

The Pony Club Equine Influenza VACCINATION RULE (No changes for 2026)

To protect the health of all horses and ponies and the biosecurity of the venue, the following rules will apply to all **Pony Club** activities. Members competing with other organisations, such as FEI, BHA and HPA, or at certain venues, for example racecourses, will need to comply with their vaccination requirements.

1. Passports

A valid passport (registered on the Central Equine Database) and vaccination record:

- must accompany the horse / pony to all activities
- must be available for inspection by the event officials
- must be produced on request at any other time during the activity

2. Equine Influenza Vaccination Schedule:

No horse / pony may attend an activity, compete or be present as a companion unless it has a Record of Vaccination against equine influenza completed by the veterinary surgeon who gave the vaccination, signed and stamped line by line, which complies with the Minimum Vaccination Requirements set out in the Equine Influenza Vaccination Schedule below.

All horses and ponies receiving a new primary course of vaccinations must be vaccinated according to this schedule:

- initial primary course of two vaccinations (V1 and V2) must be given: the second vaccination (V2) must be administered within **21-60** days of the first initial vaccination (V1)
- Horses may attend activities 7 full days after receiving the second vaccination of the primary course (V2).
- A first booster vaccination (V3) must be administered within **120 – 180 days** of the administration of the second vaccination of the primary course.

- Thereafter booster vaccinations must be administered at a maximum of **12 months** intervals.

Horses and ponies must not attend activities within 7 days of receiving any vaccination. For clarity: no horse or pony may compete on the same day as a relevant injection is given or on any of the 6 days following such an injection.

NB: This is the **minimally appropriate** booster schedule; it is highly recommended that horses and ponies competing regularly and travelling around the UK and abroad follow an **optimal schedule** and receive a booster within 6 months +21 days prior to arrival at the event or activity, in line with the FEI protocol.

Restart

Any horse which is found to have breached the requirements above in relation to V1 (initial vaccination); V2 (second vaccination) and V3 (first booster), or exceeded 12 months between subsequent boosters, must restart and receive a minimum of V1 & V2 and had a 7 day post-vaccine stand-down before being allowed entry to any Pony Club activity.

Historic Vaccinations

- Horses that received the primary course prior to 1 January 2024 are permitted to have an interval of up to 92 days between the first (V1) and second (V2) vaccination of the primary course and for the first booster (V3) an interval of up to 7 months following the date of the administration of vaccination V2.
- For the period 1st October 2022 to 31st December 2022, lower risk equines may have, with veterinary advice and approval, extended the annual booster period to 15 months if there was a genuine veterinary shortage of vaccine. The subsequent booster should have been made within 9 months, resulting in 2 booster vaccinations in 2 years and making the 2023 vaccine booster date no more than 24 months from the 2021 due date. Vaccination records which have this extension clearly approved and annotated by the vet will be accepted at **Pony Club** and **BHS Riding Club** events, but other venues and competitive bodies may insist on a 12month interval and hence if a booster is missed a restart may be necessary.

BHA (British Horseracing Authority) / Racecourse Requirements

1. All equines visiting a racecourse on race day must conform with the current BHA vaccination rules, regardless of where they will be sited.
2. All equines visiting a racecourse in the 8 days before a race meeting must conform with the current BHA vaccination rule, regardless of where they will be sited.
3. All equines visiting a racecourse and staying in the stable yard outside of a race day or the preceding 8 days, must conform with the current BHA vaccination rule or the current FEI vaccination rule.

Advice from BHA (November 2023)

In order to be compliant with the BHA guidelines, BHA require:

- Racehorses that had a compliant record (using old intervals and 12-month boosters) to have had a booster vaccination within 6 months of 15.01.2023, otherwise a restart (using new intervals) is required
- 6 monthly booster vaccinations have been compulsory from 15.01.2023
- all primary courses started in 2022 or after must have followed the new vaccination intervals (V1-V2 21-60d; V2-V3 120-180d, plus 6-month boosters)
- For clarity, the BHA does **not** recognise the vaccination amnesty that was granted at the end of 2022 allowing ponies to have 2 vaccinations within 24-month period (ie one after 15 months followed by a 9 month booster).

Booster Summary:

BHA rule requires booster vaccinations **every 6 months**; the **FEI** rule requires booster vaccinations **within 6 months +21 days of attending the event**.