
Proposals for Modifications to the FEI Regulations

Dear Member Federations,

On behalf of the FEI Bureau, please find below a summary of the proposed Rule Changes and the corresponding explanations for the FEI General Regulations and Internal Regulations of the FEI.

National Federations feedback on Rule Change proposals is so valuable to the process and we therefore look forward to receiving your comments.

Sincerely,

Mikael Rentsch

FEI General Regulations:

1. Article 119 – Sport Nationality

We recommend to remove the 31st December deadline in paragraph 2.2.1 below as there are additional requirements anyway for participation in FEI Championships and team competitions at CIOs. For any other events it is not useful to have such 31st December deadline as most applications for a change of nationality occurs in the course of the year.

In addition, we recommend to remove the FEI World Cups series from the list of Events in paragraph 2.2.2 as they have their own specific rules which require (or not) that the athlete finishes a season in the same league he started it. The waiting period requirement therefore serves no purpose in FEI World Cup series.

Proposed wording:

2.2: Sport Nationality changes:

2.2.1 Basic requirement: an Adult Athlete who is or who becomes the national of more than one (1) country and wishes to compete for his new/other country of nationality may apply for a sport nationality change to the FEI in the manner indicated in paragraph 2.2.5 below. ~~In the case of a new nationality, this nationality must have been acquired by 31st December of the preceding year.~~

2.2.2 *The following ~~a~~Additional requirements apply prior to participation in FEI Championships (except FEI Championships for Young Horses), FEI World Cup™ Series, and team competitions at CIOs:*

- (i) Subject to the exceptions set forth in paragraph 2.2.3 below, the Athlete must have had legal residence in his new country prior to the first competition he wishes to compete in under his new sport nationality, for either: (a) a minimum of two (2) uninterrupted years; or (b) a total of five (5) years of non-consecutive periods.*
- (ii) The Athlete shall not have taken part in any of the competitions set forth in Article 2.2.2. above for his previous NF in the two (2) years prior to the first competition he wishes to compete in under his new sport nationality.*

(....)

2.2.5 An application for an Athlete's change of sport nationality must be filed with the FEI Secretary General, through his new NF, stating the reason for the change and supported by the Athlete's passport or equivalent document for the new country that he wishes to represent. The FEI must inform the current NF that a request for change of sport nationality has been filed.

2. Art. 142 – Abuse of Horse

It is proposed to add that the FEI Secretary General shall decide whether a Protest for an abuse of horse should be referred to the FEI Tribunal or not depending on the circumstances and evidence. The FEI is receiving many Protests without grounds or evidence and the FEI should have the possibility not to refer such Protests to the FEI Tribunal.

Proposed wording:

Any person witnessing an Abuse must report it in the form of a Protest (Article 163) without delay. If an Abuse is witnessed during or in direct connection with an Event, it should be reported as a Protest (Article 163) to an Official. If the Abuse is witnessed at any other time it should be reported as a Protest (Article 163) to the Secretary General ~~who, following a review of the Protest, shall take a Decision as to whether or not to refer the matter to~~ ~~for referral to~~ the FEI Tribunal.

3. Art. 163 Protest

It is proposed to clarify that the FEI does not need to lodge a Protest but will instead open a disciplinary case against the person. This proposed change would more accurately reflect what occurs/should occur in practice where these cases arise.

Proposed wording:

Protests and Disciplinary Cases

163.9 Notwithstanding anything to the contrary, ~~Protests may be lodged by~~ the FEI, at its sole discretion, ~~may open a disciplinary case against a person(s) in the event that conduct brings equestrian sport, and the FEI in particular, into disrepute and/or in the case of match fixing, betting, bribery and/or corruption without the payment of a deposit and/or in the case of any other breach of the FEI Rules and Regulations.~~

4. Art. 169 – Penalties

We recommend to amend paragraph 5.1 below and in particular to remove the reference that a Provisional Suspension must be for a stated period as in most of the cases a Provisional Suspension will be for an indefinite period of time. In addition, we will add the term "Suspension" in the definitions section as it is currently only mentioned in article 169.

Proposed wording:

5.1. ~~During the period of a Provisional or Final Suspension must be for a stated period and during that period~~ the person, Horse or body suspended may take no part in Competitions or Events as an Athlete, Horse or Official or in the organisation of, any Event under the jurisdiction of the FEI or any Event under the jurisdiction of an NF in accordance with Statutes Article 41, ~~or be present at an Event (other than as a spectator) that is under the jurisdiction of the FEI or any National Federation.~~

Suspension: has the meaning set out in articles 169.5 – 169.5.2 of the GRs.

We recommend to amend paragraph 6.4 as follows as a fraud or a criminal act does not necessarily occur during an FEI Event:

Proposed wording:

6.4. ~~Fraud of any kind, violence and other a~~Acts defined as criminal by the relevant national law ~~prevailing at the Event~~, fraud of any kind, and violence shall entail a fine of CHF 1,000.- to 15,000.- and/or a Suspension of a minimum of one (1) month up to life.

And to amend paragraph 7 as follows as the Ground Jury may impose other sanctions (such as a fine) in addition to a Yellow Warning Card:

7. In cases of offences mentioned in paragraphs 6.2 and 6.3 above and which are of a less serious nature and/or in cases specified in the Sport Rules and/or as mentioned in Article 140:

7.1 The President of the Ground Jury, the President of the Appeal Committee, the Chief Steward or the Technical Delegate must notify the Person Responsible during the Period of the Event that he will receive a Yellow Warning Card, which will be delivered either by hand or by any other suitable means. If after reasonable efforts the Athlete cannot be notified during the Period of the Event that he has received a Yellow Warning Card, the Athlete must be notified in writing within fourteen (14) days of the Event. **A Yellow Warning Card may be issued in addition to any other sanction(s) that may be issued in accordance with these GRs and/or the relevant Sport Rules.**

5. Qualified Horses and Athletes – Fitness to compete

We suggest to move the paragraph in article 116.2.2 (*"NFs are responsible for selecting and entering qualified Horses and Athletes. This includes the fitness and capability of the Horses and the Athletes to participate in the Competitions for which they are entered"*) to art. 117 (Selection of Representative Teams and Individuals) as art. 116.2 only applies for FEI Championships and FEI World Equestrian Games, but the NF's responsibility shall apply for all International Events.

6. Chapter VII – Event Officials

Given the current and ongoing work of the Working Group on FEI Officials chaired by Mark Samuel (CAN), it is proposed that the Working Group reviews Chapter VII (Event Officials) so that all proposed modifications in Chapter VII are made at once (such as Age limit, appointment/removal of Officials, etc). Therefore, any such changes will be addressed with the Bureau at a later stage and will be submitted for approval at the 2018 FEI General Assembly (and not this year).

The only proposed change this year regarding the FEI Officials is to include the FEI Officials' Code of Conduct as a new annex to the FEI General Regulations. The introduction of the FEI Officials' Code of Conduct requires some changes to art. 156 and 158. Please see hereinafter the proposed text.

Proposed wording:

Article 156 - Status and Liability of Officials

(...)

10. Officials are bound by all FEI Rules and Regulations while officiating and/or representing the FEI, and in particular by the FEI Officials' Code of Conduct, the FEI Code of Ethics and Conflict of Interest Policy and the FEI Code of Conduct for the Welfare of the Horse.

Article 158 - Conflict Of Interest and FEI Officials' Code of Conduct

158. A substantial appearance of a conflict of interest exists whenever an individual involved in any capacity with the FEI is involved in or perceived to be involved in multiple interests, one of which could possibly influence, or is perceived to influence the motivation for an act in the other. A conflict of interest is defined as any personal, professional or financial relationship, including relationships of family members that could influence or be perceived to influence objectivity when representing or conducting business or other dealings for or on behalf of the FEI. Conflicts must be avoided whenever practicable. However, conflicts may be linked to experience and expertise that is necessary to qualify Officials. The specific balance between conflict and expertise shall be regulated by the relevant Sport Rules. All FEI Officials are also bound by and subject to the provisions of the FEI Officials' Code of Conduct, attached to these General Regulations as Appendix H.

Appendix H - FEI Officials' Code of Conduct

As an FEI Official I undertake to respect all FEI Rules and Regulations at all times, and in particular the FEI Code of Ethics and Conflict of Interest Policy and the FEI Code of Conduct for the Welfare of the Horse.

I am aware that I am a representative of the FEI while officiating at any FEI Event (hereinafter the "Event/s"). I am also conscious of my role as an authority and of the associated obligation to have adequate knowledge of the principles of equestrian sport and the relevant FEI Rules and Regulations, and to apply them at all times in a fair and consistent way.

I will fulfill all FEI requirements (including maintaining the necessary qualification) relevant to each Event to which I am appointed.

While I am officiating:

- I will act in an appropriate and respectful manner towards humans and animals, paying constant attention to their safety and I will carry out all duties in a professional manner.*

- *I will refrain from consuming alcohol and I will not use any substances and/or medications that would impair my judgement.*
- *I will not compete at the Event.*
- *I will be willing to answer the questions of stakeholders (including but not limited to Athletes, Owners and Trainers, Organisers, Grooms and my colleagues). I will take the time to politely and objectively explain my decisions where possible.*
- *I will be familiar with all the relevant FEI Rules and Regulations and will be well prepared for every Event.*
- *I will cooperate with the Organiser of the Event and with my colleagues.*
- *I will be punctual and dress appropriately.*

I commit to avoid any actual or perceived conflict of interest. A conflict of interest is defined as any personal, professional or financial relationship, including relationships of family members that could influence or be perceived to influence objectivity when representing or conducting business or other dealings for or on behalf of the FEI.

I will maintain a neutral, independent and fair position towards Athletes, Owners, Trainers, Grooms, Organisers, other Officials and stakeholders. Financial and/or personal interests will never influence my officiating duties and I will spare no effort to avoid any such perception.

I will not engage in nationalistic judging.

Activities that lead or may lead to a conflict of interest when officiating at an FEI Event include but are not limited to:

- *Acting as a Chef d'Equipe or being responsible /co-responsible for selecting teams and/or individuals or training Athletes within a NF present at the Event, if the teams and/or individuals participate in a competition falling within the level and age group of the authority of the Official.*
- *Being the Owner/part-Owner of a Horse taking part in a competition that I am officiating at.*
- *Being in a situation of financial dependence or gaining financial profit from participating Owners, Athletes, Trainers or Organisers (excluding any payment(s) permitted under the FEI Rules and Regulations, such as per diems). The same rule applies with regard to National Federations or other organisations involved in the Event, if the dependence exceeds a regular employment. Employees of participating National Federations cannot act as President of the Ground Jury, President of the Appeal Committee, Chief Steward, Veterinary Delegates, or Course Designer at Official International Events, International Championships and Games.*

- *Having a close personal relationship with an Athlete competing in a competition that I am officiating at.*
- *Having treated a Horse competing in a Competition that I am officiating at.*

On becoming aware of a potential Conflict of Interest I undertake to promptly notify the FEI HQ (or where the conflict only arises and/or is identified on-site, the President of the Ground Jury) of any of the above or other possible conflicts of interest or circumstances that may be perceived as such.

Conflicts must be avoided whenever practicable. However, conflicts may be linked to experience and expertise that is necessary to qualify Officials. The specific balance between conflict and expertise is regulated by the General Regulations and the relevant Sport Rules.

In the course of my duties or when representing the FEI I will refrain from making any public statements, including to the media or in social media, that might cause harm to the FEI or to equestrian sport in general. This includes statements that might create a perception of bias.

I will not place bets on Athletes and Horses competing at FEI Events or otherwise receive any financial or other gain as a product of a particular result.

The breach of any obligation assumed under this Code of Conduct and/or any breach of the FEI Rules and Regulations may lead to any of the following sanctions as stipulated in the FEI Rules:

- *Warning letter*
- *Obligation to attend an FEI course and/or to pass an exam*
- *Fine*
- *Suspension from officiating duties (provisional or for a stated period of time)*
- *Removal from the relevant and appropriate FEI lists of Officials*
- *Any other sanctions as stated in the relevant FEI Rules or Regulations.*

7. Article 137 -Horse Passports and Microchips

In order to be in line with the process put in place by the FEI HQ to validate the scans of Horse documents and to avoid potential issues, it is suggested to make some minor amendments as per the below. This will for example clarify that the documents are due at the Definite entry stage.

Proposed wording:

1. Every Horse entered for any Competition at CIMs (see Appendix E) in a country other than the country of the Horse's residency, and all Horses entered

for other CIs, FEI Championships, Regional, Olympic Games and Paralympic Games, at all times, must have an official, valid FEI passport, or a national passport approved by the FEI and inserted inside an FEI Recognition Card. In the case of Horses permanently resident in a Member State of the European Union, all Horses must have an acceptable national EU approved passport in compliance with Commission Regulations, to which an FEI recognition *card* is applied. The exception to the latter being the possession of an FEI passport which has been continually revalidated without any interruption.

2. Notwithstanding the paragraph above, Horses taking part in CIMs (see Appendix E) and in CSI-P in their country of residence are not required to have a FEI Passport or FEI Recognition Card as mentioned in paragraph 1. All such Horses must be properly registered with the FEI and identifiable. *All Horses permanently resident within a Member State of the European Union must have as a minimum a suitable national EU approved passport in compliance with Commission Regulation.*

As of 1 January 2017 the following requirements apply to Horses that are registered with the FEI for the first time: (i) to be identifiable at least by a National Passport approved by the FEI *or a FEI Passport*; and (ii) scans of the ~~description page and diagram required pages~~ of the National Passports approved by the FEI *and/or FEI Documents* must be uploaded by the NFs to the FEI Database prior to the Horse ~~competing~~ *being definitely entered in the Event*. ~~All Horses permanently resident within a Member State of the European Union must have as a minimum a suitable national EU approved passport in compliance with Commission Regulation.~~

8. FEI Code of Ethics

The FEI Code of Ethics is based on the IOC Code of Ethics in force as of 2012. However, the IOC Code of Ethics has been reviewed and a new version was approved in 2016. The FEI shall therefore update its Code of Ethics and the FEI HQ will liaise with the IOC in order to ensure its compliance.

9. Advertising on Athletes and Horses and Promotion

Further to the Sports Forum Session 4 on the Jumping Dress Code, the conclusion was that the current dress code had a classic look which identified the sport and it was functional. In addition, the athletes were very proud to wear their uniforms. For this reason, there seemed to be consensus at the Sports Forum that there was no need to stray too far from the current dress code. However, it was agreed that athletes and nations should be clearly identifiable and more space could be allowed for commercial branding, while maintaining the integrity of the dress code.

Therefore, the FEI Sport Departments were tasked to liaise with their Technical Committee so that they would discuss the matter. If there are any proposal(s)

that will lead to amendments to the General Regulations, such changes will be included in the Final Draft to be sent in October.

10. Additional Potential Amendments further to modifications to the Sports Rules

Additional amendments to the General Regulations might be required further to the proposed changes to the Sports Rules. However, given the fact that there is a consultation process with all National Federations about such changes to the Sports Rules, it is suggested to first receive the feedback from the National Federations and stakeholders prior to including any consequential changes to the General Regulations. Therefore, such changes, if any, will be included in the Final Draft to be sent in October, with an opportunity to discuss any item during the Rules Session at the FEI General Assembly.

Internal Regulations of the FEI:

Proposal received from **the IJRC (International Jumping Riders Club)** on 6 June 2017:

- in order to have a more suitable representative of the Athletes, who is able to give an interesting and professional contribution,
- considering that the Athletes representative will be part of the Technical Committee, Athletes' Commission, FEI Bureau, FEI Executive Board, we think that the voting system and criteria of eligibility need an amendment.

Please take note that we took also in consideration the Statutes of other Ifs (note from FEI HQ: This document available upon request).

In order to change how athletes are elected to the FEI Athletes' Committee, we kindly request an amendment to the Internal Regulations of the FEI (the "IRs").

The article of the IRs which in our opinion would need to be changed is Article 6.9.4:

“6.9.4 Election

One Athlete shall be elected for each Discipline to serve as the Athlete representative on that Discipline’s Technical Committee and to ultimately together form the Athletes Committee. These Athlete representatives shall be elected via an online vote by Athletes **who have either competed in the last senior World Championship or Olympic Games registered with the FEI** in the Discipline and included in the respective FEI Ranking List.

To be eligible as a candidate, Athletes must satisfy the following criteria: (i) be at least 18 years of age at the time of the vote; (ii) have either competed in ~~one of~~ the last ~~two~~ senior FEI World Championships or Olympic Games in the Discipline for which they are seeking election; and (iii) have a clean anti-doping record with respect to both the EADCMRs and the ADRHAs as of April 2010 when the new anti-doping system came into effect; (iv) **be from a country which has competed in Olympics or Weg at least 3 times each.***

Alternatively to the point (ii), the candidate can also be an Athlete proposed by the recognized Athletes associations in agreement with the FEI or that has been active as a rider professional at the highest international level (team CSIO 5*) with 20 years prior to the election date. The candidate can also be a non-active rider, as long as he/she retired within a maximum of five years before the election and can only be re-elected once.

* This condition is requested also from others IFs.

Comments from the FEI Bureau:

We recommend not to approve the proposed changes suggested by the IJRC. However, given the past experience regarding the online elections of the Athletes representatives and the fact that the participation was very low (and the online election procedure considered by some people to be complicated), it is proposed that only athletes who have either competed in one of the last two senior FEI World Championships or Olympic Games in the respective Discipline shall be entitled to vote for their representatives. This would match what the International Olympic Committee and many other International Federations are already doing.

Athlete representatives shall be elected via online elections which will be open for eight weeks and will finish at the end of the FEI World Equestrian Games™ 2018 (allowing Athletes to vote during the FEI World Equestrian Games™ and obtain technical support in person if needed).

The criteria for athlete candidates will remain the same as currently included in the Internal Regulations of the FEI.

As to the other changes proposed by the IJRC, it is felt that it is not appropriate to only allow candidates from countries which competed in Olympic Games or FEI World Equestrian Games at least 3 times, as the athletes representative shall represent the Athletes, not a country so it is not relevant from which country he/she comes as long as he/she meets the eligibility requirements.

Finally, the FEI Headquarters does not agree with the alternative point that is that the recognized athletes associations (in agreement with the FEI) would propose the athletes representative candidate. Of course the recognized athletes associations such as the IJRC should be free to propose candidates, but any other athletes meeting the eligibility requirements should be entitled to put forward their candidacy.

The FEI Bureau understands that the National Federations and stakeholders may have further suggestions as to the above and will of course duly consider any such other suggestions.

Proposed wording:

6.9.4 Election

One Athlete shall be elected for each Discipline to serve as the Athlete representative on that Discipline's Technical Committee and to ultimately together form the Athletes Committee. These Athlete representatives shall be elected via an online vote which will be open for eight weeks and will finish at the end of the FEI World Equestrian Games™. The persons entitled to vote shall be the ~~by~~ Athletes registered with the FEI who have either competed in one of the last two senior FEI World Championships or Olympic Games -in the respective Discipline ~~and included in the respective FEI Ranking List~~. In order to be eligible to vote, the Athletes must be at least 18 years old at the time of the vote.