

Document in accordance
with provisions of Decree
n°2021-606 of May, 18.



Operating procedures regarding the return of spectators at racecourses from Wednesday, May 19, 2021 onwards.

Any racing authority that organises a race meeting (national or local) from Wednesday, May 19, 2021 onwards, must apply the following procedures until further notice.

Summary

- 1) General guidelines
- 2) Number of spectators at the racecourse
- 3) Compulsory safety measures

1) General guidelines

In accordance with the provisions determined by the government (Decree n°2021-606 of 18th of May 2021 amending Decrees n° 2020-1262 of 16th October 2020 and n°2020-1310 of 29th October 2020 prescribing the general health emergency measures in the fight against the Covid-19 pandemic – article 42 – II), the racing industry is planning to gradually reopen its racecourses to the public from Wednesday, May 19, 2021 onwards.

- **Racecourses will be allowed to accommodate up to 1,000 people, or 35% of capacity as defined in the building regulations, whichever is the smaller number, including internal and external spaces (see page 2).**

Organisers and competitors are not included in this limit of 1000 spectators, as they move only in specific areas within the racecourse.

- **Stringent health measures remain in place and must be strictly applied:**
 - **The wearing of a face mask (with a filtration rate above 90% or a surgical face mask, both in pristine condition), continuously covering nose, mouth and chin, is compulsory at all times for racecourse attendees,**
 - **Permanent reminders to respect social distancing, particularly keeping a 1m safety distance at all times and in all circumstances and always wearing a face mask**
 - **Sensitive work areas (steward's room, weighing room, infirmary, veterinary office, ...) must be reconfigured and organised accordingly**
 - **Restaurants can only serve outside and tables must be limited to 6 people.**

Spectators are invited to download and activate the "Tous anti-Covid" app.

2) Number of spectators permitted at the racecourse

Racecourses can accommodate up to 1,000 people, or 35% of capacity as outlined in the building regulations, whichever is the smaller number (indoor and outdoor spaces included).

How to enforce this rule?

- **Outside areas of racecourses accessible to the public are big enough to welcome 1,000 spectators by applying the ratio of 1 person per 2m², given the social distancing rules.**

The following rules must be applied:

- **Outdoor seating in the stand:**

In standing spaces, a distance of 1m must be observed between each person or between each group of people that has arrived together, and masks must be worn at all times.

In seating areas, two seats must be kept empty between each person or each group of people that has arrived together.

If the set-up of the stand allows, there should be a staircase dedicated to the ascent and another for the descent, with signposts to indicate these rules.

- **Outside areas:**

A 1m distance must be kept at all times between people or groups of people, or on average 1 person every 2m² and face masks must be worn.

- **Regarding indoor spaces, the racecourse authority has the choice of:**

- **Leaving indoor areas that are usually used by the public open. It would be necessary to define the exact number of authorised spectators, as it cannot exceed the 35% capacity of the racecourse as defined by the safety commission in the context of the building regulations (as stated in the minutes of the safety commission or in the documents of a supervising office). (Example: in a public hall of 500m² with a building regulation ratio of 1 person per m² or a maximum of 500 people, the admissible number of total spectators would be 175.)**
In this case, the number of admissible spectators must be clearly indicated inside and outside the stand and numbers must be permanently liaised between the different entrances of the building.

The ratio does not include restaurants inside the building as they must remain closed.

- **Closing the indoor areas usually used by the public, leaving access only to the washrooms or staircases leading to the external seating or standing areas.**

In both cases, the number of open washrooms must be in proportion with the number of spectators, in order to facilitate the cleaning process.

Connections of runners and the staff essential to running a race meeting (owner, trainer, lad, jockey, officials, volunteers, service providers,...) are not included in the 1,000 limit of spectators, as they will move in specific areas of the racecourse.

The workforce involved in the organisation of the race meeting (volunteers, officials, service providers,...) must be reduced to an absolute minimum, in order to minimise the risk of contamination within the team.

Organisers must designate:

- **A Covid 19 adviser, with the specific responsibility for controlling the implementation of this operational plan and acting as a spokesperson for the authorities** – this role should not be fulfilled by the head of security, but by a different person, since the demands are likely to be numerous and risk keeping that person occupied during a race.
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- **Staff to stock up on protective gear during the meeting (hand sanitizers, disinfecting wipes – see §4).**

3) Compulsory safety measures

3.1) Cleaning and disinfection of premises before, during and after race meetings

A thorough clean and disinfection with virucidal products is necessary before racing professionals enter the racecourse, after the race meeting and also during the race meeting when social distancing allows it.

This applies in particular to doorknobs, window handles, escalator rails and handrails, elevator buttons, as well as washrooms and exterior food courts. A periodic cleaning service plan should be developed according to the planned racecourse meetings. Each cleaning operation and disinfection must be recorded in a document that can be presented for control purposes.

3.2) Access control and entry number control

- Persons in charge of controlling access to the racecourse (ticket office, race card distributors, number of spectators present) must make sure that each person accessing the racecourse wears an approved face mask (filtration rate above 90% or a surgical mask, in pristine condition that continuously covers nose, mouth and chin). Masks will not be provided by race organisers. Any person refusing to wear a mask must be denied access to the racecourse.
- Welcome desks at the racecourse entrance that issue entry tickets or exchange coupons for a free entry, must have **floor markings** in front of them, indicating the 2m social distance rule when queuing.
- If possible, payment by contactless card is preferred.
- The moment the racecourse opens its doors, each entry and exit must be systematically counted, taking into account the different access points of the racecourse.

(Example of a people counter available online at €13.99 for 4 units)



As soon as the spectator limit of 1,000 is reached, the racecourse must close its doors (except for people indicated below).

Within the 1,000 spectator limit, the following people are not included:

- **Volunteers, officials and service providers of the racing organiser**
- **Connections of declared runners: owner, trainer, lad and jockey**

Any other people accessing the racecourse (including the potential 3 guests of the owner) must be counted towards the limit of 1,000 spectators.

A document outlining information regarding each race day (an example is attached) must be presented at the request of the authorities:

- The document must show the number of people that were not counted within the limit of 1,000 people: volunteers, officials, service providers, connections of runners,
- It must also show the number of spectators within the 1,000 limit, including the time when the maximum of 1,000 spectators was reached.

3.3) Outlining of barrier gestures and provision of hand sanitizers and disinfectant wipes

Once inside the racecourse, and in all the spaces which remain accessible, **posters** must remind attendees of the requisite barrier and social distancing regulations, the obligation to wear a face mask and that the gathering of large groups are not allowed (the FNCH will hand out examples of posters)

PA announcements will be made at regular intervals during the meeting, reminding spectators of the barrier gestures and inviting them to spread out over the wide spaces of the racecourse.

Where possible, a one-way system with clearly marked entry and exit points, indicated by floor markings, should be put in place to limit people crossing in the stands.

Hand sanitizers must be installed at entry points to the racecourse.

For workstations with contact areas (tables, desks), hand sanitizer and disinfectant wipes must be provided.

Disinfectant wipes must be available in the washrooms.

This equipment must be in place before the arrival of the attendees. If necessary, they must be replenished during the meeting.

3.4) Sensitive areas

Where it is possible and depending on the weather, all areas must ideally be permanently or at least several minutes per hour **ventilated**, naturally or mechanically (doors and windows open).

- **Betting terminals**

Access to the Pari Mutual offices and particularly the dispatch area is strictly limited to the staff of the racecourse Pari Mutual (CARRUS or PMU).

Where the layout of the building allows and if there are several entrances to the dispatch area, one access point should be dedicated to the entrance and the other to the exit in order to restrict people from meeting in doorways. These rules must be clearly marked at eye level.

Betting terminals may be left accessible provided that the keypad is regularly cleaned and hand sanitizers are available nearby.

Contactless payment by card should be preferred.

Given the restricted access to indoor offices, it is advised to make as much use as possible of mobile betting operators who can take bets outdoors.

Each person in charge of a betting terminal, fixed or mobile, and those in charge of maintaining the betting terminals must wear a face mask (PPE supplied by CARRUS or PMU).

In front of betting terminals and screens, floor markings must remind people to respect the 1m distance rule.

- **Children playgrounds**

Children playgrounds will be open and remain under the responsibility of the parents. Supervised pop-up play areas (bouncy castle, ponies....) must be left open and if necessary, the supervisor will restrict the number of kids at any one time.

Hand sanitisers must be available at all play areas.

- **Guided tours**

Guided racecourse tours can take place, but groups must be limited to 10 people.

During the tour, participants must be reminded to wear the mask at all times, even when asking questions and to respect the 1m social distance when meeting and during the guided tour.

- **Following vehicles with promotional purposes of partners or public**

Following vehicles with promotional purposes (partners, public....) are not permitted.

- **Infirmary**

Infirmaries are generally located in small spaces: access to the infirmary will only be granted and sanctioned by the doctor in case of an emergency.

Any non-urgent issues will be treated outside the infirmary. A canopy or screen, as well as floor markings indicating a private area, could be put in place.

Any person developing symptoms during a race meeting must contact the on-course doctor immediately. If that person is not showing any signs of distress, he or she must make their way home, avoiding the use of public transport, and contact their doctor immediately.

3.5) Restaurants

Restaurants and food outlets have to strictly adhere to the government measures in place.

From May, 19 and until further notice, restaurants can only offer take-away meals or serve tables **outside:**

- Each table may not accommodate more than 6 people of the same group
- Tables must be at least 2 m apart
- Staff providing take-aways or serving at tables (bars, refreshment areas, take-away areas) or inside, must wear a face mask (PPE provided by the service provider in charge of the food service)
- Customers must wear a mask when moving around in the outdoor food court.

Contactless payment with bank cards is preferred.

3.6) Provision of PPE

In order to provide the organising teams with a sufficient quantity of masks, hand sanitisers, virucidal cleaning products and disinfectant wipes at reasonable prices, the FNCH will place a group order and the regional federations will distribute the products to the racecourses.

Face shields will not be supplied.

The staff of a service provider (Pari Mutual, food service,...) will be equipped by their employer. Products will be regularly replenished.

3.7) Non racing events

For events outside racing, the racing authority must contact their prefecture on a case-by-case basis to assess the feasibility of the event.

**Organising of race meetings from 19th of May, 2021 onwards
Controlling the number of spectators at the racecourse, limited to 1,000.**

Racecourse

Meeting on

1. Number of volunteers, officials, service providers (not included in the 1000 limit)

Category	Numbers expected at this meeting
Volunteers (including racecourse stewards)	
Officials	
Service providers	
Partners (sponsors)	
Total	

2. Number of horse connections (not included in the 1000 limit)

Number of runners at this meeting

Number of declared trainers and lads

Number of jockeys or drivers (not trainers)

Number of owners

Total
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3. Number of authorised spectators

Number of people accompanying an owner (A)

Maximum number of authorised spectators = 1000

Maximum number of spectators at the meeting

If the limit of 1000 spectators was reached, time the doors closed

Date	Signature of Covid19 adviser
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