoughts-Nancy

- Please remember that this pandemic is fluid and that recommendations are constantly changing
- As mentioned before, monitor CDC, federal, state and local guidelines regarding safe practices as well as USEF recommendations
- Check the “Show Management Information” section of the website for future updates
- Keep the AHA office advised of any cancellations or postponements





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