

GUIDELINES FOR THE MEDICAL COVERAGE OF EVENTS IN COMPLIANCE WITH ARTICLE 109.10 GRs

Introduction

The 2013 General Assembly has adopted a number of updates in the requirements for the medical coverage of Events. This is reflected in the changes made to article 109.10, FEI General Regulations (GRs), to come into effect on 1 January 2014:

Article 109 - Organisation of Events

10. OCs of International Events must provide adequate medical and veterinarian assistance at the Event ~~as indicated below and a sufficient number of ambulances where possible so that first aid is constantly available.~~

10.1. Medical assistance:

(i) the on-site presence of personnel trained in emergency medical care; and

(ii) an appropriate medical emergency action plan for the evacuation, emergency treatment, and transport of injured Athletes.

To this effect, OCs must refer to the guidelines issued by the FEI and published on the FEI's website www.fei.org.

10.2. Veterinarian assistance: See the Veterinary Regulations.

~~10.1-10.3.~~ The Sport Rules may contain additional medical and veterinary requirements and compliance with such requirements is mandatory.

The Guidelines

These guidelines are only intended to assist Organisers in the planning of their FEI Events. Organisers are sole responsible for the planning of the medical coverage of their Events.

These guidelines do not constitute an exhaustive list of the medical considerations applicable to Events, and are not a substitute to the national and/or any other legislation(s) applicable to the Event. They must always be read in conjunction with such legislation as well as with any applicable provision in the corresponding FEI Sport Rules.

In order to plan for the medical coverage of their Events in accordance with art. 109.10, GRs, Organisers must comply with the following:

1. All Disciplines are concerned

It must be accepted that all forms of horse riding involve an element of risk.

2. Medical presence & level of expertise

3. The requirements indicated below are a minimum which does not substitute to any applicable legislation and/or FEI Sport Rules provisions.

- 3.1 The presence of personnel trained in emergency medical care must be ensured throughout the Event, including during training.
- 3.2 Healthcare professionals with expertise in trauma are recommended for all Competitions (and in some Disciplines are mandatory) but it is recognised that some Competitions may be assessed as not requiring professional first aid support. In these cases, which should be justified and assessed conservatively, the minimum standard for medical cover should be a person trained in first aid and holding a relevant and officially recognised certification.
- 3.3 All equestrian venues must have first aid equipment available, at the minimum to a level which complies with local legislation and any applicable FEI Sport Rules.

4. The medical coverage plan

- 4.1 The medical coverage plan must:
- Be decided prior to the Event, taking professional advice when appropriate and complying with any applicable legislation,
 - Take into account the numbers of Athletes and spectators, the location of the venue and proximity to emergency medical facilities such as hospitals and ambulance services - including usual response times.
- 4.2 The medical coverage plan must include:
- The contact details of the designated providers of first aid,
 - Procedure in the event of a serious injury,
 - Details of the ambulance cover (on site or local emergency service) and local hospitals with emergency rooms.
 - Any other applicable requirement(s) imposed by the applicable legislation and/or FEI Sport Rules¹.

This plan must be summarized in a document which should be available to the FEI if requested.

¹ See in particular Annex D for Eventing