



RULES
FEI NATIONS CUP™ SERIES

Effective for season
2017

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

PREAMBLE	3
1. INTRODUCTION	3
2. REGIONS FOR 2017 SEASON	3
3. FEI NATIONS CUP™ 2017 SEASON	4
4. DECLARATION OF TEAMS	5
5. QUALIFYING EVENTS	6
6. PARTICIPATION	9
7. NF MINIMUM ELIGIBILITY	13
8. POINT SYSTEM	14
9. PRIZE MONEY	16
10. GRAND PRIX PARTICIPATION – EUROPE DIVISION 1 AND 2	16
11. TITLE OF THE FEI NATIONS CUP™ COMPETITION	18
12. WILD CARDS	18
13. QUALIFICATION SYSTEM FOR THE FEI NATIONS CUP™ FINAL 2017	19
14. FEI NATIONS CUP™ FINAL	19

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 FEI Nations Cup™ season commences with the first FEI Nations Cup™ Competition of the season and finishes with the 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 FEI Nations Cup™ Final to be held preferably at the end of September or early October 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 FEI Nations Cup™ Final.

2. REGIONS FOR 2017 SEASON

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

2.1. Europe

Europe is divided into Division 1 and Division 2 and 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.

(Refer to 6.1 and 6.2 for composition of Divisions 1 and 2)

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, [Angola](#), Botswana, Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Libya, Morocco, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Namibia, Senegal, South Africa, Sudan, Swaziland, Tunisia, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

3. FEI NATIONS CUP™ 2017 SEASON

3.1. Europe Division 1

The Europe Division 1 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 FEI Nations Cup™ Final.

3.2. Other Regions plus Europe Division 2

For all other Regions, including Europe Division 2, the FEI Nations Cup™ calendar consists of Events commencing after the FEI Nations Cup™ Final. The last Competition must finish at least two weeks prior to the FEI Nations Cup™ Final.

3.3. Date Restrictions – World and Continental Championships, Olympic, Pan-American and Asian Games and FEI World Cup™ Final

From the Monday of the week preceding and all days during the Jumping Events at the World Equestrian Games, at the Olympic Games and the FEI World Cup™ Jumping Final it is forbidden to host an FEI Nations Cup™ Jumping Event (worldwide).

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

From the Monday of the week preceding and all days during the Jumping Event of the Pan-American Games it is forbidden to host an FEI Nations Cup™ Jumping Event in the Americas.

From the Monday of the week preceding and all days during the Jumping Event of the Asian Games it is forbidden to host an FEI Nations Cup™ Jumping Event in Asia.

3.4. FEI Nations Cup™ Calendar 2017 Season

~~Upon receipt of applications from NFs. The allocation of FEI Nations Cup™ qualifiers per Region will be~~ is decided by the FEI upon the recommendations of the FEI Jumping Committee. CSIO Events at which the Nations Cup Competition does not serve as a qualification for the FEI Nations Cup™ Final are also permitted to be held.

3.5. FEI Nations Cup™ 2018 Season

The structure of the 2018 season shall be decided during the course of 2017.

4. ~~DECLARATION OF CSIO EVENTS AND TEAMS~~ **FOR THE 2016 SEASON**

4.1. ~~General~~ For the 2017 Season

All NFs wishing to participate in the FEI Nations Cup™ are required to confirm the following to the FEI by ~~31 December 2015~~ 30 November 2016 at the latest:

- That they will take part in the FEI Nations Cup™ Competitions serving as qualifiers in their Region or in the Division for which they have qualified with a view to qualifying for the FEI Nations Cup™ Final (refer to article 7 on minimum eligibility for NFs); ~~Whether the 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. CSIO Events at which the Nations Cup Competition does not serve as a qualification for the FEI Nations Cup™ Final are also permitted to be held~~
- Pledge that they will, if qualified, participate at the FEI Nations Cup™ Final;
- For Europe Division 1 NFs, whether they wish to qualify for the FEI Nations Cup™ Final through Division 1 or Division 2.

~~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 FEI Nations Cup™ Final but does not respect its commitment to take part at the 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. This requirement does not apply for Division 2 as far as taking part in the Nations Cup™ qualifying Events is concerned.

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

In Europe, not more than one CSIO may be held per season in the same country, unless an exception is granted by the Bureau.

4.2. For the 2018 Season

Conditions to participate in the FEI Nations Cup™ shall be decided during the course of 2017.

5. QUALIFYING EVENTS

The maximum number of qualifying Events worldwide for the 2017 season is ~~2019~~.

5.1. Europe – Division 1

Division 1 Events may not clash with each other.

5.1.1. List of Events

~~In 2016~~ Division 1 consists of ~~the following maximum~~ eight Events. For the 2017 season, the following Events will be included in Division 1 on the condition that they meet the conditions as stipulated in articles 4.1 and 5.1.2:

Lummen (BEL), La Baule (FRA), Rome (ITA), St Gallen (SUI), Rotterdam (NED), Falsterbo (SWE), Hickstead (GBR), Dublin (IRL).

~~For the 2017 season, the FEI Jumping Committee will consider all applications for Division 1 status and reserves the right to require that additional conditions are met in order to ensure that all Division 1 NFs can compete under fair and equal conditions.~~

5.1.2. Criteria for Division 1 Events

The following criteria must be respected for Events held in Division 1:

- a) Each Division 1 CSIO must be of CSIO5* level.
- b) A maximum global entry fee of 500 Euro per horse and 250 Euro per Young Horse may be charged.
- c) Each Event must respect the CSIO5* technical requirements in effect at the time.
- d) Each FEI Nations Cup™ Competition must offer at least €200'000 in prize money. The Grand Prix Competition at these Events must also offer a minimum of €200'000 in prize money.
- e) All selected Events must in principle follow a fixed competition format, with the main Competitions taking place on Friday and Sunday. Depending on the current proven success of an Event's FEI Nations Cup™ Competition relating to broadcast coverage and spectatorship, an exception may be granted at the sole discretion of the FEI.
- f) Events may be required by the FEI to have flood lights.
- g) Events must be held over at least four days.
- h) In addition to the FEI Nations Cup™ Competition, four other Competitions must count for Longines Ranking points.
- i) The course must be the same for the first and second rounds.
- j) Each team must be invited with five Athletes and 15 Horses.
- k) The maximum number of Athletes permitted to take part is 65.
- l) Each OC must invite at least five Athletes as individuals from NFs not represented by a team, to be selected from the Longines Ranking at the time of nominated entries in

[effect four weeks before the start of the Event \(the number of the Longines Ranking list is to be published in the Event Schedule\)](#), in descending order until the 30th position.

There is no limit on the number of Athletes per NF among these five individuals. If the OC cannot fill the quota of five Athletes from the top 30 on the Longines Ranking, they may invite additional Athlete(s) to fill this quota, while respecting a maximum of two foreign individual Athletes per NF from NFs not represented by a team.

m) 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. However, the total number of Athletes must not exceed 65.

n) In addition to the 65 Athletes as mentioned above, three foreign Athletes from countries represented by a team may be invited for the small tour, but no more than one per NF, to take part in all Competitions except the FEI Nations Cup™ Competition and the Grand Prix.

o) Refer to Art. 12.2 for details relating to FEI wild cards for individuals.

5.2. Europe - Division 2

5.2.1. List of Events

Division 2 consists of maximum eight European CSIO3*/4*/5* Events selected by the FEI and not chosen for Division 1, providing they meet the minimum criteria listed in article 5.2.2 and any additional requirements as established by the FEI.

For the ~~2016~~ [2017](#) season, the events selected for Division 2 are the following:

Linz-Ebelsberg (AUT), ~~Celje (SLO)~~, ~~Odense (DEN)~~ [Drammen \(NOR\)](#), Lisbon (POR), [Uggerhalne \(DEN\)](#), Sopot (POL), ~~Budapest (HUN)~~ [Roesser \(LUX\)](#), Gijon (ESP). [\[updated 1 March 2017\]](#)

5.2.2. Criteria for Division 2 Events

The following criteria must be respected for Events held in Division 2:

- a) Each Event must have the status of at least CSIO3* level.
- b) A maximum global entry fee of 500 Euro per Horse and 250 Euro per Young Horse for all CSIO Events may be charged.
- c) Each Event must respect the prize money requirements for the relevant star level category, according to the CSI/CSIO Requirements in force at the time.
- d) Quality and size of stables must be in accordance with FEI requirements.
- e) Stable security must be in accordance with FEI requirements.
- f) Quality of footing must be in accordance with FEI requirements.
- g) CSIO3* and CSIO4* Events must offer prize money of at least CHF 30'000 for the FEI Nations Cup™ Competition.
- h) CSIO5* Events must offer prize money of at least CHF 80'000 for the FEI Nations Cup™ Competition.
- i) Expenses for accommodation/meals for Athletes/Chefs d'Equipe/Officials must be in accordance with FEI requirements.
- j) All CSIO3* FEI Nations Cup™ Competitions must use at least the obstacle dimensions established for CSIO4* FEI Nations Cup™ Competitions (refer to JRs

Art. 264.3.1) and the course plan must be sent to the FEI for approval prior to the Event.

- k) Maximum number of teams permitted to take part at each Event is 13. ~~At the discretion of the Jumping Committee, the number of teams may be increased to 15 at Division 2 Events taking place prior to the 2016 Olympic Games. [updated 11 May 2016]~~
- l) Individual Athletes may be invited in accordance with JRs Article 249.5 and 249.6.
- m) Refer to Art. 12 for details relating to FEI wild cards for teams and individuals.

5.3. 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) Each Event must have the status of at least CSIO3* level.
- b) A maximum global entry fee of the equivalent of 500 Euro per Horse and 250 Euro per Young Horse for all CSIO Events may be charged.
- c) Each Event must respect the prize money requirements for the relevant star level category, according to the CSI/CSIO Requirements in force at the time.
- d) Quality and size of stables must be in accordance with FEI requirements.
- e) Stable security must be in accordance with FEI requirements.
- f) Quality of footing must be in accordance with FEI requirements.
- g) Expenses for accommodation/meals for Athletes/Chefs d'Equipe/Officials must be in accordance with FEI requirements.
- h) CSIO5* Events must offer prize money of at least CHF 80'000 for the FEI Nations Cup™ Competition.
- i) CSIO3* and CSIO4* Events must offer prize money of at least CHF 30'000 for the FEI Nations Cup™ Competition.
- j) All CSIO3* FEI Nations Cup™ Competitions must use at least the obstacle dimensions established for 4* Nations Cup Competitions in JRs Art. 264.3.1 and the course plan must be sent to the FEI for approval prior to the Event.
- k) Maximum number of teams permitted to take part at each Event is 13.
- l) Individual Athletes may be invited in accordance with JRs Article 249.5 and 249.6.
- m) Refer to Art. 12 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 FEI Nations Cup™ Final, qualification is based on an NF Ranking established by the addition of Longines Ranking points two months prior to the FEI Nations Cup™ Final of the four best Athletes of each NF in the Region. In case of equality of Longines Ranking points the placing of the best Athlete of the NF on the Longines Ranking two months prior to the FEI Nations Cup™ Final will be decisive.

An NF must have at least four Athletes on the Longines Rankings at the end of October to be eligible to qualify for the following year's FEI Nations Cup™ Final and to participate for points in the qualifying Competitions (refer to article 7).

5.4. 2018 Structure

To be decided during the course of 2017.

6. PARTICIPATION

6.1. Europe - Division 1

6.1.1. ~~2016~~2017 Season – Teams

For the ~~2016~~2017 FEI Nations Cup™ season the eight NFs (~~10~~) permitted to take part in Division 1 are as follows:

- ~~Any European NF that is placed first, second or third at the previous year's FEI Nations Cup™ Final (for the avoidance of doubt, this refers to the actual placing at the Final, not the ranking among European NFs);~~
- ~~The first placed NF in Division 2 standings at the end of the previous season;~~
- ~~The second placed NF in Division 2 standings at the end of the previous season providing that it finishes within the top eight at the previous year's FEI Nations Cup™ Final;~~
- ~~The remaining teams will be selected in descending order from the previous year's Division 1 standings to fill the quota of 10 teams.~~
- The seven best ranked teams on the overall Division 1 standings for 2016.
- The best ranked Division 2 team at the 2016 FEI Nations Cup™ Final.

6.1.2. Option of Participation in Division 1 or 2

NFs qualified for Division 1 ~~in any given year~~ have the option to choose whether they wish to participate in either Division 1 or Division 2. Should any of the seven NFs qualified for Division 1 choose not to participate in Division 1 in the 2017 season, it will be replaced by the next best ranked team on the 2016 overall Division 1 standings. Should the best ranked Division 2 team at the 2016 FEI Nations Cup™ Final decide not to participate in Division 1 in the 2017 season, it will be replaced by the next best ranked Division 2 team at the 2016 Final; if Division 2 cannot fill its quota from the 2016 Final, the 2016 overall Division 2 standings will be used to select the Division 2 replacement team. See Art. 4.1 for the deadline for confirmation of participation of NFs qualified for Division 1.

Withdrawals

Once the ~~10~~eight qualified NFs are established for the ~~2016~~ 2017 season as stipulated above they will not be replaced.

6.1.3. Number of Teams per Event in Division 1

Eight teams, ~~plus the home team if not a Division 1 team,~~ are permitted to take part in Division 1 CSIO Events; at least six Division 1 teams from Division 1 and at least one Division 2 team must be invited to each Event in Division 1. ~~A Non-Division 1 teams may participate in a maximum of four Division 1 Events during any given season.~~

6.1.4. Number of Events to count for Points

NFs participating with a team in Division 1 are guaranteed invitations to ~~50% of the total number of six~~ Division 1 Events; but only their four best results will count towards the Division 1 standings.

~~For example, if Division 1 has eight CSIO Events, each team is guaranteed four invitations. NFs may only obtain points for the FEI Nations Cup™ Final at Events for which they are guaranteed invitations by the FEI.~~

Selection/Allocation of Events for the 2016 2017 Season

NFs participating in Division 1 must participate at their home qualifying Event, providing the home NF organises a qualifying Event. ~~Three-Five~~ additional qualifying Events (for a total of ~~four~~six) are chosen by Division 1 NFs or allocated by the FEI for the ~~2016~~2017 season in accordance with the system indicated as follows.

The following four NFs are permitted to select their ~~four~~six Division 1 Events ~~that count for points~~:

- ~~Any European NF that is placed first, second or third at the 2015 FEI Nations Cup™ Final. (for the avoidance of doubt, this refers to the actual placing at the Final, not the ranking among European NFs);~~
- The ~~remaining four best placed~~ NFs ~~to fill a maximum quota of four NFs are selected~~ in descending order from the ~~2015~~2016 Division 1 FEI Nations Cup™ standings prior to the FEI Nations Cup™ Final.
-

The following system applies for the selection of ~~the six Division 1 Events~~ to count for points for which an invitation is guaranteed, in order of priority:

- NFs choose their home Event (if the home NF has a qualifying Event). If there is one or more NFs among the four permitted to select their Events that does not have a home Event, allocation of the home Event for the NF(s) in question is decided by a draw.
- The first placed NF ~~at the 2015 FEI Nations Cup™ Final on the 2016 Division 1 standings~~ may select the Event of its first choice ~~if from Division 1 or 2~~;
- The second placed NF ~~at the FEI Nations Cup™ Final on the 2016 Division 1 standings~~ may select the Event of its first choice ~~if from Division 1 or 2~~;
- ~~The third placed NF at the FEI Nations Cup™ Final on the 2016 Division 1 standings may select the Event of its first choice if from Division 1 or 2;~~
- The remaining NFs taken in descending order from the Division 1 standings prior to the FEI Nations Cup™ Final to fill the quota of maximum four NFs may select the Event of their first choice;
- The fourth placed NF on the 2016 Division 1 standings may select the Event of its first choice;
- Once each of the above four NFs has selected its first choice, the selection of the remaining Events continues in the same order until all four NFs have reached the established quota of six Events/invitations which is four. Once an Event has been selected by ~~five~~six NFs, including the home NF or the allocated NF if an NF has no home Event, no other NF may select that Event;
- An Event selected by an NF in the first round of the selection process cannot be selected by another NF in that round. The same applies to all selection rounds.

~~If there is one or more NFs among the four permitted to select their Events that does not have a home Event, allocation of the home Event for the NF(s) in question is decided by a draw.~~

The following procedure will be used for the allocation of Events to count for points for which an invitation is guaranteed for the remaining Division 1 teams:

- Once the four NFs that are permitted to choose their Events have selected their Events in the final selection round, the remaining slots for each of the qualified NFs will be allocated by the FEI in such a way as to ensure that all NFs concerned can fill their quota. Prior to these NFs being allocated their quota of Events they will be given the opportunity by the FEI to name the Events of their choice. The FEI will try as much as possible to facilitate the wishes of NFs.

6.1.5. Selection/Allocation of Events for the ~~2016~~2018 Season

The selection/allocation process of Events in 2018 will be decided during the course of 2017. ~~for Division 1 for the 2016 season will be the same as that used for 201~~

6.1.6. Participation at ~~Events not counting for Points~~ CSIOs outside Division 1

Division 1 teams may participate at Events in Division 1 other than those counting for points for the team in question or in Division 2 Events CSI Os in other Regions and at Division 2 CSI Os if invited, but may not earn points at these Events.

~~6.2. Teams may participate at CSI Os outside their own Region but may not earn points at these Events.~~

~~6.2.1-6.1.7.~~ Home Individual Athletes

The rules for invitation of home individual Athletes as stipulated in the JRs do not apply for Division 1 Events.

~~6.2.2-6.1.8.~~ Participation in the First and Second Round

In Division 1 Events, four Athletes per team take part in the first round of the FEI Nations Cup™ Competition. Unless eliminated in the first round, eight teams take part in the second round with four Athletes each. The home team, if not one of the Division 1 NFs, may not return for the second round unless it qualifies among the eight teams allowed to return for the second round.

~~6.2.3-6.1.9.~~ 2017-2018 Season

~~For the 2017 season, eight teams will qualify for Division 1 as follows:~~

~~The seven best ranked teams on the final overall Division 1 standings for 2016 will be qualified to take part in Division 1. The teams ranked 8th, 9th and 10th on the final overall Division 1 standings for 2016 will be relegated to Division 2 for 2017.~~

~~The best ranked Division 2 team at the 2016 FEI Nations Cup™ Final will be promoted to Division 1 for 2017.~~

The number of Division 1 teams for the 2018 season and the means by which they will be selected will be established during the course of 2017.

6.3.6.2. Europe - Division 2

6.3.1-6.2.1. Teams Eligible for Division 2

The teams eligible to take part in Division 2 are as follows:

- All European NFs not selected to participate in Division 1, providing they meet the minimum eligibility requirements (refer to article 7);
- Any Division 1 team that declines to participate in Division 1.

6.3.2-6.2.2. Participation at Home Event

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

6.3.3-6.2.3. Requests for Invitations

Division 2 OCs must accept requests for invitations from Division 1 NFs that have declined to take part with a team in Division 1 and those NFs that have been relegated from Division 1 providing they meet the minimum eligibility requirements (refer to article 7) for NFs and providing they have declared their intention to take part in the series.

6.3.4-6.2.4. Number of Events counting for Points

Division 2 teams may earn points at all Division 2 Events but only their four best results will count towards the Division 2 standings.

6.3.5-6.2.5. Participation ~~of Teams at CSIOs outside their own Region and in~~ Division 1~~2~~

Division 2 teams may participate at CSIOs ~~outside their own~~ in other Regions and at Division 1 CSIOs if invited but may not earn points at these Events.

6.3.6-6.2.6. Invitation of Teams

The following NFs have the right to receive an invitation to the FEI Nations Cup™ Division 2 Events of their choice:

- The ~~two-three~~ NFs ~~if any~~, relegated from Division 1 according to their previous year's overall Division 1 standings;
- Any Division 1 NF that does not wish to take part in the Division 1 qualifying system according to their classification in the previous year's Division 1 overall standings;
- A further six NFs selected in descending order from the previous year's Division 2 overall standings prior to the FEI Nations Cup™ Final, providing they meet the minimum eligibility requirements (refer to article 7) for NFs and have declared their intention to take part in the series, and providing this does not exceed 50% of the number of teams that have declared their participation.

- Teams not included in those above must request an invitation from the OC of the Division 2 Events at which they would like to participate. [OCs of Division 2 Events should give priority of invitations to Division 2 NFs over NFs from other Regions.](#)
- [Refer to Art. 12.1](#) for details relating to FEI wild cards for teams at Division 2 Events.

6.3.7-6.2.7. Number of Athletes and Horses per Team

OCs must invite at least five Athletes and at least 12 Horses per team.

6.3.8-6.2.8. Invitations of Teams and Individuals

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

6.3.9-6.2.9. Participation in the First and Second Round

In Division 2 four Athletes per team take part in the first and second round of the FEI Nations Cup™ Competition. Unless eliminated in the first round eight teams take part in the second round. The home team may not return for the second round unless it qualifies among the eight teams allowed to return for the second round.

6.4.6.3. Other Regions

All OCs in other Regions must accept requests for entries from NFs in their own Region, providing they meet the minimum eligibility requirements (refer to article 7) for NFs and 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 round of the FEI Nations Cup™ Competition. Unless eliminated in the first round, eight teams take part in the second round.

The home team may not return for the second round unless it qualifies among the eight teams allowed to return for the second round.

7. NF MINIMUM ELIGIBILITY

In order to be eligible to [attempt to](#) qualify for the FEI Nations Cup™ Final, an NF must have at least four Athletes on the Longines Rankings at the end of October of the previous season (Ranking N° ~~178~~[190](#) for the ~~2016~~[2017](#) season).

[The minimum eligibility requirements for NFs to participate in the 2018 FEI Nations Cup™ series will be established during the course of 2017.](#)

8. POINT SYSTEM

8.1. Points

Points may only be obtained by eligible teams in their own Region or Division. In order to determine the list of NFs that qualify for the 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 FEI Nations Cup™ qualifier(s) are added together in order to establish Regional/Division standings.

8.2. Division 1

For Division 1 teams, points are distributed according to the team's classification in the Competition. In case Division 1 teams are placed equal [with any other team](#) during any of the FEI Nations Cup™ Competitions, the points set forth in article 8.1 for the places in question are added and divided equally among the teams concerned, the [Division 1](#) 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 results to count per team for Division 1 is the same as the number of guaranteed invitations, that is 50% of the total number of qualifying Events in Division 1 rounded up to the next whole number. Teams may only earn points at Events that have been chosen or allocated for this purpose (refer to article 6.1.6).

8.3. Division 2

For Division 2, points are distributed according to the team's classification in the Competition. In case Division 2 teams are placed equal with any other team during any of the FEI Nations Cup™ Competitions, the points set forth in article 8.1 for the places in question are added and divided equally among the teams concerned, the Division 2 team(s) thereby obtaining its/their portion of the points. The second decimal place is rounded up from .005 and rounded down from .004.

Division 2 teams may earn points at all Division 2 Events but the maximum number of results to count per team in Division 2 is four.

8.4. 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 FEI Nations Cup™ Competitions, the points set forth in article 8.1 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.

~~8.5 Cancellation of a 2016 Qualifying Competition~~

~~In the case of a qualifying Competition being cancelled in any Region or Division where teams are allocated Events counting for points the following procedure applies:~~

~~Teams whose result would have counted for points at the cancelled Competition are distributed points for the cancelled Competition, based on the total number of points obtained at their other allocated Events divided by the number of Events at which they have participated for points. This calculation is carried out at the end of the season.~~

8.5. 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.

9. PRIZE MONEY

The prize money for each Division 1 FEI Nations Cup™ Competition must not be less than €200'000.

Only teams (eight) competing in the second round of each Division 1 Competition receive prize money.

The prize money is distributed as follows:

	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th	6 th	7 th	8 th
8 teams	64'000	40'000	32'000	24'000	16'000	11'000	8'000	5'000

A team which is eliminated (see JRs Art. 264.8.1 and 264.8.2) in the first round of a Division 1 Competition is not entitled to receive prize money or points for that Competition.

All other Competitions must offer the following minimum amount of prize money:

- CSIO3* and CSIO4* FEI Nations Cup™ Competitions 30'000 CHF;
- CSIO5* FEI Nations Cup™ Competitions 80'000 CHF except Division 1.

10. GRAND PRIX PARTICIPATION – EUROPE DIVISION 1 AND 2

10.1. Qualification Format

Each OC must provide two opportunities for each Athlete to qualify for the Grand Prix Competition. The first qualifier is held prior to the FEI Nations Cup™ Competition and is open to all Athletes. The FEI Nations Cup™ Competition counts as a qualifier for the team Athletes. The third qualifier is held following the FEI Nations Cup™ Competition and counts as a qualifier for the non-team Athletes plus individuals and those Athletes not taking part in the second round of the FEI Nations Cup™ Competition. Both the first and third qualifiers must have a minimum standard of 1.50m.

10.2. Number of Athletes in the Grand Prix

The Grand Prix at all FEI Nations Cup™ Division 1 Events is open to a minimum of 40 and a maximum of 50 Athletes.

The Grand Prix at all FEI Nations Cup™ Division 2 Events is open to 50 Athletes at CSIO4* and CSIO5* Events and 60 Athletes at CSIO3* Events. This number may be reduced by the OC but may not be less than 40.

10.3. Qualified Athletes (for CSIO Dublin refer to Art. 10.4)

10.3.1. FEI Nations Cup™ Athletes

For Division 1, The 18 best-placed Athletes following rounds one and two in each Division 1 FEI Nations Cup™ Competition are automatically qualified to take part in the Grand Prix Competition at the same Event. Those equal on penalties for 18th place are separated by their combined times in the first and second rounds of the FEI Nations Cup™ Competition. In case of a further tie the Athletes concerned are permitted to take part in the Grand Prix.

For Division 2, the 18 best-placed Athletes following round one in each Division 2 FEI Nations Cup™ Competition are automatically qualified to take part in the Grand Prix Competition at the same Event. Those equal on penalties for 18th place are separated by their time in the first round of the FEI Nations Cup™ Competition. In case of a further tie the Athletes concerned are permitted to take part in the Grand Prix.

10.3.2. Non-Team Athletes, ~~and~~ Individuals
~~and those not in the second round of the FEI Nations Cup™~~

The four best-placed Athletes, taken from the non-team Athletes plus individuals ~~and those Athletes not taking part in the second round of the FEI Nations Cup™~~, in the third qualifier are also automatically qualified for the Grand Prix.

10.3.3. Automatically Qualified

10.3.3.1. Notwithstanding the above, the following Athletes are automatically qualified for the Grand Prix at all Division 1 Events, as per JR Art. 261.4.1.1:

- The individual medal winners (Athletes) of the last Olympic and Pan American Games and World and Continental Championships, as well as the first placed Athlete/Horse combination in the last FEI World Cup™ Final, and
- The winner (Athlete/Horse combination) of the Grand Prix at any CSIO5* Event during the previous twelve months.

10.3.3.2. Notwithstanding the above, the following Athletes are automatically qualified for the Grand Prix at all Division 2 Events, as per JRs Art. 261.4.1.1:

- The individual medal winners (Athletes) of the last Olympic and Pan American Games and World and Continental Championships, as well as the first placed Athlete/Horse combination in the last FEI World Cup™ Final.

10.3.3.3. Notwithstanding the above, the following Athletes are automatically qualified for the Grand Prix at 5* Division 2 Events as per JRs Art. 261.4.1.1:

- The winner (Athlete/Horse combination) of the Grand Prix at any CSIO5* Event during the previous twelve months.

10.3.3.4. Notwithstanding the above, the following Athletes are automatically qualified for the Grand Prix at 4* Division 2 Events as per JRs Art. 261.4.1.1:

- The winner (Athlete/Horse combination) of the Grand Prix at any CSIO4* or CSIO5* Event during the previous twelve months.

10.3.3.5. Notwithstanding the above, the following Athletes are automatically qualified for the Grand Prix at Division 2 Events at which the FEI World Cup™ Competition is the Grand Prix, as per Annex E of the FEI World Cup™ Rules:

- The top 10 Athletes on the FEI World Cup™ standings of each Sub-League three weeks prior to a given FEI World Cup™ Event are automatically qualified for the FEI World Cup™ Competition in their own Sub-League.

Should a pre-qualified Athlete under the provisions of 10.3.3 be placed among the best 18 after the two rounds of the FEI Nations Cup™ Competition, his qualification place under 10.3.1 will not be given to another Athlete.

10.3.4. *Completing the Quota*

The quota of Athletes established by the Organising Committee for the Grand Prix Competition must be filled from Athletes from the first qualifier.

10.4. Grand Prix Qualification System for Athletes at CSIO Dublin

10.4.1. *FEI Nations Cup™ Athletes*

The 18 best-placed Athletes following rounds one and two in each Division 1 FEI Nations Cup™ Competition are automatically qualified to take part in the Grand Prix Competition at the same Event. Those equal on penalties for 18th place are separated by their combined times in the first and second rounds of the FEI Nations Cup™ Competition. In case of a further tie the Athletes concerned are permitted to take part in the Grand Prix.

10.4.2. *Automatically Qualified*

Notwithstanding the above, the following Athletes are automatically qualified for the Grand Prix at all Division 1 Events, as per JRs Art. 261.4.1.1:

- The individual medal winners (Athletes) of the last Olympic and Pan American Games and World and Continental Championships, as well as the first placed Athlete/Horse combination in the last FEI World Cup™ Final;
- The winner (Athlete/Horse combination) of the Grand Prix at any CSIO5* Event during the previous twelve months.
-

Should a pre-qualified Athlete under the provisions of 10.4.2 be placed among the best 18 after the two rounds of the FEI Nations Cup™ Competition his qualification place under 10.4.1 will not be given to another Athlete.

10.4.3. *Completing the Quota*

The quota for the remaining qualification places must be filled according to the conditions set forth in the Event Schedule.

11. TITLE OF THE FEI NATIONS CUP™ COMPETITION

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

12. WILD CARDS

12.1. FEI Wild Cards for Teams Europe - Division 2 and Other Regions

The FEI has the right to nominate one or more wild card teams for each 3*, 4* and 5* CSIO Event in all Regional qualifiers outside Europe Division 1 in order to ensure that all teams have equal opportunity to qualify for the 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.

12.2. 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. For Division 1 Events the individual wild cards must be included in the maximum quota of 65 Athletes permitted to take part in the CSIO. If the FEI does not allocate one or both of these wild cards at Division 1 Events, the places are returned to the OC, which may extend the invitation(s) to NF(s) not represented by a team. (see JRs Art. 249.8.2)

12.3. 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.

13. QUALIFICATION SYSTEM FOR THE FEI NATIONS CUP™ FINAL 2017

The qualification system for the 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 FEI Nations Cup™ Final are given the opportunity to participate at a fixed number of qualifiers (Division 1) or at any number of qualifiers (Division 2);
- For Regions without a FEI Nations Cup™ Competition, teams are selected through the Longines Rankings two months prior to the FEI Nations Cup™ Final (Ranking N° ~~186-198~~ for the ~~2016-2017~~ Final).

14. FEI NATIONS CUP™ FINAL

14.1. Date

The FEI Nations Cup™ Final is organised preferably on the last weekend of September or in early October but this may change depending on the Region in which the Final takes place.

14.2. Allocation of Quota Places for the FEI Nations Cup™ Final

- Europe Division 1: 7
- Europe Division 2: 2
- North and Central America: 2
- South America: 2

- Middle East: 2
- Asia: 2
- Africa: 1

14.3. Bidding Process

The FEI Nations Cup™ Final is allocated by the Bureau following consideration of bids received from OCs/NFs. ~~The bid book will be comparable with the bid book used for the FEI World Cup™ Final.~~

14.4. Number of Teams

Eighteen teams plus the home team if not qualified are allowed to participate in the 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 the Longines Rankings.

14.5. Number of Athletes

Each team is allowed to participate with five Athletes with two Horses 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 each from NFs not represented by a team. This number includes home and foreign Athletes.

14.6. Substitution of Qualified NFs

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

- Europe Division 1: substitution to 10th place in the overall standings
- Europe Division 2: substitution to 4th 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 on the Longines Ranking [of South American NFs](#)
- Asia/Australasia: substitution to 4th position on the Longines Ranking [of Asian/Australasian NFs](#)
- Africa: substitution to 3rd position on the Longines Ranking [of African NFs](#)

If a Region cannot fill its quota, the vacant place(s) will revert to Europe Division 1.

14.7. Competition Format

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

All three Competitions are conducted at a maximum height of 1.60 m and a speed of 400 m/minute. The water jump must be included in the initial round of all three Competitions.

Each team's five Athlete/Horse combinations for the 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 combinations and one hour before the start of the first Competition of the Event, Horses 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 combinations. Each Athlete may only ride one Horse per Competition and this must be his declared Nations Cup horse; each Horse may only compete in one Competition per day.

The Competition format is as follows:

14.7.1. First 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 combinations for this Competition, including their starting order; these are to be selected from the team's five declared Athlete/Horse combinations. In case of accident or illness to an Athlete and/or Horse between the declaration of the combinations for this Competition and one hour before the start of the Competition, the Athlete/Horse 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 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 400 m/min and consists of 13 obstacles.

14.7.2. Second FEI Nations Cup™ Competition (Challenge Cup)

The Second Competition is open to the teams placed 9-18 or 19 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 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 between the declaration of the combinations for this Competition and one hour before the start of the Competition, the Athlete/Horse 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 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. ~~However, for the purpose of promotion to Division 1 for the 2017 season of the best placed Division 2 team at the 2016-2017 Final, if there are no Division 2 teams qualified for the Third (Final) Competition, the combined times of each team's three best Athletes in the Challenge Cup will be used to separate teams with equality of penalties.~~

All teams start in this Competition on zero penalties.

The Competition is run at 400 m/min and consists of 13 obstacles in the initial round.

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

14.7.3. Third FEI Nations Cup™ Competition (Final Competition)

The Final Competition is open to teams placed 1-8 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 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 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 between the declaration of the combinations for this Competition and one hour before the start of the Competition, the Athlete/Horse 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 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 400 m/min and consists of 13 obstacles in the initial round.

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

