



British Eventing Abandonment Support Fund

British Eventing (BE) intends to provide Members and Organisers with additional support for Event Abandonment in 2024

- BE Abandonment Support Fund intends to provide discretionary goodwill payments to competitors where uninsured events abandon due to extreme and/or adverse weather conditions
- Organisers will also be required to refund a proportion of entry fees, but will benefit from a reduction in their affiliation fee upon abandonment
- Initial funding provided from BE, ongoing funding to be provided from all competitor entry fees (a surcharge of 5%) and organisers of uninsured events (2% of all entry fees accepted)

Following the challenging weather conditions of 2023, BE reached out to the insurance market seeking abandonment insurance for organisers, but was unable to secure a cost-effective sustainable solution for 2024. The BE Abandonment Support Fund allows BE to award discretionary goodwill payments to competitors where uninsured events abandon due to extreme and/or adverse weather conditions. Any decision to abandon will be taken by the BE Technical Adviser and Steward, in consultation with the organiser.

The Fund's aim is that, when combined with a contribution from the organiser, each competitor may receive a goodwill payment equivalent to up to 60% of their entry fee back if an uninsured event abandons. As before, all organisers holding their own insurance will be required to refund a minimum amount of 60% of the entry fee in the event of an abandonment. All organisers will also benefit from a reduction in the affiliation fee payable to BE if their event abandons.

"It is BE's job to ensure that we support our organisers in running viable businesses that provide events across a geographical spread through the season for our members no matter what level they compete in," explains British Eventing CEO Rosie Williams. *"We have worked collaboratively with all stakeholder groups and have valued their contribution in helping us come up with the best solution we can find. This solution will benefit both organisers and riders while adding great value to our members. The abandonment of an event is always disappointing and costly for the entrant and the organisers. We cannot control the weather, but we can try to minimise the financial impact on participants and organisers."*

BE will allocate an initial sum of £75,000 to the Fund; this will increase with (a) a 5% surcharge on all entry fees, payable by competitors on entry; and (b) a fee of 2% of all entry fees received, paid by all organisers of uninsured events. Contributions from competitors will be refunded alongside the start fee if a competitor withdraws from an event before starting.

The Fund is not a form of insurance: BE will retain discretion as to whether any goodwill payment is provided, and the amount thereof. The Fund does not assume any risk or liability in relation to events and their abandonment. Further, the Fund does not receive any payment or other commercial benefit in consideration for making any goodwill payment.

As in 2023, all entry fees relating to abandonments and cancellations prior to the ballot date will be refunded in full, save for the retention of a booking fee. If an event either cancels or abandons for any other reason after the ballot date, any refund or other payment to competitors remains at the sole discretion of the organiser and will be set out in the schedule.

Further details will be published in the 2024 Rule Book, available shortly.