



HICKSTEAD

Official Statement – The Hurstpierpoint College National Jumping Championships Postponement

Following extensive discussions with our title sponsors, Hurstpierpoint College, and our event management team, we have taken the difficult decision to postpone the Hurstpierpoint College National Schools Jumping Championships due to take place on Friday 26th June 2026.

The event will now be held on Tuesday 1st September, with the Stable Field opening for those requiring overnight stabling on Monday 31st August.

This decision has not been made lightly. However, with the forecast being changed in the last 12 hours to an amber weather warning for Friday 25th and the red zone not being lifted until 11pm on Thursday 24th, we believe that the welfare of both the children and horses attending the Championships must take precedence over all other considerations.

Whilst the forecast Wet Bulb Globe Temperature (WBGT) remains within the thresholds under which FEI international competitions can continue to operate, it is important to recognise that this event differs significantly from one of our FEI or national competitions. For those events we have substantially increased veterinary provision, dedicated cooling stations, and experienced teams specifically equipped to manage elite equine athletes.

The Hurstpierpoint College National Schools Jumping Championships presents a very different scenario. Many of the young riders and ponies/horses travelling to the event are not accustomed to competing and travelling in temperatures of this magnitude. In addition, current government and industry guidance highlights the increased risks associated with transporting animals during periods of extreme heat, particularly where long journeys are involved especially for vehicles without air conditioning present in the horse area. The further demands placed on schools, parents, and support teams in preparing for and managing competition in these conditions have also been carefully considered.

All entries and stabling bookings will automatically be transferred to the new date. Please do not telephone the office to confirm your attendance, as we will assume that all competitors intend to compete on the rescheduled date. If you are unable to attend on 1 September, please email jumping@hickstead.co.uk and we will arrange a refund of your entry and stabling fees.

We appreciate that this postponement may cause inconvenience and disappointment, particularly for those who have made travel and accommodation arrangements. However, we are confident that postponing the Championships is the most responsible course of action given the exceptional weather conditions forecast.

We thank all competitors, schools, parents, sponsors and supporters for their understanding and cooperation, and we look forward to welcoming everyone to the Championships in September.