



# FEI EVENTING WORLD CHALLENGE RULES

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## **ARTICLE 1 - PRINCIPLES**

- 1.1 The FEI Eventing World Challenge SERIES may be organised by any member NF of the FEI, except USA, Canada, Australia and New Zealand and the Western European NFs listed below.

The Western European NFs that are **not eligible** to organise the FEI Eventing World Challenge SERIES are defined as those NFs in Western Europe which organise in their own country and/or have straightforward access to (1-2 days travel by road) 10 or more International Eventing Events in neighbouring countries per year. These countries are:

AND, AUT, BEL, DEN, ESP, FIN, FRA, GBR, GER, IRL, ITA, LIE, LUX, MLT, MON, NED, NOR, POR, SMR, SUI and SWE

Consequently, the only Western European NF that is **eligible** to take part in the Challenge SERIES is Iceland (ISL). **Note:** *ISL is currently suspended and therefore not eligible until membership has been reestablished.*

- 1.2 Each NF will have the opportunity to organise Competitions in 3 categories based on their level of activity: Category A (highest level meant as a bridge to the first FEI level of competition), Category B (for Medium level Athletes), Category C (for Novice level Athletes - an Introduction to Eventing).

The technical level will increase progressively from one Level to the next, allowing NFs to develop the discipline step by step.

- 1.3 Category A, B and C each consist of **1 Competitions organised over ONE day:**

- Category A: 1x Dressage Test + 1x Jumping Course followed by a Cross Country Course
- Category B: 1x Dressage Test + 1x Jumping Course followed by a Cross Country Course
- Category C: 1x Dressage Test + 1x "Derby" course with Jumping & Cross Country Fences

There will be **one Jumping** course plan for Categories A & B with limited changes between categories if possible, in order to allow NFs to host more than one Category on the same day and be able to do so without losing too much time. All courses will be designed by a Course Designer appointed by the FEI.

- 1.4 There will be an INDIVIDUAL ranking per Country, per Region and for the World for all 3 Categories.

In order to be in the rankings, an Athlete/Horse combination must successfully complete all tests of the competition (Dressage, Jumping and Cross Country for Categories A & B; Dressage and Derby for Category C).

- 1.5 Placing: Athletes will be placed according to their final results after taking part in all tests of the competition (refer to Art. 8.1).

- 1.6 The size of the arena for **Dressage** in all Categories (A, B and C) is **60 x 20 meters**.  
The size of the arena for **Jumping** in Categories A and B is **65 x 45 meters**.  
The arena used for **"Derby" in Category C** and **Cross Country in Categories A and B** should be a Polo type field (minimum recommended overall surface 15'000 m<sup>2</sup> - grass and/or sand - positive elevation maximum 10 meters).

- 1.7 The Category A, B and C must be organised at outdoor Competitions between the 1<sup>st</sup> January and the 31<sup>st</sup> December.

- 1.8 It is permitted to ride the Horse taking part in the FEI Eventing World Challenge competition in a training session and or in a National competition on the day prior to the FEI Eventing World Challenge competition.



The course or any relevant part of the FEI Eventing World Challenge course (Jumping and Cross Country) cannot be used for the training session or any National competition.

Under penalty of elimination, riding close to Cross Country obstacles, or riding in the Dressage or Jumping arenas prior to the actual Competition on the day of the FEI Eventing World Challenge is forbidden (FEI ERs Article 535.2.3).

## **ARTICLE 2 - HORSE INSPECTION**

- 2.1 The Horse Inspection may be organised on the day of the Competition in accordance with Article 524.2.3 (Horse Inspection at Short Competitions) of the FEI Eventing Rules.

The First Horse Inspection is optional, however if one is to be held the details must be published in the schedule of the Competition. In the Event that there is no First Horse Inspection, a FEI Official Veterinarian must assess the Horse's fitness to compete including a brief trot within the Examination on Arrival pursuant to FEI Eventing Rules Article 524.1. Horses deemed by the FEI Official Veterinarian to be unfit to compete must be reported to the Ground Jury.

- 2.2 FEI GR Art. 137.2: As an exception to the FEI General Regulations, Horses taking part in the FEI Eventing World Challenge competitions in their own country do **NOT** need to be registered with the FEI and therefore are **NOT** required to have an official, valid FEI Passport, or a National Passport approved by the FEI accompanied by an FEI Recognition Card, as a mean of identification and to establish ownership.

All such Horses must be properly registered within their National Federation and identifiable by diagram. Unless there is no national requirement for equine influenza vaccination in the host country and in the country of origin, all horses must have a valid vaccination certificate.

- 2.3 The Inspection must take place on a firm, level and clean but not slippery surface (VR Article 1032).

The horse must be walked and trotted on a loose rein.

- 2.4 The FEI President of the Ground Jury must be present at the Horse Inspection if organised. Should only an Examination on Arrival be organised, then only the FEI Official Veterinarian must be present

- 2.5 It is the responsibility of the NF and/or OC to award a special prize to the best presented Horse based on the Ground Jury and/or FEI Veterinary Delegate's decision.

- 2.6 Age of Horses:

- All Horses + Ponies (refer to Art. 3.11) of **6 years of age** and over can compete in **ALL Categories** with **any Athlete**.
- All Horses + Ponies (refer to Art. 3.11) of **5 years of age** can compete in **Category A** with **Athletes of 18 years of age or older**.
- All Horses + Ponies (refer to Art. 3.11) of **4 years of age** can compete in **Categories B & C** with **Athletes of 18 years of age or older**.

## **ARTICLE 3 – PARTICIPATION**

- 3.1 It is the responsibility of the National Federation to select the participants (Horses / Athletes) for the FEI Eventing World Challenge in strict accordance with the participation rules and make sure that Athletes and Horses comply with these rules.



For Pony Riders, it is the responsibility of the NF to make sure the minimum height of the Ponies is appropriate for the technical requirements of the category in which they compete in (refer to Art. 3.11).

**3.2 Age of Athletes:**

- **Categories B & C** are open to Athletes of **12 years old and above**.
- **Category A** is open to Athletes of **14 years old and above**.

**3.3 Starting possibilities:**

i. Athlete/Horse Combinations:

- Closed to any Athlete/Horse combination that has competed at any FEI Events (this includes Senior Regional/Continental Games & Championships/WEG/OG).
- Only Athlete/Horse combination that competed and successfully completed FEI Events of 1\* or 2\* level may NOT be allowed to compete in the FEI Eventing World Challenge if they haven't participated at this level for more than 3 years. (This only applies to Athlete/Horse combinations, therefore an Athlete can compete using another Horse and a Horse can be ridden by another Athlete).
- An Athlete/Horse combination may only start ONCE per Category during the same year.
- An Athlete may compete with the same Horse in all 3 Categories but NOT at the same show (ideally following the progression).

ii. Athletes:

- Any Athlete that has participated in an Olympic Games, an FEI World Equestrian Games and/or Senior European Championships is no longer eligible to compete in the Challenge.
- An Athlete may compete in all 3 Categories with 3 different Horses during the same show.
- An Athlete may compete with maximum 3 Horses in the same Category. If an Athlete rides more than one Horse in the same Category, only the score of one Horse will count for the Rankings (National/Regional/World). This Horse must be declared before the beginning of the competition and must be ridden first (refer to Article 3.4).

iii. Horse:

- Any Horse that has participated in an Olympic Games, an FEI World Equestrian Games and/or Senior European Championships is no longer eligible to compete in the Challenge.
- A Horse may compete in only one Category with only one Athlete during the same show.

**3.4 Athletes riding more than one Horse in the same Category must complete the official FEI Declaration Form (available to download on the FEI Website, i.e. <https://inside.fei.org> > Eventing > Main Events > FEI Eventing World Challenge) sign it and submit it to the OC. The OC must in turn submit this to the PGJ – all forms must be signed and submitted before the start of the competition. A copy of the form (with both signatures) must be submitted to the FEI with the results. The declared horse must be ridden first in all Competitions. The results obtained with the other Horses will not count towards the final standings.**



- 3.5 Other restrictions may apply based on National Federation's participation criteria. Athletes must consult the National regulations for such restrictions.
- 3.6 The NF of the organising country may enter as many Athletes as it wishes for each of the 3 categories.

- 3.7 **As an exception to the FEI General Regulations**, in the FEI Eventing World Challenge "Athletes Living outside their country of nationality" (as defined in the FEI General Regulations) may compete for their country of residence. **They may also be members of their host country's team.**

Foreign Athletes from another Challenge NF or from a 'non-Challenge' NF may compete in the FEI Eventing World Challenge under the conditions of Art. 101.2, FEI General Regulations. **Foreign Athletes may only compete for their country of sport nationality, and cannot be a member of the host country's team.**

- 3.8 Athletes and Horses participating in the FEI Eventing World Challenge do **NOT** need to be registered with the FEI.

- 3.9 **Category A and B:**

An Athlete/Horse combination eliminated or with more than 4 obstacles/fences down on the Jumping course may **NOT** take part in the Cross Country.

- 3.10 **Category A, B and C: Draw & Starting order**

A draw for each Category will take place to decide the starting order. NFs may request a different starting order format based on the National Federation's regulations; such requests must be provided to the FEI for approval before the entries OPEN.

Athlete/Horse combinations will retain their drawn starting order for the Dressage, Jumping and Cross Country.

In case an Athlete is riding more than one Horse, the declared Horse must be ridden first in all tests (Dressage, Jumping and Cross Country).

- 3.11 **Ponies:**

A Pony or small Horse NOT registered as a pony may compete in any FEI event as a Horse. The rules for the category of event then apply as per the age of the equine and the Athlete.

A Pony registered as a PONY, can participate in Pony classes and in other FEI events at the discretion of the OC, however in such cases the age of the Athlete must comply with the FEI Pony Riders rules (no adults).

## **ARTICLE 4 - ORGANISATION**

- 4.1 Each NF is directly responsible for the organisation, which includes the appointments of the Officials and judging of each Competition.

- 4.2 Countries may organise Categories A, B and/or C. The Competitions may be held at different periods and places or simultaneously over one or two days.

Countries may decide of the order in which the Categories are organised.

- 4.3 Countries may make a special request to the FEI in order to host one or more Challenge Competitions in separate locations. This will only be granted due to geographical locations, if the country is too large to allow Athletes to compete in one venue.



#### **4.4 Officials:**

- The Ground Jury must be composed for ALL Categories of:
  - A President who must be a FEI Eventing Judge or an Experienced National Eventing Judge.
  - Minimum one Ground Jury Member who must be Eventing Judges (FEI or National).
- A FEI Eventing Foreign Technical Delegate (minimum Level 2) must be appointed.
- An Eventing Course Designer (FEI or National).
- A FEI Eventing Official Veterinarian (possible waiver might be granted for FEI OV of other disciplines, PTV or NHV upon request to the FEI if the country does not have any FEI Eventing OV).

#### **4.5 Ground Jury Responsibilities include the inspection and approval of the Cross Country and Jumping courses with the Technical Delegate and the Course Designer.**

The judging of the Dressage Test, with the President of the Ground Jury placed at "C" and the Ground Jury Member at "E".

The Ground Jury will be responsible for the judging of the Jumping Test. If the Ground Jury is still judging the Dressage Test when the Jumping Test begins, the Technical Delegate will be responsible for judging the Jumping Test until such time as the Ground Jury becomes available.

During Cross Country either the President of the Ground Jury must be in Cross Country Control. The President, in consultation with the Technical Delegate, shall make this decision and will decide about the role and positioning of the other Ground Jury member(s) during the Cross Country Test. The President and the member(s) of the Ground Jury shall retain the same task throughout the Cross Country Test.

The President of the Ground Jury must be present at the Horse Inspection in accordance with Art. 2.4. If no Horse Inspection is organised but only an Examination on Arrival, then President of the Ground Jury does not need to be present.

The Judge's Report must be completed and signed (an electronic signature is acceptable) by the President of the Ground Jury.

#### **4.6 Technical Delegate Responsibilities include approval of the technical and administrative arrangements for the conduct of the Competition including examinations and inspections of Horses, accommodation of Horses and Athletes, stewarding of the Competition (FEI Stewards not mandatory, NF regulations regarding stewarding is acceptable), liaison with the Chief Medical Officer in regard to the Medical plan as well as the implementation of the Serious Incident Management Protocol.**

For all three tests the Technical Delegate will inspect and approve the courses, arenas and facilities for exercising and training, including the type and dimensions of obstacles and measurements of courses, with particular reference to their suitability for the level of the Competition.

The Technical Delegate is specifically required to measure all courses to ensure they are of the indicated distances. The Technical Delegate must be able to inspect the courses early enough to allow for modifications to be made (refer to FEI ERs Art. 515.3).

In case the Ground Jury is not available at the commencement of the Jumping Test, the Technical Delegate will be responsible for judging the Jumping Test until such time as the Ground Jury becomes available.

The Technical Delegate's Report must be completed and signed (an electronic signature is acceptable) by the FEI Eventing Foreign Technical Delegate.



- 4.7 Course Designer Responsibilities include the construction of the Jumping Course in accordance with the specific plans and guidelines of the FEI Eventing World Challenge (published on: (<https://inside.fei.org> > Eventing > Main Events > FEI Eventing World Challenge)).

For the Cross Country course, the Course Designer is responsible for the layout, measurement, preparation and marking of the route for the Cross Country in accordance with the specific plans and guidelines of the FEI Eventing World Challenge (published on: (<https://inside.fei.org> > Eventing > Main Events > FEI Eventing World Challenge)), construction and marking of the obstacles on Cross Country.

The Course Designer role during the Cross country test is to work with the Technical Delegate and Ground Jury to deal with judging queries, sanctions (dangerous riding, abuse of Horse, incorrect behaviour, welfare of the Horse), reviewing of course/fences during XC in case of repetitive falls or weather situations.

The Course Designers are responsible to ensure that all frangible technology are fitted in accordance to the rules & up to date guidelines.

For the Derby course, the Course Designer may apply a tolerance of five centimetres in height for the fences, if dictated by the terrain.

- 4.8 Veterinary Delegate responsibilities, refer to Article 2.
- 4.9 Upon special request, the appointed FEI Foreign Technical Delegate could also act as President of the Ground Jury, provided he is a FEI Eventing Judge or an Experienced National Eventing Judge.

## **ARTICLE 5 – TECHNICAL LEVELS**

- 5.1 Category A:
- 1) Dressage Test CIC1\* Level
  - 2) Show Jumping course with up to 12x fences (max. 14 efforts) of 1.00m high – maximum 450 m long - speed 350 m/min.
  - 3) Cross Country course with 12x fences (max. 14 efforts) of 95cm-1.00m high with one water jump - 1800 m long @ 500 m/min.

- Category B:
- 1) Dressage Test Elementary Level
  - 2) Show Jumping course with up to 11x fences (max. 12 efforts) of 90cm high - maximum 450 m long / speed 350 m/min.
  - 3) Cross Country course with 9-10x fences (max. 11 efforts, including one combination with no more than 2 strides between combination fences) of 90cm high - 1000 m long / speed 425 m/min.

- Category C:
- 1) Dressage Test Preliminary Level
  - 2) "Derby" course with 9x Jumping fences (max. 10 efforts) and 7x Cross Country fences of 80cm high, with a +/- 5cm tolerance based on the terrain (max. 8 efforts, including one combination with no more than 2 strides between combination fences) – 800-1000m long / speed 400 m/min.

- 5.2 All courses (Jumping, Derby and Cross Country) must be built in accordance to the specific course plans, technical requirements, guidelines and course building instructions for the FEI Eventing World Challenge (published on: (<https://inside.fei.org> > Eventing > Main Events > FEI Eventing World Challenge)).





**5.3 Jumping Obstacles:** The obstacles will be standard Jumping obstacles.

FEI approved safety cups must be used as support for back poles of spread obstacles, and in the case of a triple bar, to support the centre and back pole of the obstacle.

**5.4** The Jumping competition arena must be enclosed (FEI Rules for Jumping Events, Art. 201 and Memorandum for Eventing Events, Section 1). The size of the arena for the FEI Eventing World Challenge Jumping course Cat. A and B is **65 x 45 m**. If built inside a larger arena, it must be either marked out on the ground or railed off.

**5.5** Before the beginning of the Derby and the Cross Country, a course walk must be organised in the presence of the TD, all Athletes and their Coaches. The TD will on this occasion supervise the briefing and course walk and put forward the challenges of the course and riding recommendations for maximum security.

Note: The course walk is meant to "educate" the different actors on the difficulties of the course and try to insure best practice for maximum security.

## **ARTICLE 6 - PRIZES**

The Organising Committee within each country is responsible for the distribution of prizes in the normal way (at least one prize per four Athletes).

## **ARTICLE 7 – EVENT REGISTRATION**

It is the responsibility of the NFs to inform the FEI on their intention of participation by **December 1<sup>st</sup>** the year prior to the competition by sending to the FEI, the "Application Form" posted on the FEI website (<https://inside.fei.org> > Eventing > Main Events > FEI Eventing World Challenge). Dates must fit between 1<sup>st</sup> January – 31<sup>st</sup> December.

## **ARTICLE 8 - RESULTS**

**8.1** There will be an INDIVIDUAL ranking per Country, per Region and for the World for all 3 Categories.

In order to be in the rankings, an Athlete/Horse combination must successfully complete all tests of the competition (Dressage, Jumping and Cross Country for Categories A & B; Dressage and Derby for Category C). An Athlete can only be in the rankings per Category once with the Horse Declared before the beginning of the Competition.

- Categories A & B:
- 1) Dressage Test Scoring as per FEI Eventing Rules Art. 544.
  - 2) Jumping Course Scoring as per FEI Eventing Rules Art. 553, but if more than 4 obstacles/fences down Athlete/Horse combination may **NOT** start in the Cross = Elimination.
  - 3) Cross Country: - NOT against the Clock, with optimum time.  
Exceeding Optimum Time: 1 pt per commenced second in excess of the optimum time.  
Under Optimum Time: 1 pt penalty for every commenced seconds in excess of 5 seconds under the optimum time.
    - First disobedience/refusal and/or run out of any obstacle/fence = 10 pts penalties.
    - Two disobediences/refusals and/or run outs on the same obstacle/ fence = Elimination.



- Three disobediences/refusals and/or run outs in total = Elimination.
- Fall of Horse or Athlete or both = Elimination.
- Error of Course: All compulsory obstacles/fences, including all elements and/or options, must be passed or jumped in order under penalty of elimination.

Categories C:

1) Dressage Test Scoring as per FEI Eventing rules 544.

2) Derby: - Table A NOT against the Clock, with optimum time.

Exceeding Optimum Time: 0,4 pt per commenced second in excess of the optimum time.

Under Optimum Time: 1 pt penalty for every commenced seconds in excess of 5 seconds under the optimum time.

- 4 pts penalties for each jumping obstacle knocked down.
- 8 pts penalties for first and second disobedience/refusal and/or run out of any obstacle/fence.
- Third disobedience/refusal and/or run out = Elimination.
- Fall of Horse or Athlete or both = Elimination.
- Error of Course: All compulsory obstacles/fences, including all elements and/or options, must be passed or jumped in order under penalty of elimination.

8.2 Results, Horse declaration forms, official's reports, one copy of the competition programme, and some photographs and video of the competition if any, together with press clippings must be sent to the FEI immediately after the competition. Please use only the Excel sheet specifically designed for the results of the FEI Challenge. This can be downloaded from the "Downloads" section of the FEI Eventing World Challenge web page. Please submit the results fully completed in their original format (Excel) in order to facilitate result processing as well as a copy of the results signed off by the Judges responsible.

8.3 The FEI will establish the final standings which will be published on the web site (<https://inside.fei.org> > Eventing > Main Events > FEI Eventing World Challenge).

8.4 There will be a TEAM ranking per REGIONAL Zone. Each Team is composed of the 1<sup>st</sup> Athlete per Category (A, B and C) in the NF. If a NF does not organise all 3 Categories, then it will not have a team.

Team composition:

A team must be composed of 3 different Athletes.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Athlete per Category (A, B and C) per NF will be part of the team unless the same Athlete wins more than one Category. In this case only the results of the highest Category will count for this Athlete. In all other Categories, the results of the follow up Athlete in the placings will be taken into account:

Category A:

Place	Athlete	Horse	Team
1	John Doe	Phantom	T
2	Anna Johnson	Super Star	
3	Jean Grey	Phoenix	



Category B

Place	Athlete	Horse	Team
1	John Doe	Mr. X	T
2	Kurt Wagner	Pretty Boy	
3	Peter Parker	Incognito	

Category C:

Place	Athlete	Horse	Team
1	Kurt Wagner	Excalibur	T
2	John Doe	Lost Identity	
3	Peter Parker	Fahrenheit	

If there are no other Athletes in the placings to ensure the Team is composed of three different Athletes, then there will be no team.

8.5 There will be a WORLD TEAM ranking.

## ARTICLE 9 - INFORMATION TO BE SENT TO THE FEI

### 9.1 **TWO MONTHS prior to the competition:**

A. CONFIRMATION OF COMPETITIONS DATES – before December 1<sup>st</sup> the year prior to the competitions.

B. NAME & STATUS OF PRESIDENT OF THE GROUND JURY FOR CATEGORY A, B & C.

C. NAME & STATUS OF FEI FOREIGN TECHNICAL DELEGATE FOR CATEGORY A, B & C.

D. NAME OF FEI OFFICIAL VETERINARY DELEGATE FOR CATEGORY A, B & C.

**Last minute changes are not allowed!!**

#### **BEFORE THE COMPETITION:**

NFs/OC must if necessary **create** the Athletes and Horses' profiles in the FEI World Challenges IT Platform (<http://worldchallenges.inside.fei.org/login>) and then **enter** them in the corresponding Category.

Entries will be **open** two weeks prior to the Event and will **close** one day prior to the Event.

### 9.2 **Immediately after the competition (no later than 14 days after the competition):** NFs must provide the following information to the FEI:

- One copy of the competition programme.
- Copy of the results signed by the official FEI Judges
- Copies of all forms used to declare the official Horse when an Athlete rides more than one Horse. These forms must be signed by the Athlete and the President of the Ground Jury. It must be remembered that only one Horse can count for the standings and that **this Horse must be declared before the start of the Competition and must be ridden first.**
- The President of the Ground Jury's report.
- The FEI Foreign Technical Delegate's report.
- The FEI Veterinary Delegate's report.



- Photographs of the competition **with names of all the people figuring on them clearly written in English, either on the back of the photographs, or on a separate list.**
- Press clippings relating to the competition.

9.3 The National Federations are responsible for the travelling arrangements of the Officials, as well as for their per diem and accommodation (board and lodging) during their sojourn.

As per Article 4.2, countries may organise all three categories simultaneously over one or two days or at different periods. The FEI will reimburse the air travel expense for the FEI Eventing Foreign Technical Delegate, up to a maximum amount of EUR 1'500.- and the TD's per diem for three days at EUR 150.- (per day) to the National Federations upon receipt of the proper documentation (flight invoice). If organised at different periods of the year, the FEI will reimburse the per diem of the Foreign TD in accordance with the conditions stated above for all competitions, however the travel expense will only be covered for a maximum of EUR 1'500.- in total per country per year even if more than one competition is organised.

## **ARTICLE 10 – DRESS & SADDLERY**

Please refer to Articles 538 and 539 of the FEI Rules for Eventing Events, 26<sup>th</sup> Edition, updates effective 1 January 2024, for all rules on dress and saddlery.

For Categories A & B Jumping test as well as for Category C Derby, the FEI Rules for Eventing Events Art. 539.3.3 will apply regarding Horse boots.

Watches are not permitted in any Category.

## **ARTICLE 11 – MISCELLANEOUS**

### **11.1 FEI Brand**

The FEI logo being a registered trademark we ask that while preparing publications for the competition (programmes, flyers, etc.) the OC strictly follows the FEI Brand Guidelines whenever using the FEI Logo, which you will find on the FEI website under:

<http://www.inside.fei.org/fei/about-fei/commercial/branding>.

### **11.2 General**

The FEI Eventing World Challenge must be organised strictly according to FEI General Rules & Regulations, 24<sup>th</sup> edition, FEI Rules for Eventing Events, 26<sup>th</sup> Edition, updates effective 1 January 2024, the 2024 FEI Eventing World Challenge Rules and the Guidelines for Course Builder.

The FEI is entitled to make reasonable amendments to the present rules.

It is the responsibility of the NFs to make sure that the Athletes and Horses take part in the appropriate Category according to their age and experience.