



Department
for Culture
Media & Sport

2014-15 British Horseracing Grant Scheme

Sectional Timing Grants Policy

Following consultation on the subject of sectional timing undertaken by the BHA, the Grant Scheme Awards Committee would be particularly interested in receiving applications from racecourses and/or their respective media rights companies, for the installation of a timing solution at their racecourse. Given the limited funds available, applications will be particularly welcomed if they can demonstrate that a system will operate on a significant number of days, thereby providing volume of data, or will be utilised at particularly high profile race meetings.

Applications will also be received from solution providers authorised by a racecourse or media company.

In applying, such companies should source their own suppliers, who must be able to comply with minimum standards to be determined by the BHA. These are outlined below for reference.

Whilst match funding is desirable, the Awards Committee may determine that no match funding, or a lower than 50% requirement, may apply for applications to deliver a timing solution on one or more racecourses.

The Awards Committee will require a commitment from the applicant that the system will be in operation for a minimum period of three years, with the appropriate funding in place for this period given that this is the final year of the British Horseracing Grant Scheme.

Any applications for a timing solution will need to adhere to the same State Aid requirements that apply to all grants made under the Scheme.

The deadline for applications for capital projects to the British Horseracing Grant Scheme is close of business on Tuesday 5th August.

Should you have further questions regarding the sectional timing policy, please contact the British Horseracing Grant Scheme on 020 7152 0005 or grantscheme@britishhorseracing.com.

APPENDIX A

BHA Requirements for Sectional Timing / In-Running / Positioning Solutions and Grant Acceptance Criteria

Introduction

This document is aimed at Racecourses or their Media Rights providers who are looking to apply for a grant from the British Horseracing Grant Scheme for Sectional Timing / Positioning solutions. It details the minimum BHA criteria, requirements to be met by the applicants and any subsequent conditions which will apply.

BHA requirements and application criteria

1. Applicant criteria
 - a. Only Racecourses and/or its Media Rights providers may apply (unless a solution provider is making a grant application on a Racecourse or Media Rights holder's behalf with their authorised backing)
 - b. The solution will operate on a significant number of days, thereby providing volume of data, or will be utilised at particular high profile race meetings
 - c. Whilst match funding is desirable, the Awards Committee may determine that no match funding, or a lower than 50% requirement, may apply for applications to deliver a timing solution on one or more Racecourses
 - d. The applicant will demonstrate how the solution will be in operation at the Racecourse's allocated fixtures for a minimum of three years
 - e. Applications will need to adhere to the same State Aid requirements that apply to all other grants made under the Grant Scheme
 - f. No applications can be made for research & development of a new solution
 - g. Applicants acknowledge that the Racecourse or its Media Rights provider holds ongoing responsibility and maintenance of any solution provided by funds from the Grant Scheme
2. Information required as part of the application
 - a. Intended use(s) (e.g. Enhanced broadcast proposition, second-screen proposition, enhanced on-course experience, post-race analysis, data acquisition and on-selling, international exposure, in-running betting data etc)
 - b. Solution proposal and provider, plus the data being collected
 - c. Whether the application is dependent on other successful Grant Scheme applications (e.g. as jointly there is a reduced total cost of ownership)
 - d. How the applicant is going to educate the consumers and participants on the produced data
3. Conditions of a successful application
 - a. Data is widely published to participants and consumers
 - b. Welfare accreditation – Any solution which involves wearable equipment must be accredited and approved by the BHA Medical and Equine Science and Welfare teams

(Nb: a number of solutions are already accredited), checking for:

- i. Environment and legislative compliance
- ii. Equipment and transponder technology specifications
- iii. Impact to riders and runners, both visually and presented to the BHA via an on-horse, in-running live demonstration

For a list of known solution providers and their compliance to the Welfare accreditation please contact Shane Starrenburg, BHA ICT Operations Manager (sstarrenburg@britishhorseracing.com)

- c. Accuracy – Ability to demonstrate accuracy and reliability of solution
 - i. Accuracy relating to the measurement of starting positions and furlong poles at the Racecourse
 - ii. How accuracy is guaranteed when objects are moving at speed
 - iii. How accuracy is guaranteed if the solution equipment is being moved between Racecourses
 - iv. An acceptable percentage of errors across a data set
- d. The BHA requires access to the same level of data and visualisations (for the core purposes of Integrity, Welfare and Regulation) at the same speed as consumers of the solution. If this is in real time, or immediately after a race, this should be made available to the on-course Stewards within the Stewards Room.
- e. The BHA requires unfettered access to all the data for retrospective analysis (for the core purposes of Integrity, Welfare and Regulation) being fed automatically, directly and using an agreed transfer format:
 - i. BHA will provide an electronic feed of basic Racecard information consisting of Fixture, Race and Runner data with corresponding unique identifiers (in XML / JSON).
 - ii. BHA will require multiple sectional/position data feeds back (multiple depending on the chosen solution) with the corresponding unique identifiers returned (in XML / JSON). Categories of data can include:
 1. Race: Leaders sectional time per furlong (to a minimum of one tenth of a second)
 2. Race: Speed of leader per furlong
 3. Race: Total running time
 4. Race: Wind speed at start
 5. Runner: Sectional time per furlong (to a minimum of one tenth of a second)
 6. Runner: Total running time per runner
 7. Runner: Speed of runner per furlong
 8. Runner: GPS positioning co-ordinates / over time (minimum of ten readings per second)
 9. Runner: Distance covered (likely calculated from the positioning co-ordinates)
 10. Runner: Heart rate / over time
 11. Runner: Force or acceleration / over time
 12. Runner: Stride length / over time
 13. Runner: Temperature of horse or rider / over time
 14. Runner: Any additional complimentary information

- iii. BHA will be allowed to give access to the data on its consumer and participant websites at its discretion; britishhorseracing.com, racingadmin.co.uk and ib.britishhorseracing.com (Nb: this can be embargoed to only be post-race or post-raceday if required)

For more information on the types and levels of feeds please contact Shane Starrenburg, BHA ICT Operations Manager (sstarrenburg@britishhorseracing.com)