

Executive Summary

Sport Development Committee

Date of Meeting: 3 March 2026

1. Over the course 2025, a total 177 Welfare Reports were submitted, reflecting an increased awareness of our reporting channels. Thirteen cases resulted in formal warnings; eight cases were referred to the Equine Welfare Advisory Panel and four were upheld.
2. The Steward Working Party has now defined the role description for the role of marshal. A full review of the associated policies and documentation is currently underway.
3. The Head of Sport confirmed that the Venue Affiliation Agreement is due for renewal and will be issued by the end of Q1.
4. Defined pathways to enable and encourage participation at Grand Prix level was discussed. A proposal will be presented at the next Sport Development Meeting.
5. The Committee supported the proposal to introduce a Tack & Equipment Panel to maintain, update and review all rules governing permitted tack and equipment. The Panel to consist of veterinary, stewarding, judges, scientific, bitting, saddlers, and physiotherapy experts.
6. The Committee also considered a proposal to expand Quest competition, to include Elementary tests. Further analysis of potential participation numbers is required. Survey will be sent to those who have competed in Quest competition for additional feedback.
7. Unaffiliated dressage provision and participation was discussed. Ideas as to how the major unaffiliated championships can be brought under the BD umbrella were considered. Proposal to be considered at the next Sport Development Committee.
8. The HoD presented a proposal to consider providing Online Test Riding, exclusively for BD members. This will also be discussed by the Board, with a full scoping and tender process to follow once this is approved for further investigation.
9. Championship formats for 2027 and beyond, including the National Championships, was further discussed, with work ongoing.

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 26 May 2026