

Badminton Horse Trials

S. Gloucestershire, England

MAY 6-10, 2026

CCI5*



Disclaimer: This Playbook is a resource produced by the USEF Eventing Department. Please visit the event's [official website](#) for the most up to date information.



THIS PLAYBOOK IS PRODUCED BY THE USEF EVENTING DEPARTMENT.

USEF – United States Equestrian Federation

USET – United States Equestrian Team Foundation

USADA – United States Anti-Doping Agency

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CCI5*-L: MARS BADMINTON HORSE TRIALS

US EQUESTRIAN PLAYBOOK

INTRODUCTION

The aim of the Playbook is to give those that are attending the MARS Badminton Horse Trials (GBR) CCI5*-L an understanding of the event and the logistics that go with making the trip to South Gloucestershire, England. As a CCI5*-L. Please note that the individual athletes competing will not receive funding, apparel, Team Staff support, or expense reimbursements.

As with any CCI5*-L, Badminton will have its challenges and differences from past and other 5* events. The emphasis must be on ensuring athletes, horses, and grooms can perform to their very best. A performance environment should be maintained and always keep in mind that even as a non-Team competition, you are still representing the USA.

The competition venue is approximately 2 hours west of London and 90 minutes south of Birmingham. This event is a standalone CCI5*-L event and does not host additional levels or divisions.

We are continually receiving updates and new information so their playbook can never cover all the details. The primary point of contact for the MARS Badminton Horse and their contact information can be found [here](#).

This playbook contains helpful information for attending this Event. Please also familiarize yourself with the [FEI Schedule](#) and remember to check in at the show office upon arrival for the most up-to-date information.

PLEASE READ THIS PLAYBOOK AS IT CONTAINS IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT TRAVEL PLANNING, CLIMATE, AND ACCOMMODATIONS.

Please contact Christina if you have any questions, observations, or suggestions as to how we can optimize the support of the athletes, grooms, and horses.

Good luck to all!

Christina Vaughn

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ENTRIES

An FEI Entry is required to compete at the MARS Badminton Horse Trials. Athletes must submit the FEI Entry in order to be entered into the FEI Entry System to compete as an individual at any FEI competition of CCI, whether in the U.S. or abroad. The FEI Entry process is managed by US Equestrian Athlete Services.

Entries directly with the competition will also need to be completed. See the [FEI schedule](#) for complete information.

PRE-TRAVEL INFORMATION

VISAS

U.S. citizens and non-E.U. nationals will need to complete The Entry/Exit System (EES) for all short-term stays to European countries. Registration and biometric data collection will be completed at a border control kiosk at the arrival airport. More information about EES can be found [here](#). It is the traveling individual's responsibility to check any visa requirements.

VACCINATIONS

In accordance with the CDC and USOPC recommendations, we advise that all Athletes, grooms, and traveling USEF support staff consider getting the new COVID vaccine now available against new strains as well as the seasonal flu vaccine. These vaccines can be administered at the same time. This is NOT a USOPC or USEF requirement but highly recommended to protect our Athletes, Grooms, and all Team members. Please note it takes approximately two (2) weeks to maximize immunity.

TRAVEL PLANS

EQUINE TRANSPORTATION

USA to GBR: Dutta Horse Transport Inc is the preferred USEF vendor for horse flights departing the continental United States.

- [Website](#)
- Phone: +1 (914) 276 3880
- Email: info@timdutta.com

GBR to USA: Peden Bloodstock Ltd is the preferred USEF vendor for horse flights departing the United Kingdom.

- [Website](#)
- Phone: +44 1252 844042
- Email: shipping@peden.co.uk

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Local shippers include:

- [Pedens Bloodstock](#)
- [George Smith Horseboxes](#)
- [PRB Horseboxes Ltd.](#)

Hay/Bedding: Please refer to the [FEI Schedule](#) for hay/bedding that is available at the venue.

HUMAN TRANSPORTATION

All Athletes, Grooms, and Owners are responsible for booking their own travel itinerary. Below is a list of recommended airports to South Gloucestershire.

Bristol International Airport (BRS)

- 28.7 miles (approximately 1 hour) from the competition venue.

Cardiff Airport (CWL)

- 66.8 miles (approximately 1.5 hours) from the competition venue.

Birmingham Airport (BHX)

- 84.8 miles (approximately 1.5 hours) from the competition venue.

London Heathrow International Airport (LHR)

- 99.4 miles (approximately 2 hours) from the competition venue.

HUMAN ACCOMMODATION

There are many local accommodation options. Below is a non-extensive list of nearby hotels. Recommendations from the event can also be found [here](#).

Hotel	Website	Distance
Bodkin House Hotel	Click here	2.2 mi
The Castle Inn	Click here	6.1 mi
The Manor House	Click here	6.3 mi
Hare & Hounds	Click here	7.5 mi
Swan Hotel	Click here	7.6 mi
Whatley Manor	Click here	8.1 mi
Devere Tortworth Court Hotel	Click here	10.8 mi

The Official Badminton Campsite is within walking distance from the park allowing for caravans, motorhomes, and live-in trailers. Electric hook ups are not available. It is not required to have your own caravan to stay at the campsite and there are a number of companies that rent and deliver them straight to the site.

More information on the Badminton Campsite [here](#).

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More information about Caravan & Motorhomes for Hire [here](#).

CAR SERVICE INFORMATION

Public Transport: There is public transport in South Gloucestershire which utilizes both buses and trains. The closest bus stop to the competition venue is a 0.7 (14 minute) walk.

Taxi: Taxis use meters calculated by distance and time.

Rental Vehicles: For automatic vehicles, it is recommended to book a rental car with a large rental agency.

USEF EVENTING GUIDE TO TRAVELING OVERSEAS

To view the USA Eventing Guide to Traveling Overseas click [here](#).

ACCREDITATION

Please review the [FEI Schedule](#) for the most up to date information on available accreditations.

APPAREL

USEF does not provide human or horse apparel for CCI5* events.

HOSPITALITY

Badminton Horse Trials offers multiple hospitality packages. More information, including the dress code and opening times, and purchase costs can be found [here](#). The recommended watching area for cross country on Saturday are the picnic tables by the lake. Large screens are normally located by the lake. The screens by the arena tend to show the start and finish of the course.

Owners are encouraged to join the Event Horse Owners Association (EHOA) as they have a separate tent near the athlete tent which is located in the main ring and warm up. More information about EHOA can be found [here](#).

TICKETS & PARKING

All spectators must purchase tickets and the ticketing process is very strict. Purchasing extra entries into the competition and stabling areas is not available. Extra tickets are only available for the normal public places. More information including ticket costs and how to purchase can be found [here](#).

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RESERVED SEATING

To watch the competition in the stadium, you **must** buy Grandstand Seating in addition to an Admission tickets. These tickets can be purchased [here](#). It is recommended that if an owner of a competing horse has an accreditation that they still purchase a grandstand seat for Sunday.

Thursday: Central Seats may be reserved in the West Stand, close to the short end of the Dressage Arena at A. The remaining seats for Dressage on Thursday are unreserved and the use of them is included in the price of personal admission.

Friday: Central Seats may be reserved in the West Stand, close to the short end of the Dressage Arena at A. The remaining seats for Dressage on Thursday are unreserved and the use of them is included in the price of personal admission.

Sunday: Grandstand tickets are necessary in addition to car passes and personal admission to watch the Jumping in the area.

PARKING

All vehicles require a parking pass. Directions and more information about public parking lot can be found [here](#).

VENUE

The MARS Badminton Horse Trial is located on the grounds of The Badminton Estate in South Gloucestershire, England. The venue will have the usual first-aid stations, a mixed zone where interviews can be held, a sports information desk, medical facilities, doping control facilities and Wi-Fi access.

There are many shopping opportunities including a Trade Fair and food and beverage options located throughout the venue.

The venue address is **High St, Badminton GL9 1DF, United Kingdom**

Entering the Venue: Parking information including a map of the area can be found [here](#).

STABLES

Stable boxes are 3m x 4m.

TACK ROOMS

Tack rooms are available upon request when completing the stabling form. It is the Athlete's responsibility to coordinate with their entry.

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MAP

All maps including shopping opportunities and a list of exhibitors can be found [here](#).

COMPETITION SCHEDULES

The full schedule for the MARS Badminton Horse Trials can be found [here](#).

TEAM STAFF

As a non-team competition, the Eventing Team Staff are not available.

SAFE SPORT, CODE OF CONDUCT, & CLEAN SPORT

Similar to any USEF licensed Event, SafeSport, the USEF Code of Conduct and Clean Sport must be abided by at all times.

Click [here](#) for SafeSport Information

Click [here](#) for USEF Code of Conduct

Click [here](#) for Clean Sport Information

PRESS & MEDIA

SOCIAL MEDIA

Social media can be a great advantage for athletes, but it can also be detrimental to the environment. Please familiarize yourself with the policies below:

The FEI Social Media policy can be found [here](#).

The USEF Social Media policy can be found [here](#).

If you have any questions about the utilization of social media during the Event, please contact Sr. Director Social Media & Sport Communications, Carly Weilminster (cweilminster@usef.org).

HOSPITALS & EMERGENCY SERVICES

Name	Address	Phone
Cossham Hospital	Lodge Rd, Kingswood, Bristol BS15 1LF, United Kingdom	+44 11 7950 5050
Chippenham Community Hospital	Chippenham SN15 2AJ, United Kingdom	+441249447100
Royal United Hospital	Combe Park, Bath, Avon BA1 3NG, United Kingdom	+44 12 2542 8331

Stroud General Hospital	General Hospital, Trinity Rd, Stroud GL5 2HY, United Kingdom	+44 30 0421 8080
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British Emergency Services – 999

INCIDENT MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

In general, South Gloucestershire, GBR is a safe area for its residents and visitors. However, security perception changes greatly by district. If you have any doubts or need to report an incident, you can rely on the Police who are constantly patrolling the streets.

Responsible care should be exercised when traveling throughout South Gloucestershire. There is a normal level of crime, but it varies by district. In the higher-income areas frequented by tourists, petty theft is the most common concern. Travelers should keep valuables out of sight and be aware of their surroundings. Avoid isolated areas when on foot, especially after dark. It is recommended to only use a trusted taxi or an app-based taxi service. Do not hail a taxi on the street.

Assailants usually target victims for their smartphones, wallets, or purses. If confronted by someone with a weapon, it is best not to resist.

It is best to use ATMs inside banks instead of ATMs that are more accessible to passers-by and all banks advise customers to cover ATM keypads with their hands when entering codes. When making credit card transactions, travelers should expect the vendor to use a credit card reader in their presence.

Security is the responsibility of everybody. However, security concerns must not be allowed to prevent Athletes from concentrating on preparing and competing their horses. Good security is the application of common sense.

The key to good security is vigilance. Be aware of what is happening around you and always pay attention to anything that appears unusual or out of place. This includes people who appear nervous about their surroundings.

- Make a copy of your passport or real ID and travel documents and leave the original in a safe place.
- Always travel in groups.
- Do not overtly wear expensive jewelry.
- Keep your phone hidden.
- Do not carry excessive amounts of cash or credit cards if you do not need them.
- If you are in a vehicle in standstill traffic with the windows rolled down, keep phones and other possessions low and away from windows and be mindful of people walking through the traffic.
- Do not approach unattended bags, cases or packages – report them.

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- Do not accept packages from anyone, the contents of which are unclear.
- Do not advertise where you are staying.
- If you are out in the evening and you become aware of increased police activity, leave the area immediately.
- If you see an incident involving the police, do not get involved. Do not play the good Samaritan.

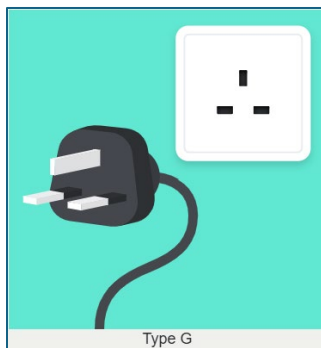
TELEPHONE NUMBER FOR THE BRITISH POLICE – 999

ABOUT SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE



Located in Southwest England, South Gloucestershire is home to 294,765 people. South Gloucestershire is close to many tourist attractions such as Bath, Bristol, and Cotswolds. More information about South Gloucestershire can be found [here](#).

ELECTRICAL



Power in England operates on a 230-volt current and a 50 hertz frequency. Electricity will be supplied through a Type G (flat three-prong) plug.

TELEPHONES, WI-FI, AND INTERNET ACCESS

Cellphone reception is typically good. Most of the country is covered with 5G systems. Contact your phone provider for more information on Sim Cards and International Data Plans.

WEATHER

Average weather for May

- High Temperature: 62°F

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- Low Temperature: 45°F
- Rainfall: 2.25"
- Humidity: 81.45%

Suggested Clothing: England is known for its rainy weather, especially in the spring months. It is recommended to bring layers and at least one waterproof jacket.

LANGUAGE

English is the official language and most widely spoken language in England, which 94.5% of the population speak.

FOOD & LOCAL RESTAURANTS

While tap water is considered safe to drink in England, it is best practice to utilize bottled water instead. Stay away from raw foods and un-bottled drinks, unless in a reputable restaurant as a precaution.

English cuisine is known to be simple and made from high-quality local ingredients. Many of the traditional dishes include beef, seafood, and chicken.

Some popular dishes include:

- Fish and Chips
- Full English Breakfast
- Sunday Roast
- Bangers and Mash
- Cottage Pie
- Cornish Pasty
- Beef Wellington
-

There are many local restaurant options and below is a non-extensive list.

Restaurant	Address	Distance
Old Royal Ship	Luckington, Chippenham SN14 6PA, United Kingdom	2.6 mi
The Old House at Home	The St, Burton, Chippenham SN14 7LT, United Kingdom	3.0 mi
Walled Garden Restaurant	Lucknam, Park, Colerne, Chippenham SN14 8AZ, United Kingdom	9.6 mi
The Stables @ Vayre House	Hatters' Ln, Chipping Sodbury, Bristol BS37 6AA, United Kingdom	8.2 mi

LOCAL BUSINESS HOURS

Office hours are Monday through Friday from approximately 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

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Banks are typically open Monday through Friday from 9:00 or 9:30 a.m. until 3:30 or 4:00 p.m. Some branches stay open until 5:30 or 6:00 p.m. one day a week.

Shopping centers tend to be open from 9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. or 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. with some staying open until 10:00 p.m. Typically stores are only open Monday through Saturday. Stores may be open on Sundays, however, only for six consecutive hours.

GETTING AROUND THE CITY

There are apps that can be utilized in the city of South Gloucestershire to request a vehicle such as Uber, and Lyft, to name a few.

The advised and safest method of travel is by taxi or car arranged by a hotel.

CURRENCY AND EXCHANGE

The pound sterling or Great British Pound (GBP) is the official currency of the United Kingdom. The symbol for the Pound £. There are many different currency exchange services available in South Gloucestershire such as Tesco Bank ATM.

Currency slang includes but is not limited to:

- Euro – “Quid”
- £5 – “a fiver”
- £10 – “a tenner”

CREDIT CARDS

Major credit cards are widely accepted. Use of debit cards is widespread, although many stores impose a minimum per debit card purchase, and service charges may apply.

Money can be exchanged at the airport, exchange houses or banks.

TIPPING

Restaurants: Tipping is customary at sit-down restaurants in the U.S. at a 10% - 15% rate if there is no service charge added.

Transport: Tipping taxi drivers is standard practice in England. A common tip is 10% to 15%.

Hotels: It's up to you whether you tip the cleaning staff or room service and again depends on the overall quality of service.

TRAVELERS CHECKS

Very few places will accept travelers checks in England. It is best to use an ATM card at the many ATM locations available in South Gloucestershire in the absence of cash.