

Dear National Federations and FEI Stakeholders,

Given the increasing number of requests that the FEI is receiving from third parties for the approval of new Series, the FEI felt the necessity to approve a policy for approval of Series for the sake of transparency, clarity and efficiency.

Subject to the applicable FEI Rules and Regulations, the FEI Bureau has approved during its in-person meeting in Montevideo (URU) on 18 November 2017 the present "FEI Policy for Approval of Series".

The FEI Policy for Approval of Series is published on inside.fei.org

Further modifications/updates of this Policy (if any) will be duly published on inside.fei.org.

According to the FEI General Regulations:

- "Series" means a number of International Competitions held successively at different Events and the results of which may lead to a final classification or qualify Horses and/or Athletes for a final Event or Competition or prize. The Events do not need to be held in different countries (*Appendix A "Definitions"*).
- The FEI Bureau must approve the Series (Article 105).

As a consequence, the following steps shall apply for the approval of a Series by the FEI:

1. A written request for the approval of a Series shall be submitted to the FEI Secretary General with copy to relevant Sports Director.
2. The FEI Bureau will approve Series only during its 2 annual in-person meeting (in spring and in fall).
3. The written request shall be submitted at least 6 months before the FEI Bureau in-person meeting in question. The exact date of the FEI Bureau in-person meetings shall be confirmed by the FEI on an annual basis. It is the responsibility of the requester to ensure that the request is submitted to the FEI within the 6 months deadline.
4. The written request shall include the following information:
 - 4.1. Explanation of the concept of the Series;
 - 4.2. Applicable rules of the Series;
 - 4.3. Prize Money for each qualifier and total prize money for the final Competition or classification;
 - 4.4. Number of annual/seasonal qualifiers;
 - 4.5. Sponsors of the Series, if any.
5. The requester shall confirm to the FEI the fulfilment of any applicable FEI Rules and Regulations (as a matter of example, but not only: the invitation rules, competition format or General Regulations). If any FEI Rules and Regulations is not followed, the requester shall specify where it does not comply with as well as the reasons for that.

6. The request will be evaluated by the FEI, including the relevant Technical Committee.
7. Following the evaluation a written recommendation will be provided to the FEI Bureau for FEI Bureau's decision (for "Lower Level Series" see section 9).
8. Among the criteria for a positive evaluation there are:
 - 8.1. The welfare of the horse is paramount;
 - 8.2. Compliance with the FEI Rules and Regulations;
 - 8.3. Compliance with European laws (such as but not only antitrust and competition law) and applicable national laws;
 - 8.4. Any constraints or not approval must be duly justified in order to achieve a legitimate sporting imperative, and must be proportionate, i.e., they go no further than is necessary to achieve that imperative.

9. Lower Level Series

The FEI Bureau has delegated the approval of "Lower level Series" to the FEI Headquarters (upon recommendation of the Technical Committees). The FEI Bureau shall further ratify "Lower Level Series" approved by the FEI Headquarters.

In order to be considered a "Lower Level Series" the following 2 criteria shall be fulfilled:

1) The level of the prize money in a Final competition and or final classification of the Series cannot exceed €50'000 (fifty thousand Euros).

and

2) All Events of the Series must a CIM as defined in the General Regulations.

The process described above shall be also followed for the approval of the "Lower Level Series", except for the final decision which shall be taken by the FEI headquarters and subsequently ratified by the FEI Bureau as explained in this section.