



ROYAL ASCOT

ROYAL ASCOT DRESS CODE

Royal Ascot is a unique, stand alone event in the sporting and social calendar and dressing accordingly is part of the experience.

Whilst the spirit of the dress code has always reflected this, the letter of it has arguably lacked clarity, leading in some cases to misunderstanding of what constitutes appropriate attire for this formal occasion.

It is hoped that visitors to the Royal Enclosure and Grandstand will find the new wording of assistance when selecting their outfits for Royal Ascot.

The headline points are:

Royal Enclosure – Ladies:

“Dresses and skirts should be of modest length defined as falling just above the knee or longer.” This replaces the less clear instruction that miniskirts are considered unsuitable.

“Hats should be worn; a headpiece which has a base of 4 inches (10cm) or more in diameter is acceptable as an alternative to a hat.” This clarifies that fascinators are no longer permitted in the Royal Enclosure.

Ladies are kindly reminded that formal day wear is a requirement in the Royal Enclosure, defined as follows:

- Dresses and skirts should be of modest length defined as falling just above the knee or longer;
- Dresses and tops should have straps of one inch or greater;
- Jackets and pashminas may be worn but dresses and tops underneath should still comply with the Royal Enclosure dress code;
- Trouser suits are welcome. They should be of full length and of matching material and colour;
- Hats should be worn; a headpiece which has a base of 4 inches (10cm) or more in diameter is acceptable as an alternative to a hat.

Ladies are also kindly asked to note the following:

- Strapless, off the shoulder, halter neck, spaghetti straps and dresses with a strap of less than one inch (2.5cm) are not permitted;
- Midriffs must be covered;
- Fascinators are no longer permitted in the Royal Enclosure; neither are headpieces which do not have a base covering a sufficient area of the head (4 inches / 10cm).

Royal Enclosure – Gentlemen:

“Gentlemen are kindly reminded that it is a requirement to wear either black or grey morning dress which must include a waistcoat and tie (no cravats), a black or grey top hat and black shoes.” This clarifies that cravats are not acceptable and that black shoes should be worn with morning dress.

Gentlemen are kindly reminded that it is a requirement to wear either black or grey morning dress which must include:

- A waistcoat and tie (no cravats); and
- A black or grey top hat; and
- Black shoes.

A gentleman may remove his top hat within a restaurant, a private box, a private club or that facility’s terrace, balcony or garden. Hats may also be removed within any enclosed external seating area within the Royal Enclosure Garden.

The customisation of top hats (with, for example, coloured ribbons or bands) is not permitted in the Royal Enclosure.

Grandstand Enclosure – Ladies:

“A hat, headpiece or fascinator should be worn at all times.” This replaces advice that many ladies wear hats but this is not compulsory.

Ladies within the main Grandstand enclosure are encouraged to dress in a manner as befits a formal occasion.

Ladies are kindly asked to take particular note of the following:

- A hat, headpiece or fascinator should be worn at all times;
- Strapless or sheer strap dresses and tops are not permitted;
- Trousers must be full length and worn with a top that adheres to the guidelines above (i.e. strapless or sheer strap tops are not permitted);
- Jackets and pashminas may be worn but dresses and tops underneath should still comply with the Grandstand Admission dress code;
- Midriffs must be covered;
- Shorts are not permitted.

“Strapless or sheer strap dresses and tops are not permitted.” This, and several other points, illustrate better what is meant by the previous guidance that ladies are required to dress in a manner appropriate to a smart occasion.

Grandstand Enclosure – Gentlemen:

“Gentlemen are required to wear a suit and tie.” This replaces the instruction that gentlemen must wear a shirt and tie, preferably with a suit or jacket.

Children (admitted on Friday and Saturday only)

Girls (aged 10-16) should be dressed for a formal occasion. Smart summer dresses are suggested. Hats, headpieces or a fascinator may be worn but are not compulsory.

Boys (aged 10-16) should either dress in accordance with the gentlemen’s dress code (as set out above); or alternatively may wear a dark-coloured lounge suit with a shirt and tie (whereupon no hat is required).

Overseas Visitors

Overseas visitors are welcome to wear the formal National Dress of their country or Service Dress.

Serving Military Personnel

Serving military personnel are welcome to wear Service Dress or equivalent.

Older Children

Girls (17 or under) should be dressed for a formal occasion. Smart summer dresses are suggested. Hats, headpieces or a fascinator may be worn but are not compulsory.

Boys aged (13-17) should wear a suit or jacket with a shirt and a tie. Younger boys (12 or under) should be dressed smartly but are not required to wear a jacket or tie.

General

All Royal Enclosure compliant attire, as defined in this document, is welcome in the Grandstand.

In addition to the specific guidance in this document, please note that fancy dress, novelty and branded / promotional clothing are not allowed on site.

Ascot Racecourse recognises that there may be instances where a degree of discretion is required in determining compliance with our dress code. In such instances, reasonable judgement will be exercised.

SILVER RING

Whilst we encourage racegoers to wear smart clothes, no formal dress code applies in the Silver Ring except that replica sports shirts are not permitted.

ROYAL ENCLOSURE - Summary

Her Majesty's Representative wishes to point out that only formal day dress with a hat or substantial fascinator will be acceptable. Off the shoulder, halter neck, spaghetti straps and dresses with a strap of less than one inch and miniskirts are considered unsuitable. Midriffs must be covered and trouser suits must be full length and of matching material and colour.

Gentlemen are required to wear either black or grey morning dress, including a waistcoat, with a top hat. A gentleman may remove his top hat within a restaurant, a private box, a private club or that facility's terrace, balcony or garden. Hats may also be removed within any enclosed external seating area within the Royal Enclosure Garden.

Children between the ages of 10-16 years inclusive are welcome to attend the Royal Enclosure on the Friday and Saturday of the Royal Meeting, providing they are accompanied by a Royal Enclosure badge-holder. Children's badges are free of charge and can be collected on the Friday and Saturday of the Royal Meeting from the Royal Enclosure enquiry offices. It is not necessary to submit a child's name prior to the Royal Meeting. Girls must wear a modest dress or skirt, boys a suit or jacket and smart trousers with a tie. Jeans and trainers are not permissible.

Children under the age of 10 are not permitted in the Royal Enclosure.

Overseas visitors are welcome to wear the formal national dress of their country or Service dress.