

Endurance - Vet Gate Protocol

FEI Rules for Endurance Riding

821.2.5 **Inspection Decorum:** the inspection areas should remain politely quiet in respect to Athletes and Horses under the stresses of intense Competition, and the Ground Jury and Stewards are responsible to enforce that decorum. At the same time, Athletes and their crews or owners or Team Staffs are also responsible to respect the nature of what is occurring there, the inspection and evaluation of the ongoing health and fitness to continue of Horses under stressful physical demands. As a result, no gamesmanship will be tolerated in terms of delaying or interfering with a fair presentation. From time to time, the FEI may provide a list of specifically prohibited behaviours under threat of disqualification or other disciplinary action. However, this list is not intended to be exhaustive and the good judgment of the Ground Jury and Stewards shall be sacrosanct. (See Endurance Notes for Guidance))

Notes for Guidance:

Art 821.2.5 – Inspection Decorum

- Horses which are presented for vetting **must proceed**, as instructed, **directly** from the 'timed in gate' to the veterinary examination area (vet lane) showing constant forward motion.
- **No action** must be taken **to hold back the horse or to prevent this constant forward motion. The horse must not enter the trot out lane until the inspection is completed** (this to include deviation from course, encouragement either by sound or by command to stop).
- Whistling or any other behavior within the vet gate to encourage a horse to urinate is not allowed and considered as a failure to observe this article and may attract disqualification or other disciplinary action. Please be aware that the following can be enforced should the above regulations not be followed at all times:
 - Should a horse be **presented** at the vet gate **with tack** then that horse will be **considered to have failed the first inspection. The time in** will be **cancelled** and the horse will be required to exit the vet gate and present for a second (final) presentation.
 - Should a horse fail to proceed directly to the line veterinarian, as instructed by an official, the Rider (Person Responsible) will be in breach of Art. 821.2.5 and may be given either **a fixed time penalty of 5 minutes** and/or be given **a yellow warning card**. (Note: two yellow warning cards results in immediate disqualification from the event and a two month suspension from all FEI competitions).
 - Should a horse be walked so slowly that it stops then it is considered to be in breach of 'constant forward motion' and may be subject to either **a fixed time penalty of 5 minutes** and/or be given **a yellow warning card**. (Note: two yellow warning cards results in immediate disqualification from the event and a two month suspension from all FEI competitions).
 - The horse **will not be allowed to enter the vet lane itself** until the heart rate has been taken and instruction given by the line Veterinarian to trot.