BFA Outdoor Championship Uttoxeter 2026

Accessibility Report

Accessibility Report 2026 Champs

Accessible Camping and Parking Applications
76 applications - 78 if Primed and Wild West (committee) included
Teams 50 - 52 if Primed and Wild West (committee) Included

Other Requests for Reasonable Adjustments
20 other adjustments

1. Parking and Camping

Due to rising demand for accessible parking and camping in previous years – 200 requests in 2025 – it was decided to restrict accessible parking and camping to those who had blue badges or were in receipt of UK State Disability Benefits. This is in line with other festivals and events. In doing so the BFA was mindful of the need to juggle its duties under the Equality Act against its "legitimate aim" of running a show and the need to camp those running the show i.e., committee, set up and maintenance crew, head judges, regional reps etc near the rings. There were a number of Disabled people involved in the running of the show.

We got requests for camping and permits for older members/family who didn't have blue badges/State Disability Benefits as the day parking was "miles away" and camping "considerable distance". Due to being oversubscribed with the current criteria before the closing date for applications, we could not consider this. This concern will be fed back to the committee for further consideration.

Requests for other reasonable adjustments were considered outside of this criterion on the individual's reasonable need for adjustment due to Disability. This year these requests covered BSL access, orientation, sensory needs, continence, early arrival.

Despite the criteria of blue badge and UK State Disability Benefits, we had to close applications before the advertised closing date as demand outweighed practicality.

Parking:
The accessible parking both at the ringside and presentation was complimented also the evidence of regular patrols. Permits were valid for both ringside and presentation. The use of Flyball Geek to remove vehicles without a permit was effective and also acted as a deterrent. Talking to TCs at briefing was another effective deterrent.

Permits are used so that the show organisers can quickly identify the team the vehicles belong to in the event of having to clear the area in an emergency as well as showing evidence of pre-booking.

Another issue was teams sitting in the Disabled parking with chairs blocking entrances etc as they waited for racing in Ring 1 or 2. They were asked to move.

There were 10-20 cars parked throughout racing. People camped in close proximity to the rings didn't use it although some did drive to presentation and used the parking outside the marquee. Of the people in the C and C area 2 preferred to drive others used buggies, but found the fence surrounding the C and C area restricted more direct buggy access.

The acceptance by teams that as part of their own team reasonable adjustment they may need to drive Disabled handlers to the accessible parking is still an issue and we have had feedback that if a disabled person doesn't have a car, we can't give them a permit and expect them to be driven. More awareness of the team's responsibility for reasonable adjustment alongside the BFA needs to be given. We do have the Team Captains Accessibility Guide and we may need to further update this.

There was feedback that team tents weren't respected and people without team tents were using them when the teams weren't there. It is reported that Disability equipment was sat on.

Action points
1. Ongoing work with TCs re responsibility to drive Disabled members to the ring/ presentation as part of team reasonable adjustments.
2. Signs for the Disabled parking outside presentation
3. Consideration of older people who don't have benefits or a blue badge for parking permits (see below)
4. Consideration of Disabled people with Access Cards/Disability ID for parking and camping (see below)
5. Or having considered points 3 and 4 continue with this year's criteria of blue badge and/or government state benefits
6. Possible update to TCs Accessibility guide on reasonable adjustment
7. Note in the welcome pack to respect team tents and bring your own tent and not to use other team's without permission.

2. Camping
The map in the welcome pack labelled the Disabled area, priority area but anyone in G1 and B1 had the feeling they hadn't got the promised Disabled camping near the ring. They may not have felt like this if the map had been sent out without these labels.G1 and B1 were still within 400m of the rings.

A few people in areas G3 and B3 felt they were too far away. Raised concerns about a 12-minute round trip via the one way to park. Expected to be closer.

Disabled BFA officials e.g., regional reps, head judges felt that the close camping enabled them to do their duties towards running the show due to camping close to the ring. This should continue as we have an additional reasonable adjustment duty towards BFA Disabled officials helping to run the show.

In the run up some TCs seemed to struggle with the criteria applying for people who did not have blue badges or government benefits, giving us membership numbers instead of blue badge evidence. Not understanding it.

As in previous years, a few TCs forgot to apply for members.

There was friction as, in line with other events and festivals, we only gave permits and parking to those with blue badges and state Disability benefits. This still resulted in camping being oversubscribed and applications being closed before the advertised closing date.

People without blue badges or government benefits felt they had to struggle and even day parking was a long way. It has been suggested that we open up to those with Access Cards/Disability ID. These are cards issued by private providers for £20 upon proof of Disability e.g., GP or professional letter (not necessarily for Disabilities that impact on mobility or indicative of extent of need). However, extending to include Access Cards/Disability ID we would need to ask for evidence of mobility needs supporting the camping and parking reasonable adjustments sought and we would be back where we were with massive oversubscription and a great deal of time spent seeking clarification of need and evidence. As it stands, we are oversubscribed with camping. Other reasonable adjustments can be put into place by application to BFA Accessibility without blue badges or government benefits e.g., BSL access, orientation sessions, access to a quiet space, early arrival. So, there is no detriment to these reasonable adjustments.

There was feedback that the map and show information was not easily readable for people with dyslexia and VI. Key areas such as the permanent accessible toilets and showers and off-lead dog walking were not marked on it.

Action Points
1. Maybe get the media team to do a map that is readable and dyslexia friendly (another feedback) with no labels just row numbers. Toilets, showers, presentation clearly labelled with distance. This would not only tell people where everything was but also flag up distance enabling people to make decisions about mobility buggy hire.

2.Moving forward we need a new form asking TCs to put the blue badge number and expiry date NOT the membership number on the application form or email proof of benefit. This should be a separate application to the entry. We should not put accessibility on entry simply say fill in the form. I spent ages chasing up TCs who had ticked on the entry but not done the form only to find that their members didn't meet criteria. TCs do entries in a hurry. They don't check accessibility needs, meaning further information, and waiting for it to come through. Equally some team captains didn't apply for people who met the criteria.

3. Mobility Buggies and E-Scooters
We have requests for charging mobility buggies which was undertaken in admin.

There was feedback and discussion on hire of mobility buggies and E-Scooters for future Champs. At large canine events it is not uncommon for Disabled handlers to hire mobility buggies for the event.

E scooters were used this year by members, including Disabled members. However, e-scooters are not classed as Disability mobility vehicles under the law as they go at over 8mph. However, the use of e-scooters is banned on venues such as show grounds and racecourses such as Uttoxeter as “privately owned e-scooters remain illegal to rise on public roads, pavements and publicly accessible private land”.

The use of e-scooters as a mobility vehicle is under review by the Government (consultations finished April 2026.)

Action Points

1. *The shopping village organiser and Accessibility Officer to source interest from members and suppliers in offering mobility scooter hire to members as part of the shopping village.*
2. *Committee and Accessibility Officer to review use of e-scooters for Disabled members*

4.Showers and Toilets

The accessible shower and toilet were of a good standard and radar key access maintained the hygiene.

Nobody knew where the accessible showers and toilets were on the map in the welcome pack. (See above recommendation re map)

We didn’t warn people that radar keys were needed. However, 6 keys were requested, lent out and returned.

Unfortunately, the emergency red cord in the accessible toilet/shower was frequently tied up, not left at ground level where someone who may have a fall could crawl and pull it. I am unsure who was tying it up - cleaners, or users. I left a note, but this was removed. This was also noted in feedback.

The Accessible portaloos had a bit of wear and tear and one of the handles broke. We do need to reinforce to hire companies that Disabled people will be using them frequently, camping and to deliver good standard. This is important given the distance of the permanent toilets. Shout out goes to the poo crew as this was the first year I was not unblocking them and removing bottles and cans.

The continence drive has enabled more people to request passes. Nobody reported any challenge to their use.

Action points

1. We need to include the need for radar keys in pre-show mailings. I had to lend 6 keys to people who hadn't brought theirs. 4 were returned and 2 were given to Rockin and Nuneaton for their tournaments

2. May be worth feeding back to the racecourse in case it is the cleaners tying up the red pull cord as it is a serious Hand S issue

3. Toilet suppliers are made aware of the need for quality Disabled portaloos as they will get usage over 5 days by people who cannot use any other toilets. Accessibility to check the ones in the area where Disabled people are camped meet that criteria. These are toilets that Disabled people need for 5 days.

5. Individual Adjustments

Individual feedback of requested reasonable adjustments was positive e.g., visual impairment, continence, autism Deafness. Also, from those with high need medical conditions.

Sadly 2 people contacted me post show not knowing that there was an accessibility officer, and that individual reasonable adjustment (including blue badge parking and camping) could be sought.

4. Those camped in the Disabled and priority area up to B3 and G3 felt their needs were well met with distance. Most of the cars in the disabled parking were from teams camped in G1 and B1 downwards and C and C area.

4. Most of the teams with Disabled people with significant need who were parked in the C and C area with hard standing were complimentary. However, we need to warn teams camped here that it is hard standing, and tents may be an issue. Also, about the railing.

Action Points

1. Putting the emails for accessibility, safeguarding and all working parties in the members handbook also possibly putting this on the new web page. Someone suggested Members' disability should be included with their membership details. Some felt TCs could do more to make members aware and didn't know the TC Guide to Disability inclusion had been around since 2017. Perhaps accessibility and the communications working party could look into this.

2. Attention also needs to be drawn to the racecourse using sprinklers twice a day for 20 mins but that wheelchair access to the off-lead area will not be affected outside of this.

3. 4 teams have asked for the C and C area next year if possible. Teams new to that area need to be warned of the hard standing in case they have tents

6. The Late Running Order for Saturday and Sunday

This had a massive detrimental impact on Disabled members. I received distress and feedback during and after the champs. Through Friday night and after. Living with Disability involves planning. Members with autism couldn't cope with not knowing. Some members couldn't let carers know when to come. It affected feeding regimes, medication. Several members have said they won't come back again.

This has never happened before - the RO was late in 2023 when speed trails were extended but it was still available in not unreasonable time.

I urge the committee to sort this out for next year and contract someone who is not shouldering the committee responsibility of running a show racing with their team who has expertise in this area. This has been the case in the past with Carry Ons, Wash, Finesse.

7. **Juniors**
It's positive that children with disabilities are included so well in future Friday. However, parents have fedback that they wished they had been told that the kids would get a mention at presentation as they would have brought them. Disabled kids often have low self-esteem, and this would have given them self-esteem and confidence. Could this be better advertised next year?

8. **Accessible Information**
Welcome pack, maps, running orders, adverts were not Dyslexia or VI friendly. Dyslexia friendly fonts are arial, verdana, comic sans. VI are arial, calibri, verdana.

Font size should be 16pt but definitely not less than under 12pt.