

Session 2 – YOUTH

INTRODUCTION

This document contains excerpts from the FEI rules and regulations specifying the age categories applicable to the FEI disciplines and listing the youth championships and series in each discipline.

This data is provided as background information for the FEI Sports Forum 2018 sessions dedicated to Youth.

AGE CATEGORIES

Age categories of FEI athletes as defined in the [FEI General Regulations](#) (Annex A – Definitions)

Adult Athlete: An Athlete aged eighteen (18) or older.

Under 25 (*this category is not described in the General Regulations as it is used only in Jumping and Dressage*): In general, category of Athletes who may take part in FEI Competitions from **the beginning of the year in which they reach age of sixteen (16) until the end of the year they reach the age of twenty five (25)**.

Young Rider: category of Athletes who may take part in FEI Competitions for Young Riders from the beginning of the year they reach **the age of sixteen (16) until the end of the year they reach the age of twenty one (21)**.

Junior: Category of Athletes who may take part in FEI Competitions for Juniors from the year they reach **the age of fourteen (14) until the end of the year they reach the age of eighteen (18)**.

Pony Rider: in Jumping, Eventing and Dressage, category of Athletes who may take part in FEI Competitions for Pony Riders from the year in which they reach **the age of twelve (12) until the end of the year they reach the age of sixteen (16)**.

Children: Category of Athletes who may take part in FEI “Children” Competitions. Inclusion of Athletes in this category takes place from the year they reach **the age of twelve (12) until the end of the year they reach the age of fourteen (14)**.

PARTICIPATION IN YOUTH CATEGORIES, CHAMPIONSHIPS AND SERIES BY DISCIPLINE

JUMPING

General:

- Riders may participate in certain competitions at CSIs/CSIOs 1*-5* from the beginning of the year in which they turn 12 until the end of the year in which they turn 13 providing the height of obstacles in the initial round does not exceed 1.30 m.

- Riders may participate in certain competitions at CSIs/CSIOs 1*-5* from the beginning of the year in which they turn 14 until the end of the year in which they turn 15 providing the height of obstacles in the initial round does not exceed 1.40 m.
- Riders may participate in all competitions at CSI1* and most competitions at CSI2* from the beginning of the year they turn 16. Riders may participate in certain competitions at CSI3*-5* and CSIO1*-5* from the beginning of the year they turn 16 until the end of the year they turn 17.
- Before the year in which they turn 18 riders may not take part in the following competitions:
 - a Grand Prix at a CSI3* to CSI5*;
 - a Grand Prix at a CSIO1* to CSIO5*;
 - a Nations Cup Competition at CSIO1* to CSIO5*;
 - an FEI World Cup™ Competition;
 - a Power and Skill Competition;
 - a Derby;
 - the Competition with the highest prize money at a CSI3* to CSI5* and CSIO1* to CSIO5* if this is not one of the Competitions listed above.

U 25: In general from the year in which they reach their 16th birthday until the end of the year they turn 25; riders may participate in U25 competitions as of the year in which they reach their 14th birthday only if the height of competitions does not exceed 1.40 m.

- CSIs (no Championships or CSIOs), European Youngster Cup (EY Cup) U25 Series with Final (from the year they turn 16 until the year they turn 25)

Young Riders:

- European Championships, North and South American Championships, CSIs, CSIOs, Youth FEI Nations Cup Series with Final, Group VII Series with Final, eligible to participate in EY Cup U25

Juniors:

- European Championships, North and South American Championships, CSIs, CSIOs, Youth FEI Nations Cup Series with Final, Group VII Series with Final, eligible to participate in EY Cup U25 from the year in which they turn 16

Children:

- European Championships, North and South American Championships, CSIs, CSIOs, Youth FEI Nations Cup Series with Final, FEI Children's International Classics with Final, Group VII Series with Final

Pony Riders:

- European Championships, CSIs, CSIOs, Youth FEI Nations Cup Series with Final, FEI Ponies Jumping Trophy with Final

Riders may participate in the FEI World Jumping Challenge and Final from the beginning of the year in which they turn 14.

DRESSAGE

- European Championships for U25, Young Riders, Juniors, Pony Riders and Children every year;
- North American Championships for Young Riders and Juniors every year.
- Regional Championships, e.g. Balkan Championships, also have Young Riders, Juniors, and Children.

No specific Youth series.

PARA DRESSAGE

There are no separate Youth Championships and series for Para Dressage. Para Dressage riders may take part in the senior European Championships (every second year) from the year in which they turn 16.

EVENTING

Specific Eventing Championship are open to Athletes according to categories defined in the FEI General Regulations: Seniors, Young Riders, Juniors, and Ponies.

There are no Children's Championships in Eventing.

- European and North American Championships for Young Riders and Juniors every year;
- European Championships for Pony Riders organised in Europe every year.

No specific Youth series.

DRIVING

- Young Drivers: CAIY1*, CAIY2*
- Juniors: CAIJ1*, CAIJ2*
- Children: CAICh1*, CAICh2*

The age of Athletes is described in Art. 912 of the FEI Driving Rules, as follows:

Young Drivers:

Class	Athlete Age Class
Horses Four-in-Hand	18 - 21 years
Horse Pairs	16 – 21 years
Horse Single	16 – 21 years
All Pony Classes	16 - 21 years

Juniors:

Class	Athlete Age Class
Horse Pairs	16 -18 years
Horse Single	14 – 18 years
All Pony Classes	14 – 18 years

Children:

Class	Athlete Age Class
Single Pony	12 -14 years

European Championships for Young Riders, Juniors and Children held every two years.

ENDURANCE

There is a single Junior/Young Rider category in Endurance, which covers Athletes from aged from 14 to 18 (Juniors) and from 16 to 21 (Young Riders).

World Championships for J/YR are held every two years alternating with European Championships for the same category.

VAULTING

There is no Young Riders category in Vaulting.

World Championships for Juniors alternating every other year with European Championships in the same category.

REINING

World Championships for Young Riders and Juniors alternating every other year with European Championships in the same categories.