

BCBRA's Position During COVID-19 Pandemic

The BCBRA is closely monitoring the news from the BC Center for Disease Control, Public Health Canada, and local health authorities as everyone works to minimize the impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

The BC Center for Disease Control has ordered all event organizers to limit any gathering larger than 50 people. This includes indoor and outdoor sporting events, conferences, meetings, religious gatherings, or other similar events. This threshold has been selected as it is much easier to maintain important social distancing to prevent transmission of COVID-19.

The running of BCBRA-sanctioned competitions falls under the jurisdiction of the competition organizer and they will have the responsibility to determine if their event will be suspended. Please connect directly with the competition organizer for event status, and any concerns or questions you may have.

The BCBRA strongly recommends that all events within the next 4 weeks be cancelled or postponed, even if they are under the threshold of 50 people. This includes the Members' Only race being held at Kamloops Race Central, which has been postponed until May for the time being.

For race producers there are tools available online such as a risk-informed decision-making model available from the Public Health Agency of Canada.

<http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/event-planning>

BCBRA strongly encourages competition organizers to suspend races for the next 4 weeks and then re-evaluate the suspension based on the status of the COVID-19 pandemic. For competitions that do choose to run, BCBRA recommends adherence to the following guidelines recommended by Equestrian Canada. Participate in events that:

- Are venues within close proximity to your residence;
- Limit out-of-province competitors;
- Restrict free access in stabling areas to only essential personnel (i.e. riders, farriers, vets, officials);
- Provide alcohol-based hand sanitizer in common areas, offices, vendors and convenient places throughout the competition grounds;
- Ensure restroom facilities are regularly cleaned and have appropriate hand-washing available;
- Operate without spectators;
- Limit social gatherings to less than 50 people as recommended by the CDC; and
- Ensure that food services are of the type that limit contamination.

Anyone who has traveled within the past 14 days, or who is showing any signs of illness, should not attend races, and producers have appropriate measures in place for refund of fees in these cases.

The BCBRA will continue to monitor the situation, following the guidelines available from the Provincial Government and health authorities, and will post updates as they come.

Remember, these precautions are necessary to ensure that we can all continue to do the sport we love, without endangering our health or the health of others.

Thank you,

The BCBRA Board of Directors