



RULES
YOUTH FEI NATIONS CUP™ SERIES

1st edition, approved 19 November 2016
updated 28 February 2018

Effective for season
2018

Preamble

These Rules must be read in conjunction with the FEI Statutes, the FEI General Regulations (GRs), the FEI Jumping Rules (JRs), and all other relevant FEI rules and regulations. In any unforeseen or exceptional circumstance which is not addressed by these Rules, it is the duty of the FEI Jumping Committee to interpret them and render a Decision in a manner compatible to the fullest extent possible with the other provisions of these Rules, the GRs and any other applicable rules of the FEI, as well as sporting spirit.

1. INTRODUCTION

In accordance with the conditions set forth in article 3 herein, the Youth FEI Nations Cup™ season commences with the first Youth FEI Nations Cup™ Competition of the season and finishes with the Youth FEI Nations Cup™ Final. The season consists of Regional qualifying Events from which a limited number of teams as determined by the FEI qualify to take part at the Youth FEI Nations Cup™ Final to be held preferably in December but this may change depending on the Region in which the Final takes place. The qualification system may vary from Region to Region depending on the state of development of the sport in the Region, as well as difficulties relating to horse transportation and quarantine restrictions. Each Regional qualification system provides eligible NFs in that Region equal opportunity to qualify for the Youth FEI Nations Cup™ Final.

For the purpose of these rules the following categories are considered "Youth": Children, Pony Riders, Juniors and Young Riders.

2. REGIONS

The World is divided into the following Regions for the purpose of qualifying teams for the Youth FEI Nations Cup™ Final:

2.1 Europe

Europe comprises the following NFs: Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Great Britain, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxemburg, Macedonia, Malta, Moldova, Monaco, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, Uzbekistan.

2.2 North and Central America / Caribbean

North and Central America / Caribbean comprise the following NFs:

Antigua, Barbados, Bermuda, Canada, Cayman Islands, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Puerto Rico, Trinidad & Tobago, USA, Virgin Islands.

2.3 South America

South America comprises the following NFs:

Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, Venezuela.

2.4 Middle East

The Middle East comprises the following NFs:

Bahrain, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Pakistan, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Turkmenistan, United Arab Emirates, Yemen.

2.5 Asia / Australasia

Asia / Australasia comprises the following NFs:

Australia, Brunei, Cambodia, People's Republic of China, Chinese Taipei, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, New Zealand, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand.

2.6 Africa

Africa comprises the following NFs:

Algeria, Botswana, Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Libya, Morocco, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Namibia, Senegal, South Africa, Sudan, Swaziland, Tunisia, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

3. YOUTH FEI NATIONS CUP™ SEASON

3.1 Europe

The European Youth FEI Nations Cup™ calendar consists of selected outdoor Events commencing not earlier than two weeks following the FEI World Cup™ Jumping Final unless an exception is granted by the FEI Jumping Committee. The last Competition must finish at least two weeks prior to the Youth FEI Nations Cup™ Final.

Between each youth CSIO there must be a break of at least one week.

3.2 Date Restrictions –Continental Championships,

From the Monday of the week preceding and all days during the Continental Championship for Youth it is forbidden to host an FEI Nations Cup™ Jumping Event in the same continent as the Championship.

4. DECLARATION OF CSIO EVENTS AND TEAMS FOR THE 2018 SEASON

4.1 General

All NFs wishing to participate in the Youth FEI Nations Cup™ are required to confirm the following to the FEI by 31 December 2017 at the latest:

- That they will take part in the Youth FEI Nations Cup™ Competitions serving as qualifiers in their Region
- Whether the Youth FEI Nations Cup™ Competition at their CSIO will count as a qualifier for their Region. Upon receipt of applications from NFs allocation of qualifiers per Region will be decided by the FEI. There should be minimal one week between each qualifier in a region.
CSIO Events at which the Nations Cup Competition does not serve as a qualification for the Youth FEI Nations Cup™ Final are also permitted to be held;
- Pledge that they will, if qualified, participate at the Youth FEI Nations Cup™ Final;

Following receipt from NFs of the above information, the FEI will confirm the number of qualifying Competitions to count per Region.

Any NF that commits itself in writing to take part at the qualifying Events and any NF that qualifies for the Youth FEI Nations Cup™ Final but does not respect its commitment to take part at the Youth FEI Nations Cup™ Final or at its designated qualifying Events for any reason, other than Force Majeure (any event or circumstance arising from or attributable to acts, events, omission or accidents which are not reasonably foreseeable, and which are beyond reasonable control and which could not have been reasonably prevented), loses its points for the entire season.

It is the responsibility of each NF to select its CSIO.

In Europe, not more than one CSIO per category may be held per season in the same country, unless an exception is granted by the Bureau. There has to be minimal one week between each Youth CSIO.

5. QUALIFYING EVENTS

The maximum number of qualifying Events worldwide is 20.

5.1 Europe

5.1.1 List of Events

5.1.2 Criteria for Youth CSIO Events

The following criteria must be respected for Events:

- a) The Nations Cup is the main Competition at the event, with the highest prize money, and must be held on Sunday.
- b) Each Youth FEI Nations Cup™ Event must offer at least CHF 30'000 in prize money, divided among the different categories, Pony Riders, Children, Juniors and Young riders. The total amount of prize money permitted to be offered at each Event for Pony Riders and for Children is EUR 8'000.
- c) Events must be held over at least three days.
- d) A maximum global entry fee of 350 Euro per Horse/Pony for all CSIO Events may be charged.
- e) Quality and size of stables must be in accordance with FEI requirements.
- f) Stable security must be in accordance with FEI requirements.
- g) Quality of footing must be in accordance with FEI requirements.
- h) Expenses for accommodation/meals for Athletes/Chefs d'Equipe/Officials must be in accordance with FEI requirements.
- i) The course must be the same for the first and second rounds.
- j) OCs have the right to invite a limited number of home/foreign individual Athletes from the home country and countries not represented by an official team.
- k) Refer to Art. 9 for details relating to FEI wild cards for teams and individuals.

5.2 Other Regions

FEI selected qualifying Events in other Regions may vary per Region in number depending on the number of CSIOs held in the Region providing they meet the following minimum criteria and any additional requirements as established by the FEI.

The following criteria must be respected for Events held in other Regions:

- a) The Nations Cup is the main Competition at the Event, with the highest prize money, and must be held on Sunday.
- b) Each Youth FEI Nations Cup™ Competition must offer at least CHF 30'000 in prize money, divided among the different categories, Pony Riders, Children, Juniors and Young Riders. The total amount of prize money permitted to be offered at each Event for Pony Riders and for Children is EUR 8'000.
- c) Events must be held over at least three days.
- d) A maximum global entry fee of 350 Euro per Horse/Pony for all CSIO Events may be charged.
- e) Quality and size of stables must be in accordance with FEI requirements.
- f) Stable security must be in accordance with FEI requirements.
- g) Quality of footing must be in accordance with FEI requirements.
- h) Expenses for accommodation/meals for Athletes/Chefs d'Equipe/Officials must be in accordance with FEI requirements.
- i) The course must be the same for the first and second rounds.

j) OCs have the right to invite a limited number of home/foreign individual Athletes from the home country and countries not represented by an official team.

k) Refer to Art. 9 for details relating to FEI wild cards for teams and individuals.

In Regions that do not have a qualifying Event or in a Region where all eligible NFs do not have equal opportunity to qualify for the Youth FEI Nations Cup™ Final, qualification will be based on the results of the team competition at the respective Regional or Continental Championships.

6. PARTICIPATION

6.1 Europe

6.1.1 Participation at Home Event

NFs participating in Division 2 must participate at their home Event providing the home NF organises a qualifying Event.

6.1.2 Requests for Invitations

OCs must accept requests for invitations from Teams providing they have declared their intention to take part in the series.

6.1.3 Number of Events counting for Points

Teams may earn points at all Events but only their four best results will count towards the standings.

6.1.4 Participation of Teams outside their own Region

Teams may participate at CSIOs outside their own Region if invited but may not earn points at these Events.

6.1.5 Invitations of Teams and Individuals

For the avoidance of doubt, the current JRs relating to invitation of teams and individuals apply.

6.1.6 Participation in the First and Second Round

Four Athletes per team take part in the first and second rounds of the Youth FEI Nations Cup™ Competition. Unless eliminated in the first round six teams take part in the second round. The home team may not return for the second round unless it qualifies among the six teams allowed to return for the second round.

It is allowed to organise an individual competition over the same course of the Nations Cup between the first and second rounds of the Nations Cup Competition.

6.2 Other Regions

All OCs in other Regions must accept requests for entries from NFs in their own Region, providing they have declared their intention to take part in the series.

Teams may take part at CSIO Events outside their own Region but may not earn points at these Events.

OCs must invite teams of four or five Athletes.

For the avoidance of doubt, the current JRs relating to invitation of teams and individuals apply.

Four Athletes per team take part in the first and second rounds of the Youth FEI Nations Cup™ Competition. Unless eliminated in the first round, six teams take part in the second round. The home team may not return for the second round unless it qualifies among the six teams allowed to return for the second round.

7. POINT SYSTEM

7.1 Points

Points may only be obtained by eligible teams in their own Region. In order to determine the list of NFs that qualify for the Youth FEI Nations Cup™ Final, the following point system will be used for all qualifying Competitions:

Placing	Points
1st	100
2nd	90
3rd	80
4th	70
5th	60
6th	55
7th	50
8th	45
9th	40
10th	35

In accordance with the invitation system established for each Region/Division, the points obtained in the Youth FEI Nations Cup™ qualifier(s) are added together in order to establish Regional/Division standings.

7.2 Europe

Points are distributed according to the team’s classification in the Competition. In case teams are placed equal with any other team during any of the Youth FEI Nations Cup™ Competitions, the points set forth in article 7.1 for the places in question are added and divided equally among the teams concerned, team(s) thereby obtaining its/their portion of the points. The second decimal place is rounded up from .005 and rounded down from .004.

Teams may earn points at all Events but the maximum number of results to count per team is four.

7.3 Other Regions

For other Regions, points are distributed according to the team’s classification in the Competition. In case teams from the same Region are placed equal with any other team during any of the Youth FEI Nations Cup™ Competitions, the points set forth in article 7.1 for the places in question are added and divided equally among the teams concerned, the team(s) participating for points thereby obtaining its/their portion of the points. The second decimal place is rounded up from .005 and rounded down from .004.

The number of Events to count for points for other Regions is four if between four and eight qualifiers are held in any given Region. In case there are less than four qualifying Events in any given Region, all count for points.

7.4 Overall Classification Tie Breaker

In case of a tie for any place on the overall Regional classification, teams are separated by:

- giving preference to the team with the greater number of first place classifications;
- in case there is still a tie the number of second place classifications will count and if necessary the number of third place classifications and so on until the tie is broken.

If after applying this method there is still a tie for any place at the conclusion of the last Event of the season, preference will be given to:

- the team with the greater number of clear rounds among the scores counting (i.e. maximum three scores per round per team) from each Competition throughout the season;
- if there is still a tie the scores counting (i.e. maximum three scores per round per team) for each team from each Competition will be added together and preference will be given to the team with the lowest overall score.

In case of a tie for a qualification place from Regions with only one qualifying Event, the following method will be used to break the tie:

- the team with the greater number of clear rounds among the scores counting in the Competition (i.e. maximum three scores per round per team);
- if there is still a tie the combined times of each team's best three athletes in the first round if the teams concerned have taken part only in the first round or both rounds if the teams concerned have taken part in the second round (i.e. the times of the three Athletes whose result counted in each round) will be used to break the tie, preference being given to the team with the lowest combined time.

8. TITLE OF THE YOUTH FEI NATIONS CUP™ COMPETITION

It is obligatory for Youth FEI Nations Cup™ Competitions to be called: Youth FEI Nations Cup™.

9. WILD CARDS

9.1 FEI Wild Cards for Teams Europe and Other Regions

The FEI has the right to nominate one or more wild card teams for each CSIO Event in all Regional qualifiers outside Europe in order to ensure that all teams have equal opportunity to qualify for the Youth FEI Nations Cup™ Final.

Requests for wild card invitations from NFs are screened by:

- CSIO representative;
- FEI Headquarters representative.

In case of a dispute, the OCs' and the Chefs d'Equipe representatives will be consulted prior to a decision being taken by the FEI.

9.2 FEI Wild Cards for Individuals

The FEI has the right to nominate a maximum of two individuals as wild cards for all CSIOs. The individual wild cards may only be allocated to individuals from NFs not represented by a team.

9.3 Requests for all wild cards must be made at least nine weeks before the Event in question is due to commence. Wild cards are allocated by the FEI eight weeks before each Event is due to take place. Requests for wild cards are co-coordinated by the FEI Director of Jumping.

10. QUALIFICATION SYSTEM FOR THE YOUTH FEI NATIONS CUP™ FINAL

The qualification system for the Youth FEI Nations Cup™ Final may vary from Region to Region and will fall into one of the following categories:

- One qualifier for the entire Region at which all eligible NFs from the Region may participate, the OC does not have the right to refuse an entry from an eligible NF;
- A (limited) number of qualifiers in the Region at which all eligible NFs may participate, the OCs do not have the right to refuse an entry from an eligible NF;

- A larger number of qualifiers in the Region where eligible NFs from the Region that wish to qualify for the Youth FEI Nations Cup™ Final are given the opportunity to participate at any number of qualifiers;
- For Regions without a Youth FEI Nations Cup™ Competition, teams are selected according to the results in the team competition at their Regional or Continental Championship.

11. YOUTH FEI NATIONS CUP™ FINAL

11.1 Date

The Youth FEI Nations Cup™ Final is organised preferably during the month of December but this may change depending on the Region in which the Final takes place.

11.2 Allocation of Quota Places for the Youth FEI Nations Cup™ Final

- Europe 6
- North and Central America: 2
- South America: 1
- Middle East: 1
- Asia: 1
- Africa: 1

11.3 Bidding Process

The Youth FEI Nations Cup™ Final is allocated by the Bureau following consideration of bids received from OCs/NFs.

11.4 Number of Teams

Twelve teams plus the home team if not qualified are allowed to participate in the Youth FEI Nations Cup™ Final, providing it has declared its intention to participate and has participated in the qualifying Events in its Region or Division or is selected through its Regional or Continental Championship ~~the Longines Rankings.~~

11.5 Number of Athletes

Each team is allowed to participate with five Athletes with two Horses/Ponies per Athlete. No individual Athletes may be invited in addition to the team members except for the home team.

Maximum 10 individual Athletes may be invited with one Horse/Pony each from NF not represented by a team. This number includes home and foreign Athletes.

11.6 Substitution of Qualified NFs

In case a qualified team withdraws from the Final, substitutions will be made insofar as possible from the same Region in descending order of the overall standings of the Region or Division as follows:

Europe : substitution to 10th place in the overall standings

Middle East: substitution to 4th place in the overall standings

North/Central America & Caribbean: substitution to 4th place in the overall standings

South America: substitution to 4th position in the overall standings

Asia/Australasia: substitution to 4th position in the overall standings

Africa: substitution to 3rd position in the overall standings

If a Region cannot fill its quota, the vacant place(s) will revert to Europe.

11.7 Competition Format

The Youth FEI Nations Cup™ Final consists of three Competitions. Each team competes in two of the three Competitions.

All three Competitions are conducted at the following Maximum height:

- Ponies: 1 m 30
- Children: 1 m 30
- Juniors: 1m 40
- Young Riders: 1 m 45

Each team's five Athlete/Horse/Pony combinations for the Youth FEI Nations Cup™ Final must be declared prior to the start of the first Competition of the Event at a time to be decided by the FEI and the OC. Between the declaration of the Athlete/Horse/Pony combinations and one hour before the start of the first Competition of the Event, Horses/Ponies may be substituted only in case of illness or accident, with the permission of the Veterinary Commission and the approval of the Ground Jury. Following that no further changes may be made to the Athlete/Horse/Pony combinations. Each Athlete may only ride one Horse/Pony per Competition and this must be his declared Nations Cup Horse/Pony; each Horse/Pony may only compete in one Competition per day.

The Competition format is as follows.

11.7.1 First Youth FEI Nations Cup™ Competition

All teams take part in the First Competition with four Athletes per team, the starting order of teams is established by a draw. On the day preceding the First Competition at a time to be decided by the FEI and the OC, Chefs d'Equipe must declare their four Athlete/Horse/Pony combinations for this Competition, including their starting order; these are to be selected from the team's five declared Athlete/Horse/Pony combinations. In case of accident or illness to an Athlete and/or Horse/Pony between the declaration of the combinations for this Competition and one hour before the start of the Competition, the Athlete/Horse/Pony combination may, upon presentation of a certificate from an officially recognised medical doctor and/or with the permission of the Veterinary Commission and after approval by the Ground Jury, be replaced by the fifth Athlete/Horse/Pony combination of the team in question. In case of substitution, the starting order remains unchanged.

Teams that are equal on penalties for eighth place in this Competition are separated by the times of the best three Athletes in each team.

This Competition is run at 375 m/min for Juniors and Young Riders, and at 350 m/min for Pony Riders and Children, and consists of 13 obstacles.

11.7.2 Second Youth FEI Nations Cup™ Competition (Challenge Cup)

The Second Competition is open to the teams placed 6-12 in the First Competition, with four Athletes per team. Chefs d'Equipe must declare their four Athlete/Horse combinations for this Competition at a time to be decided by the FEI and the OC. These combinations are to be selected from the team's five declared Athlete/Horse/Pony combinations; they are not required to retain the same order of starting within their team as in the First Competition. In case of accident or illness to an Athlete and/or Horse/Pony between the declaration of the combinations for this Competition and one hour before the start of the Competition, the Athlete/Horse/Pony combination may, upon presentation of a certificate from an officially recognized medical doctor and/or with the permission of the Veterinary Commission and after approval by the Ground Jury, be replaced by the fifth Athlete/Horse combination of the team in question. In case of substitution, the starting order remains unchanged.

This Competition is run with an initial round not against the clock with a jump-off against the clock in case of equality of penalties for first place. The starting order in this Competition follows the reverse order of results in the First Competition, in case of a tie on penalties teams retain the same starting order as in the First Competition. Teams retain the same starting order in the jump-off as in the initial round. One Athlete per team selected by the Chef d'Equipe from those that have either taken part in the First

Competition or in the initial round of the Second Competition is permitted to take part in the jump-off. Teams not taking part in the jump-off are placed according to the penalties of their best three Athletes in the initial round. Teams with equality of penalties are placed equal and will share the prize money for the place(s) concerned.

All teams start in this Competition on zero penalties.

The Competition is run at 375 m/min for Juniors and Young Riders, and at 350 m/min for Pony Riders and Children, and consists of 13 obstacles in the initial round.

The jump-off if any consists of six to eight obstacles.

If in any category there are eight or less teams taking part in the first Competition, the second Competition will not be held for the category in question and all teams concerned, if not eliminated in the first Competition, will be permitted to take part in the Final Competition.

11.7.3 Third Youth FEI Nations Cup™ Competition (Final Competition)

The Final Competition is open to teams placed 1-6 in the First Competition (or, if in any category there are 8 or less teams in the first Competition, the Final Competition is open to all teams concerned, if not eliminated in the first Competition), with four Athletes per team. This Competition is run with an initial round against the clock with a jump-off against the clock in case of equality of penalties for first place. Chefs d'Equipe must declare the four Athlete/Horse/Pony combinations for this Competition at a time to be decided by the FEI and the Organising Committee. These combinations are to be selected from the team's five declared Athlete/Horse/Pony combinations; they are not required to retain the same order of starting within their team as in the First Competition. In case of accident or illness to an Athlete and/or Horse/Pony between the declaration of the combinations for this Competition and one hour before the start of the Competition, the Athlete/Horse/Pony combination may, upon presentation of a certificate from an officially recognised medical doctor and/or with the permission of the Veterinary Commission and after approval by the Ground Jury, be replaced by the fifth Athlete/Horse/Pony combination of the team in question. In case of substitution, the starting order remains unchanged.

The starting order in this Competition follows the reverse order of penalties obtained in the First Competition; in case of a tie on penalties teams retain the same starting order as in the First Competition. Teams retain the same starting order in the jump-off as in the initial round. One Athlete per team, selected by the Chef d'Equipe from the Athletes that have either taken part in the First Competition or in the initial round of the Final Competition is permitted to take part in the jump-off. Teams not taking part in the jump-off are separated by the times of their best three Athletes in the initial round.

All teams start in this Competition on zero penalties.

The Competition is run at 375 m/min for Juniors and Young Riders, and at 350 m/min for Pony Riders and Children, and consists of 13 obstacles in the initial round.

The jump-off, if any, consists of six to eight obstacles.