

PROPOSALS FOR RULES CHANGES OF VETERINARY REGULATIONS 2024

Introduction

Further to the approval of the FEI Periodical Rules Revision Policy at the 2019 General Assembly (available here: <https://inside.fei.org/fei/about-fei/governance/rules-revision-process>) the full revision of the Veterinary Regulations took place in 2022. Consequently, for this year's revision process NFs and MOU stakeholders were invited to propose only modifications that fulfilled the following criteria:

1. Urgent repairs, i.e., changes in the Rules that cannot await because of their impact on the welfare of the Horses or the safety of the Athletes;
2. Correction of inconsistencies, manifest errors, contradictions, etc.
3. New/recently introduced rule that has proven to be problematic in its implementation;
4. Implementation of new technology development(s) relevant to the specific set of Rules;
5. IOC, IPC, WADA, ASOIF and similar organisations' policies' implementation;
6. Other scenarios not foreseen by this Policy as considered and approved by the Board.

In addition, the FEI Headquarters and the Veterinary Committee have a number of proposals put forward based also on the above mentioned criteria.

In the present document you will find 2 sections as follows:

A. Rules Proposals received from NFs/MOU Stakeholders by 1 March 2024. In this section you will find each of the Rules Proposals received from NFs/MOU Stakeholders addressed by the FEI with the relevant feedback from the Veterinary Committee; and

B. Rules Proposals put forward by the FEI

In addition to the proposed changes outlined in this Memo, please kindly note that given the full review of the FEI Equine Anti-Doping and Controlled Medication Regulations, additional changes may need to be made to the FEI Veterinary Regulations in order to be aligned.



Göran Akerström,
Veterinary Director

A. Rules Proposals received from NFs/MOU Stakeholders by 1 March 2024

Rules Proposal Submitted By

GER NF

Article No.–Article Name

Article 1004 - Prohibited Methods

Explanation for Proposed Change

→ urgent repairs, i.e., changes in the Rules that cannot await because of their impact on the welfare of the Horses

Regarding the animal welfare, in addition to the prohibited method of removing the sensory hairs, the shaving of the auricles should also be prohibited. The hairs in the auricles serve as a special protection, for example by preventing insects or other objects from entering the ear. They also offer protection against extreme acoustic stimuli. According to paragraph 6 of the German Animal Welfare Law, clipping or cutting the hairs inside the ears of the horse is prohibited



Proposed Wording

1. Horses are not permitted to compete in FEI Events:

a)(...)

(...)

h) if the hair on their limbs has been clipped and/or shaven at any point during the Period of the Event. Permission must be granted from the VC/VD by the PTV for clipping and/or shaving required for veterinary purposes, prior to any investigation or treatment taking place. Horses' limbs may be clipped up to 3 days before the Horse Inspection using a blade that cuts the hairs no shorter than 2mm;

i) if the Horse's sensory hairs have been clipped and/or shaven or in any other way removed unless individual sensory hairs have been removed by a veterinarian to prevent pain or discomfort for the Horse. **If the hair in the auricles of the horse has been removed or shortened within the rims of the auricle.** Areas of hair that must be clipped, shaven or removed to allow veterinary treatment are exempt from this rule. As of 1 July 2021, Sanction 39 in Annex VI will be applicable; and

j) (...)

FEI Feedback

The FEI is in agreement to the suggestion and suggests a minor change to the wording.

FEI Proposed Wording (if applicable)

i) if the Horse's sensory hairs have been clipped and/or shaven or in any other way removed unless individual sensory hairs have been removed by a veterinarian to prevent pain or discomfort for the Horse- and-if the hair in the auricles of the horse have been removed or shortened within the rims of the auricle. Areas of hair that must be clipped, shaven or removed to allow veterinary treatment are exempt from this rule. As of 1 July 2021, Sanction 39 in Annex VI will be applicable;

Rules Proposal Submitted By

ITA NF

Article No.–Article Name

Article 1008 - Stables

Explanation for Proposed Change

New/recently introduced rule(s) that has(ve) proven to be problematic in its implementation.

All Vaulting Horses are to be housed in stables of at least 12m² where one side of the stable must be at least 3m in length. The stables must be of high quality and well-constructed to provide a safe environment for the Horse.

This new rule is creating huge difficulties for the Vaulting OCs, who were not aware of the changes or did not have the time to organise.

OCs have their own boxes (normally 3 x 3), or they hire them for the competition. It is really not feasible to expect the OCs to change their box sizes, especially if they are in concrete.

There is a huge shortage of boxes for hire in general, and most of the providers have only 3x 3 boxes, this would mean that the only possibility would be to double the size of the boxes to 6x3, and in consequence have a huge impact on costs.

Whatever way you look at it, this is a huge economical impact for the OCs, and they are just not ready to support this change today.

This obviously has a huge impact of the athletes and their teams and qualifications.

Proposed Wording

All Vaulting Horses are to be housed in stables of at least 12m² where one side of the stable must be at least 3m in length. The stables must be of high quality and well-constructed to provide a safe environment for the Horse.

This article will be rolled out in the following years and will be implemented from 1st January 2026 (or 2025).

During the transition period OCs must guarantee at least 30% of boxes of at least 12m².

FEI Feedback

The FEI is not in agreement with the suggestion and believes Vaulting horses require the larger sized boxes to ensure their welfare.

FEI Proposed Wording (if applicable)

N/A

Rules Proposal Submitted By

Grooms Consultative Group

Article No.–Article Name

1008.6.j

Explanation for Proposed Change

1. Urgent repairs, i.e., changes in the Rules that cannot await because of their impact on the welfare of the Horses or the safety of the Athletes.

Competitions running very late at night and beginning again early the next morning have a significant negative impact on the welfare of grooms, who likely finish work approximately 1.5 hours after that last class has ended.

Additionally, it is vital that horses are allowed enough time to rest and recover between jumping efforts.

It is often not currently possible for the stables to be closed, and lights dimmed, for the 6 hours stated in current regulations.

Proposed Wording

Classes in horse shows should not begin before 7.30am and should be concluded (prize giving included) by 11.30pm at the latest.

There should be a minimum of 10 hours between the end of the last class a horse has jumped in and the start of his first class the next day (i.e. a horse that competed in the last class, terminated at 11.30pm cannot compete before 9.30am the following day).

Riders from the same Group should have a minimum of 9 hours between competing. (i.e. a rider that has competed finishing at 11.30pm cannot compete before 8.30am the following day).

FEI Feedback

This matter will be open for discussion in the Full Rules Revision in 2026. Meanwhile, the current rule will be applied.

FEI Proposed Wording (if applicable)

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Rules Proposal Submitted By

EEF

Article No.–Article Name

Article 1039 - Morning Re-Inspection

Explanation for Proposed Change

With increasing costs and efforts for riders and owners the EEF WG wants to refresh the rule change application for the following reasons:

1. It would be welcomed by all stakeholders as this rule change would not only make riders, owners and trainers more happy, but also the organisers and the officials who also dislike nothing more than telling a rider that he has not passed.
2. The 1st Horse Inspection will not change at all as everyone will still want to pass at their first chance. We will still have the good appearances in Eventing, but it's important that we move on with increasing costs for everyone and to be more modern.
3. It would be more fair to the competitors to have a second chance (including the possibility of taking an MCP control). Same as in other disciplines the horse could be stiff from the transport or a horse is suddenly uneven without a reason. There are immense costs for riders and owners around participation in competitions, especially the long format and it is long time prepared, and it is only good to give this chance to all those involved with the horse. It should be the same process for all three Olympic disciplines.
4. As Eventing Inspection Panels now and again are in a situation of doubt about passing or not passing a horse/pony at the HI it would give everyone a chance to have an extra opportunity to have another good look of the horse in question at a proper HI. As it is today it is often agreed to "keep an extra eye" on the specific horse during warm up for and during the dressage test. This causes at times a little uncertainty of "who is doing what and when" among the officials involved and responsible which is not ideal re. welfare of the horses.

Proposed Wording

1. In Dressage, Para-Equestrian Dressage, Jumping, Eventing, Driving and Vaulting Events a Morning Re-inspections may be permitted on the morning of the first Competition.
2. Morning Re-inspections must be carried out as described in Article 10386 No re-inspection is permitted following the Morning Re-inspection.
3. The Inspection Panel's decision is final and binding; no appeal can be lodged.
4. Horses that are accepted at Morning Re-inspections may undergo EADCM sampling

FEI Feedback

The Eventing and Veterinary Committee agreed that a next morning re-inspection for Eventing should not be introduced and maintained their position (as last year) to not support this proposal. The Eventing Committee supported the commitment of Eventing

Horse Inspection process to be transparent, clear, open to public, as this was a strong principle connected with Horse Welfare and public acceptance of this discipline.

FEI Proposed Wording (if applicable)

N/A

Rules Proposal Submitted By

EEF - Vet Working Group

Article No.–Article Name

Eventing Rules 2024 542.3 Second Horse Inspection

Explanation for Proposed Change

Follows the change mentioned above

Proposed Wording

Deletion of article 524.2.3 and integration of the last sentence of this article into article 524.2.2.

524.2.2 Second Horse Inspection

This takes place before the Jumping Test. It is conducted by the same Inspection Panel and under the same conditions as the first Horse Inspection.

In short format competitions, a Second Horse Inspection only takes place if the Jumping takes place after the Cross Country.

~~524.2.3 Option for Horse Inspection at Short Competitions (CCI-S)~~

~~At a short Competition 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, an FEI Official Veterinarian must assess the Horse's fitness to compete including a brief trot within the Examination on Arrival pursuant to 524.1 of these Eventing rules. Horses deemed by the FEI Official Veterinarian to be unfit to compete must be reported to the Ground Jury.~~

~~In short format competitions, the Second Horse Inspection will be compulsory if the Jumping Test is the last test.~~

FEI Feedback

The Eventing Committee is in favour of maintaining the current wording and Art. 524.2.3 which explained the different situations for Horse Inspections at Short format competitions.

FEI Proposed Wording (if applicable)

Rules Proposal Submitted By

SWE NF

Article No.–Article Name

Article 1054 – Same-Day Treatment

Explanation for Proposed Change

Periodical Rules Revision Criteria 1. Urgent repairs, i.e., changes in the Rules that cannot await because of their impact on the welfare of the Horses

According to the FEI Equine Ethics and Wellbeing Commission (EEWB) one of the Priority Focus areas is Medical Procedures masking health problems/Not fit to Compete. With the current debate on Equine welfare and Social License to Operate (SLO), it is of outmost importance not to allow horses competing on drugs/medications.

FEI currently allows some medications at the day of competition e.g., omeprazole (potential side effects when long term medication), altrenogest (potential anabolic effects) and antibiotics (not fit to compete, potential analgesic effects and risk for antimicrobial resistance – “One Health” perspective).

We suggest for clarification that no **medications** should be allowed on the same day the Horse compete by adding the same wording as in Article 1060, i.e., any substance not listed on the EPSL may not be used prior to the Competition on the day in which they compete or between rounds or classes in which the Horse is competing on the same day.

In the event of an emergency treatment or on-going treatment, *we do not think a Horse is fit to compete if it needs to be treated with injectable Controlled Medication Substances or antibiotics on the day they compete.* This is an issue for Medication regulation and Equine welfare as well as to have a Social License to Operate (SLO) – to state that only healthy horses without medication, i.e., fit to compete, are allowed to compete in FEI events. Re. prudent use of antibiotics and to avoid antibiotic resistance, see explanation for proposed change in Article 1060.

This is also in accordance with the “No Race Day Medication Rule” used in racing and well perceived in both racing and by society.

We therefore propose to delete p. 2 in Article 1054 (at least “or antibiotics”), even if prior authorisation must be obtained from the VD and GJ as described in current regulations of medication with AMDs that may affect the health and performance of the Horse. Both from an even playing field and welfare perspective, respectively.

N.b., gentamicin (and many other AMDs) was not included in the screening of EADCM samples recently performed by the FEI Laboratories.

If statistics from reviewing the Veterinary Form B (Art. 1060) also indicate a minimal use in FEI competition, it should be better to avoid an increasing Antibiotic resistance problem and not allow Antibiotics in competition at all.

Proposed Wording

1. Horses must not be treated ~~by injection~~ with any substance not listed on the EPSL prior to the Competition on the day in which they compete ~~or between rounds or classes in which the Horse is competing on the same day~~. An exception is granted for classes starting at 18.00hrs or later where Horses may be treated by injection until 10.00hrs on the day of competition.

~~2. In the event of an emergency or on-going treatment, Horses may be treated with injectable Controlled Medication Substances or antibiotics on the day in which they compete. Prior authorisation must be obtained from the VD and GJ as described in Articles 1059 and 1060.~~

FEI Feedback

The FEI is not in agreement with the proposal. It believes that it is not in the horse's best interests to not have access to medication, if needed. The decision is taken on a case-by-case basis as to whether the horse is fit to compete. The suggestion is however noted for discussion on a much wider basis beyond the rules revision process.

The FEI however propose a change to paragraph 1 and an addition to the article to support the responsible use of medication in competition horses.

FEI Proposed Wording (if applicable)

~~1. Horses must not be treated by injection or infusion with any substance not listed on the EPSL prior to the Competition on the day in which they compete. An exception is granted for classes starting at 18.00hrs or later where Horses may be treated by injection or infusion until 10.00hrs on the day of competition.~~

~~1-2. Non-emergency treatments must not be administered when the FEI Stables Area is closed.~~

~~2-3. In the event of an emergency or on-going treatment, Horses may be treated with injectable or infused Controlled Medication Substances or antibiotics on the day in which they compete. Prior authorisation must be obtained from the VD and GJ as described in Articles 1059 and 1060.~~

~~3-4. Same-day medication is subject to routine checks by the VC/VD, Stewards and other FEI Officials.~~

~~4-5. Disciplinary actions will be taken against PTVs who administer unauthorised same-day medication. Sanctions will be issued according to Annex VI and/or issued in accordance with the EADCMRs.~~

Rules Proposal Submitted By

SWE NF

Article No.–Article Name

Article 1057 – Treatments before and during FEI Events

Explanation for Proposed Change

Periodical Rules Revision Criteria 1. Urgent repairs, i.e., changes in the Rules that cannot await because of their impact on the welfare of the Horses

According to the FEI Equine Ethics and Wellbeing Commission (EEWB) one of the Priority Focus areas is Medical Procedures masking health problems/Not fit to Compete. With the current debate on Equine welfare and Social License to Operate (SLO), it is of outmost importance not to allow horses competing on drugs/medications.

FEI currently allows some medications at the day of competition e.g., omeprazole (potential side effects when long term medication), altrenogest (potential anabolic effects) and antibiotics (not fit to compete, potential analgesic effects and risk for antimicrobial resistance – “One Health” perspective).

8. The use of **altrenogest** (Regumate) is only allowed in mares.

9. The use of **cyclosporine** implants and cyclosporine ophthalmic preparations in horses are permitted

+ The use of gastric ulcer medication, **omeprazole** (Gastrogard) is permitted.

In the event of an emergency on-going treatment, Horses may be treated with injectable Controlled Medication Substances or **antibiotics** on the day in which they compete.

We suggest for clarification that no **medication** should be allowed on the same day the Horse compete by adding the same wording as in Article 1060, i.e., any substance not listed on the EPSL may not be used prior to the Competition on the day in which they compete or between rounds or classes in which the Horse is competing on the same day.

In the event of an emergency treatment or on-going treatment, *we do not think a Horse is fit to compete if it needs to be treated with **injectable** Controlled Medication Substances or antibiotics on the day they compete.* This is an issue for Medication regulation and Equine welfare as well as to have a Social License to Operate (SLO) – to state that only healthy horses without medication, i.e., fit to compete, are allowed to compete in FEI events. Re. prudent use of antibiotics and to avoid antibiotic resistance, see explanation for proposed change in Article 1060.

Proposed Wording

8. The use of **altrenogest** (Regumate) is only allowed in mares.

In the event of an emergency ~~or on-going treatment~~, Horses may be treated with injectable Controlled Medication Substances ~~or antibiotics~~.

+ The use of gastric ulcer medication, **omeprazole** (Gastrogard) is permitted.

However, none of these medications are allowed at Competition Day.

FEI Feedback

The FEI is not in agreement with the proposal. It believes that it is not in the horse’s best interests to not have access to medication, if needed. The decision is taken on a case-by-case basis as to whether the horse is fit to compete. The FEI plans to carry out an ethical review concerning the use of medication in competition horses.

FEI Proposed Wording (if applicable)

N/A

Rules Proposal Submitted By

SWE NF

Article No.–Article Name

Article 1060 – Treatments with Non-Oral Medication and Therapies not Included on the EPSL Veterinary Form B (previously Veterinary Form 3)

Explanation for Proposed Change

Periodical Rules Revision Criteria 1. Urgent repairs, i.e., changes in the Rules that cannot await because of their impact on the welfare of the Horses

According to the FEI Equine Ethics and Wellbeing Commission (EEWB) one of the Priority Focus areas is Medical Procedures masking health problems/Not fit to Compete. With the current debate on Equine welfare and Social License to Operate (SLO), it is of outmost importance not to allow horses competing on drugs/medications.

FEI currently allows some medications at the day of competition e.g., omeprazole (potential side effects when long term medication), altrenogest (potential anabolic effects) and antibiotics (not fit to compete, potential analgesic effects and risk for antimicrobial resistance – “One Health” perspective).

The SWE NF claims that treating a Horse on competition days are not prudent use of Antibiotics since the horse needing Antibiotics obviously is not healthy and fit to compete. Best practice treatment schedule should be followed, but the Horse should not compete on medication with AMDs that may affect the health and performance of the Horse. Both from an even playing field and welfare perspective, respectively.

N.b., gentamicin (and many other AMDs) has not included in the FEI screening of EADCM samples. If statistics from reviewing the Veterinary Form B (Art. 1060) also indicate a minimal use in FEI competition, it should be better to avoid an increasing Antibiotic resistance problem and not allow Antibiotics in competition at all.

1. Antibiotics should not be authorised during event due to potential *analgesic, anti-inflammatory effect* (e.g., oxy-, tetracyclines, minocycline), potential *biosecurity risk for spreading infectious disease* (e.g., suspected transport fever/transit stress after arrival could also be due to stress related outbreak of latent EHV-1 infection), for *equine welfare* reason (the Horse has to be healthy and fit to compete) and last but not least risk for developing *antibiotic resistance* (also from a One-Health aspect according to OIE/WAHO, WHO, EU). Especially if broad-spectrum Antimicrobial Drugs (AMDs) are used in a non-prudent way (e.g., a single gentamicin “shot” before travelling abroad/overseas). Such use will also increase the risk of Authorities restricting AMDs for animals/horses with regard to human use and safety (which WHO has warned for last couple of years and already has happened in the EU last year).

AMDs and AMR have also been discussed on an international level at the last International Conference of Racing Analysts and Veterinarians (22nd ICRAV) in Dubai 2018, which resulted in a paper published in its Proceedings. * The outcome of the paper showed that a large number of AMDs also have properties such as analgesic and anti-inflammatory actions, e.g., macrolides, tetracyclines, quinolones, sulfonamides and cephalosporins. Among the tetracyclines especially oxytetracycline, doxycycline and minocycline may be used in the treatment of equine joint disease. Concerns were raised about a potential use of AMDs to conceal clinical signs of injury or disease, to allow a horse that is in an unsuitable condition to race/compete and may have the potential to spread disease. The misuse of AMDs in veterinary practice may increase the development of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) which can also impair human public health. This issue has become a major priority of the World Animal Health Organization (former OIE) and the horse industry must play a part by providing policies to minimise the misuse of antimicrobial drugs. One way suggested was to introduce the AMDs on the prohibited substance list and setting a stand down period before competing. European racing (EHSLC) therefore decided two years ago

to recommend a stand down period of 4 days before start for most frequently used AMDs. Nordic racing and trotting (NEMAC) as well as the Swedish Equestrian Federation have since a couple of years for all AMDs implemented 8 days "stand down" period/WT (comparable to go from a Detection Time by double this to get a Withdrawal Time in accordance with the "Monte Carlo Simulation", see EHSCL website; <https://www.ehslc.com/detection-times/withdrawal-times>), and for locally administered AMDs a shorter period of 4 days (e.g., for topical and ophthalmic use).

* Gadot P-M., Hillyer L., Toutain P-L. & Kallings P., 2020. Controlling the use of antimicrobial substances in equine sports with a special emphasis for racing horses, Proceedings of the 22nd International Conference of Racing Analysts and Veterinarians, Dubai 2018, 103-107.

We suggest that FEI should go the same way and not allow antibiotics (AMDs) during FEI events.

We propose for clarification, that no **medication** should be allowed on the same day the Horse compete by adding the same wording as in Article 1060, i.e., any substance not listed on the EPSL may not be used prior to the Competition on the day in which they compete or between rounds or classes in which the Horse is competing on the same day.

In the event of an emergency treatment or on-going treatment, *we do not think a Horse is fit to compete if it needs to be treated with **injectable** Controlled Medication Substances or antibiotics on the day they compete.* This is an issue for Medication regulation and Equine welfare as well as to have a Social License to Operate (SLO) – to state that only healthy horses without medication, i.e., fit to compete, are allowed to compete in FEI events.

We also propose to switch 5 and 6 in the current regulation to clarify that no injections should be allowed on the same day the Horse compete:

1. The Veterinary Form B is used to authorise treatments with non-oral medication e.g. injections, infusions and nebulisation, and therapies not included on the EPSL (e.g. rehydration fluids and antibiotics) during FEI Events.
5. Such substances may not be used between rounds or classes in which the Horse is competing on the same day or during the veterinary check rest during an Endurance Event
6. A Veterinary Form B is not required for the treatment of Horses with the following substances:
 - a) joint support: aminoglycans (e.g. Adequan), pentosan polysulphate (e.g. Pentosan), hyaluronic acid;
 - b) injectable vitamins;
 - c) amino acids; and
 - d) injectable homeopathics.

Proposed Wording

1. The Veterinary Form B is used to authorise treatments with non-oral medication e.g. injections, infusions and nebulisation, and therapies not included on the EPSL (e.g. rehydration fluids **and antibiotics**) during FEI Events.

5. ~~(6)~~ A Veterinary Form B is not required for the treatment of Horses with the following substances:

- a) **non-intraarticular** joint support: aminoglycans (e.g. Adequan), pentosan polysulphate (e.g. Pentosan), hyaluronic acid;
- b) injectable vitamins (**except vitamin B12/cyanocobalamin**);
- c) amino acids; and
- d) injectable homeopathics.

6.(5) Such substances listed above may not be used prior to the Competition on the day in which they compete or between rounds or classes in which the Horse is competing on the same day or during the veterinary check rest during an Endurance Event.

The use of **altrenogest** (Regumate) is only allowed in mares.
The use of gastric ulcer medication, **omeprazole** (Gastrogard) is permitted.
However, none of these medications are allowed at Competition Day.

FEI Feedback

The FEI is not in agreement with the proposal. It believes that it is not in the horse's best interests to not have access to medication, if needed. The decision is taken on a case-by-case basis as to whether the horse is fit to compete. The FEI plans to carry out an ethical review concerning the use of medication in competition horses.

FEI Proposed Wording (if applicable)

N/A

Rules Proposal Submitted By

FRA NF

Article No.–Article Name

Annex IX
Young Horse Championships (Driving)

Explanation for Proposed Change

2. Correction of inconsistencies, manifest errors, contradictions, etc.

The number of FEI Driving veterinarians for the Driving FEI Young Horse Championship is not proportionated to the real needs and generate extra costs difficult to bear for OC. With 30-50 horses on past editions, 1 HI, no marathon competition, 1 single FEI arena, we would strongly encourage to lower the quantity requirements which will not affect the quality of vet management.

The current requirements are higher compared to a CAI3* with a full 3 phases competition including a marathon test of 8 obstacles, 2 HI...

Please do ask the past OCs and the vets who have been appointed at such championships to fairly consider this point.

Proposed Wording

1 FVD, Level 3
1 Pdt of Vet Commission, Level 3
~~1 Member of Vet Commission Level 3~~
1 VSM, Level 1

FEI Feedback

The FEI does not believe that the suggestion for change falls under the Periodical Rules Revision Policy. We suggest re-submitting the proposal next year, in which a full revision of the Driving Rules will take place.

FEI Proposed Wording (if applicable)

N/A

Rules Proposal Submitted By

FRA NF

Article No.–Article Name

Annex IX
FEI World Cup Finals

Explanation for Proposed Change

2. Correction of inconsistencies, manifest errors, contradictions, etc.

The number of FEI Driving veterinarians for the Driving FEI World Cups Final is not proportionated to the real needs and generate unreasonable extra costs for OC difficult to bear for OC.

With 30 horses, 1 HI, 2 competitions hosted on an FEI indoor WCup multidiscipline show on 1 single FEI arena, we would strongly encourage to lower the quantity requirements which will not affect the quality of vet management. This proposal would comply with the same allowance already given to Vaulting.

Please do ask the past OCs and the driving vets who have been appointed at such final to fairly consider this point.

Proposed Wording

1 FVD, Level 3

~~1 President of Veterinary Commission, Level 3~~

~~1 Member of Veterinary Commission, Level 3~~

1 VSM Level 1

(3) Refer to discipline rules regarding Eventing Nations Cup requirements. In the disciplines of Vaulting and Driving only 1 FVD is required in place of full Veterinary Commission at World Cup Finals.

FEI Feedback

The FEI is not in agreement with the suggestion. They believe more than one Veterinary Delegate is required as Veterinary Delegates need to be present in multiple locations simultaneously at Driving events.

FEI Proposed Wording (if applicable)

N/A

Rules Proposal Submitted By

GER NF

Article No.–Article Name

None

Explanation for Proposed Change

→ Implementation of new technology development(s) relevant to the specific set of Rules

Animal welfare is a key aspect for the ethical utilisation of horses for sporting activities. Which is also why the FEI rule book clearly states that the welfare of the horse must be paramount, and that horse welfare must never be subordinate to competitive or commercial influences. Quantifying animal welfare isn't always straight forward which is why many nations have adopted the principles of the Five Freedoms in their animal welfare legislation. One of these freedoms states that animals must be free from pain, injury and discomfort. Horses utilised for sporting events must therefore not only be fit to compete but also be trained appropriately to prevent pain, injury and discomfort. For this to occur in an evidence-based manner performance can be adequately and appropriately monitored and analysed.

The aim of performance diagnostics in a sporting context is to describe, explain and ultimately predict performance via identification of associations between sport specific behaviours (actions such as training) and outcomes (performance goals) consecutively examining the influence of extrinsic variables. Equestrian sports are unique in the sense that training practices are still largely based on anecdotal knowledge, experimental learning and tradition (Ely et al, 2010). Performance diagnostics compared to other elite sporting disciplines is not only in its infancy but also widely underutilised when it comes to equestrian disciplines. Whilst performance diagnostics is goal orientated with the aim of maximising and improving performance this cannot be achieved without ensuring that the horse in question is training and competing within their psychological and physiological limits. Elite athletes whether humans or horses have invested significantly to gain this status and a vital role of performance diagnostics is therefore performance maintenance. For performance maintenance to occur injury and suffering needs to be prevented, ultimately improving the horse's welfare. Encouraging performance diagnostics to occur in equestrian disciplines therefore not only encourages animal welfare standards to improve but also contributes towards a Social Licence to Operate as it facilitates the documentation of how horses are suitably prepared for the task in hand. Adequate preparation is an important aspect when it comes to safely completing a cross country course as a study of FEI events demonstrated in 2023 (Bennet et.al.). Another recently published study by Burger et.al. (2022) showed how wearable devices utilised at competitions could identify biomechanical parameters that coupled with lactate values signalled fatigue in horses. Competing sport horses within the remits of their ability results in less injury and less catastrophic images that are damaging to the sport. Performance diagnostics is therefore a key contributor to animal welfare in sport horses.

Currently the FEI stipulates that this form of data is to be collected in the remits of a research application. National and European laws on performing animal research not only requires suitably trained personnel but for every study to be assessed and reviewed by an

ethics committee and granted a license accordingly. This is a standard protocol within an academic setting to ensure national laws at locations of executions are obeyed by. Performance diagnostic data on the other hand is often not collected as part of a study but rather at the request of the person responsible. This is as the data recorded is specific to that individual and therefore directly influences that individuals training regime and fitness to compete. The aim of performance diagnostic is not to publish data but to directly improve that individual's welfare by informing and adapting training and management accordingly. Any time a horse is undergoing a poor performance work up with their veterinary surgeon it is in fact undergoing a form of performance diagnostics. This however only provides information at rest or best-case scenario at training. Without knowing the actual demands required of the sport horse in a competition setting this leaves the door open to under and over training. Which both can result in injury. Knowing how a horse performed in a competition setting is therefore essential to ensure it trains appropriately and is not subjected to further competitions outside its capabilities.

It is common practice for human athletes to rate the level of exercise intensity in the form of the questionnaire using validated standards such as the Borg Scala for instance. We as riders can make informed assumptions on behalf of our horses as to the presumed intensity of the exercise performed, we however cannot ask the horse directly. Objective validated methods of measuring exercise intensity include monitoring of the heart rate and lactate levels produced. Both can feasibly be performed in the horse. Heart rate girths are not invasive and log data continuously and an entire ride can therefore be analysed post event. Blood sampling for lactate measurements can be performed simply and is tolerated well by the majority of horses. Portable devices provide timely information which can then be used to appropriately aid in the recovery of the horse post exercise. This is especially important post the cross-country phase in eventing for instance where heart rate girths are removed together with tack to facilitate cooling. Values obtained however are only snap shots in time and therefore timing of sampling as well as the ability to resample at later timepoints is important to ensure data obtained is of a sufficient quality. Lactate values therefore play a vital role in ensuring the horse has been adequately cooled down and can recover appropriately to be able to continue to compete the following day. It is therefore in the interest of the person responsible and their horse that they are allowed to determine which method(s) they deem to be most suitable to be used to determine the exercise intensity and recovery.

When consulting the literature and considering the blood parameters of interest in the remit of performance diagnostics, arterial blood followed by capillary blood might be considered as gold standard and should be the primary source of choice. However, in a practical post-competition setting this is not always practical or safe to do so. Arterial sampling of smaller vessels in a sedated animal is, even for the skilled operator, difficult to perform, due to the spasming wall musculature. Attempting this in a conscious aroused state, such as would be the case post cross country or show jumping, would be impracticable. Puncturing larger arterial vessels in a resting animal already results in significant perivascular bleeding and would be ill advised to be performed in an animal with raised intravascular pressure and heart rate as would be the case post intensive exercise. Peripheral capillary blood draw although a theoretically simple option, and one commonly performed in man, has its practical restrictions when it comes to horses. For sufficient blood volumes to be sampled, to gain accurate measurements of several parameters, is near impossible, as only individual capillary tubes can be filled at a time. The sampling site needs to be clipped and prepared to prevent dispersal and loss of blood along sweat soaked hair. Sites used in literature include the mucous membranes of the mouth and pectoral areas, both are either hard to reach, or not deemed safe to use in an aroused horse, which is often the case post competition. In a competition setting it would also be difficult to control bleeding and such sampling methods would almost certainly result in visible blood staining of the coat or mouth. Obtaining blood samples by means of syringe and needle through venepuncture from the jugular vein is a method that horses are most accustomed to, as this is a standard site of intravenous access in the field of equine veterinary medicine. It does not only allow for enough blood (ca. 0.5-1ml) to be collected in a timely manner

but also considers the safety of the horse and of all personnel involved (rider, Permitted Treating Veterinarian, grooms etc.). Although blood parameters of interest, such as lactate, have undergone changes when sampling venous blood. These are negligible or known and can be accounted for.

As can be seen from the arguments above, facilitating, through the inclusion in the FEI Veterinary Regulations, and therefore encouraging, the undertaking of performance diagnostics in equestrian disciplines does not only result in better sports horses with higher welfare standards but also a more transparent sport. Knowledge and experience gained through the monitoring across a sport horses' lifespan, both training and competitions, does not only directly benefit that individual but results in a transfer of knowledge that affects future training of horses and benefits the wider equestrian community as a whole. Also, in light of the current debate on a Social Licence to Operate being open about the monitoring of performance at competitions is therefore not only beneficial for the horses but also the observing public. Undergoing performance diagnostics is therefore an important aspect of maintaining and improving standards of animal welfare in equestrian sports.

Proposed Wording

Article X Performance Diagnostics at FEI Competitions

X.1 Usage of equine wearable devices/electronic tracking devices/data trackers

X.1.1 Automatic recording of data during the test (e.g. heart rate monitoring, velocity, GPS, temperature, biomechanical data, etc.) to be used for performance diagnostic after the completion of the test is to be allowed at the request of the person responsible.

X.1.2 The use of any receiving apparatus by Athletes (e.g. watches, audible feedback etc.) is strictly forbidden while mounted during the test.

X.2 Recording of video material

X.2.1 For use of cameras on athletes or equipment – see General Regulations.

X.2.2 The recording of video material for the purpose of retrospective performance analysis at the request of the person responsible is allowed as long as the field of play is not unduly influenced.

X.2.3 The recording of video and technical data for the purpose of course visualisation is to be allowed at the request of the person responsible or the national federation.

X.2.4 For FEI Named-Events request for use of cameras must be approved by FEI HQ, request for approval for other events must be reviewed by the Technical Delegate in consultation with the organiser.

X.3 Blood testing for performance diagnostics

X.3.1 Blood draw at competitions for the purpose of performance diagnostics is to be allowed to be taken at the request of the person responsible.

X.3.2 Following conditions need to be met:

X.3.2.1 Blood needs to be taken by venepuncture by a FEI Permitted Treating Veterinarian

X.3.2.2 At time point(s) suitable post completion of a test or part thereof.

X.3.2.3 This is to occur behind the scenes and at a location(s) previously agreed upon by the Veterinary and Technical Delegate in consultation with the event organiser.

X.3.2.4 The purpose for blood draw must be easily identifiable by third parties (e.g. clearly marked tabards or clothing).

FEI Feedback

The FEI is not in favour of the suggestion and does not believe it meets the criteria for suggested changes under the Periodical Rules Revision Policy.

FEI Proposed Wording (if applicable)

N/A

B. Rules Proposals put forward by the FEI

Article No.–Article Name

1002 – Vaccinations and Infectious Diseases

Explanation for Proposed Change

Implementation of new technology development(s) relevant to the specific set of Rules.

With respect to the development of the FEI HorseApp, the FEI proposes that equine influenza vaccination details are recorded in the application. An electronic system allows a much faster Examination on Arrival procedure and will be used to generate reminders to PRs that their horse(s) require a vaccination in order to comply with the FEI’s requirements and be permitted entry to the FEI Stables Area.

Proposed Wording

6. Vaccinations administered against Equine Influenza and other equine infectious diseases must be entered in the Horse’s Passport on the correct vaccination page. Equine influenza vaccination details must also be recorded in the FEI HorseApp, as of 1 January 2025 or as of a date to be officially communicated by the FEI.
7. The name and batch number of the vaccine and the date of administration must be recorded in the Passport and in the FEI HorseApp, according to Article 1002.6. These details can be recorded in the Horse’s FEI Recognition Card when the vaccination pages are full in the Horse’s Passport.
8. Vaccination must be administered by a veterinarian who must sign and stamp the Passport against the relevant vaccination entry. And record the details in the FEI HorseApp, according to Article 1002.6.

Article No.–Article Name

Article 1003 – Equine Influenza Vaccination Requirements

Explanation for Proposed Change

New/recently introduced rule(s) that has(ve) proven to be problematic in its implementation.

The FEI would like to propose that the presentation of the article is changed along with a minor change of wording, to provide clarity regarding the new equine influenza vaccination intervals that were effective from 1 January 2024.

Proposed Wording

1. All proprietary Equine Influenza vaccines are accepted by the FEI, provided the route of administration complies with the manufacturer's instructions (i.e. intramuscular injection or intranasal).
2. Any Horse that has received a Primary Course before 1 January 2024 must be vaccinated as follows:
 - a) An initial Primary Course of two vaccinations must be given; the second vaccination must be administered within 21-92 days of the first vaccination.
 - b) The first booster must be administered within 7 calendar months following the date of administration of the second vaccination of the Primary Course.
- ~~2.3. The first booster must be administered within 7 calendar months following the date of administration of the second vaccination of the Primary Course.~~
- ~~3.4.~~ Any Horse receiving a **new** Primary Course ~~after~~ of 1 January 2024 must be vaccinated as follows:
 - V1 (initial vaccination);
 - V2 (second vaccination) must be administered 21-60 days after V1; and
 - V3 (first booster) must be administered within 6 months and 21 days of V2.
5. Subsequent Booster vaccinations must be administered at a maximum of 12 month intervals however Horses competing in Events must have received a booster within 6 months +21 days (and not within 7 days) before arrival at the Event.
6. Horses may compete 7 days after receiving the second vaccination of the primary course.
7. Horses that have received the Primary Course prior to 1 January 2005 are not required to fulfil the requirement for the first booster, providing there has not been an interval of more than 12 months between each of their subsequent annual booster vaccinations.

Article No.–Article Name

Article 1008 – Stables

Explanation for Proposed Change

New/recently introduced rule(s) that has(ve) proven to be problematic in its implementation.

A minor change to the size of stables for Vaulting horses has been proposed to clarify their shape. The FEI proposes a revision of the wording relating to the light requirements in the FEI Stables Area for clarity to support the KER project.

Proposed Wording

1. Stables/ loose boxes must be provided within the Event venue and be at least 3m x 3m. An adequate number of stables must be at least 4m x 3m to accommodate the larger Horses. All Vaulting Horses are to be housed in stables of at least 12m² ~~where one-side-of-the-stable-must-be-at-least-3m-in-length~~ and at least 3m wide. The stables must be of high quality and well-constructed to provide a safe environment for the Horse.

...

7. The FEI Stables Area must adhere to biosecurity requirements as described in Article 1027 and, include the following facilities:

- a) lighting of at least 80 lux when the FEI Stables Area is open and lighting of 250 lux must be available, when necessary.
- b) Where the FEI Stables Area is lit by natural daylight during the hours of darkness it must be possible to provide lighting of 250lux to an individual box is required.

Article No.–Article Name

Article 1018 – Stewards’ Role

Explanation for Proposed Change

Correction of inconsistencies, manifest errors, contradictions, etc

The Stewarding Manual no longer exists and the redundant wording is proposed to be removed.

Proposed Wording

1. Stewards support and safeguard the welfare of the Horses and Athletes. They must prevent any form of illegal practice that may jeopardise Horse welfare and/or disrupt fair play.
2. VR violations witnessed must be immediately reported to the VD and/or GJ through the Chief Steward where possible.
- ~~3. For each Discipline, the Stewarding Manuals and their Annexes set forth the specific stewarding requirements applicable to Events in that Discipline.~~

Article No.–Article Name

Article 1026 – Prevention of Infectious Disease Transmission

Explanation for Proposed Change

Urgent repair

The FEI proposes an additional paragraph to this article to support good biosecurity practices in helping prevent the introduction of infectious diseases to the FEI Stables Area and to maintain the highest levels of equine welfare.

Proposed Wording

The FEI may impose pre-Event quarantine and/or require testing for infectious diseases on Horses:

- a) where there may be an increased risk of an infectious disease being introduced into an Event venue; or
- b) that have been diagnosed with an infectious disease or have been in-contact with horse that has been diagnosed with an infectious disease.

All results relating to infectious diseases testing under these circumstances must be made available to the FEI Veterinary Department on request.

Article No.–Article Name

Article 1029 – Examination on Arrival

Explanation for Proposed Change
Urgent repair and implementation of new technology development(s) relevant to the specific set of Rules

Changes have been suggested to paragraph 3 regarding the veterinarian’s duties in carrying out the Examination on Arrival. Veterinarians must use the HorseApp to verify the horse’s equine influenza vaccination status. Furthermore, the FEI proposes that the horse’s heart should be examined at the Examination on Arrival to ensure there are no abnormalities that may negatively impact the horse during competition.

Proposed Wording

3. During the Examination on Arrival, the veterinarian must:

- a) verify the identity of each Horse from its Passport, using the diagram, description and, when present, the microchip number;
- b) check that the Horse has been vaccinated, against equine influenza in accordance with Article 1003, using either the FEI HorseApp and/or its Passport;
- c) verify whether all details relating to the Horses’ identification, vaccination record and other health requirements are correctly recorded in the Passport;
- d) ensure an FEI Equine Health Self-Certification form has been completed in the FEI HorseApp for each Horse entering the FEI Stables Area and that the Horse’s rectal temperature has been recorded in the FEI HorseApp twice daily for 3 days prior to the Horse’s arrival at the Event. Other methods of evaluating the Horse’s body temperature must be FEI approved;
- e) ensure that the Horses do not have any clinical signs of infectious disease. The Horse’s rectal temperature must be taken and recorded in the FEI HorseApp. Other methods of evaluating the Horse’s body temperature must be FEI approved. The veterinarian should may include a clinical examination to assess the heart^{7.2}. The Horse’s respiratory rate, and the checking of any other clinical parameters may also be carried out;
- f) palpate the limbs and/or body only when there is a concern of a suspected injury or illness sustained during travel; and
- g) register the Horse’s arrival at the Event using the FEI HorseApp.

Article No.–Article Name

Article 1031 – Passport Irregularities

Explanation for Proposed Change
Implementation of new technology development(s) relevant to the specific set of Rules

New technology will be introduced into the online Veterinary Reports allowing the attachment of documentation. This change will ensure enhanced workflows and record keeping.

Proposed Wording

8. The VD must report all Passport irregularities to the FEI via the online Veterinary Report. Copies of the Passport Identification page, the page on which the sanction is written and any additional pages that support the issue of fine which must be ~~sent by email/scan to the FEI Veterinary Department within 72 hours of the conclusion of the Event~~ sent to the Veterinary Department as instructed within the online Veterinary Report. Each copy of the passport pages must contain the Horse's name and FEI ID number.

Article No.–Article Name

Article 1033 – Horse Inspection Timings

Explanation for Proposed Change

Correction of inconsistencies, manifest errors, contradictions, etc

The term 'non-CIM' relating to Endurance events is proposed to be removed from the table to align the wording with the Endurance Rules.

An additional veterinary examination has been added to support the requirement in the Vaulting Rules for Horses to be examined for fitness to continue in the event, following a horse and/or athlete fall.

Proposed Wording

<u>DISCIPLINE</u>	<u>FIRST HORSE INSPECTION</u>	<u>ADDITIONAL</u>
Dressage and Para-Equestrian Dressage	Within 24 hours of the start of the first competition*	<p>Second Horse Inspection: takes place at Championships and Games, within 24 hours of the start of the last competition</p> <p><u>Veterinary Examination:</u> <u>In the event of a fall of the Horse and/or Athlete in Para-Dressage Events, the VD must examine the Horse for fitness to continue in the Event.</u></p>
Driving	Within 24 hours of the start of first competition	<p>In Harness Horse Inspection: prior to the start of section A/Controlled Warm-Up of the marathon.</p> <p>In Harness Examination: between 10-15 minutes after the Athlete has entered the Cool Down area.</p> <p>In Harness inspection before Cones: before the Cones test where it does not take place on the same day as Dressage</p>
Endurance	For CEI1* and CEI2* CIM Events: Within 24 hours before the start of the first loop. For non-CIM	Vet Gate Inspection: at the end of each phase

	CEI2* and CEI3* Events and above, including Championships: no less than 12 hours before and no longer than 24hrs before the start of the first loop	Final Horse Inspection: at the end of the competition.
Eventing (CCI-L)	Within 24 hours of the start of first competition	Veterinary examination: after Cross country Second Horse Inspection: takes place on the same day as the Jumping Test, before the start of the Jumping Test
Eventing (CCI-S)	The First Horse Inspection is optional however where organised, takes place within 24 hours of the first competition	Second Horse Inspection: must take place where the Jumping Test is the last test, on the same day as the Jumping Test, before the start of the Jumping Test.
Jumping	Within 24 hours of the start of first competition	Second Horse Inspection: before the start of the final Competition at FEI World Cup™ Finals, World, Continental Championships and Olympic Games.
Vaulting	Within 24 hours of the start of first competition or official training, whichever is the earliest	None

Article No.–Article Name

Article 1035 – Presentation of Horses

Explanation for Proposed Change

Urgent repair

Two paragraphs are proposed to be added to the article to support equine welfare and harmonise Horse Inspections. The FEI believes that the horse is to be evaluated for fitness to compete at the Horse Inspection, are to be presented in the manner in which they are to compete. A provision has been added to request the removal of hoof boots to allow a more detailed evaluation of the horse, where required. Furthermore, a sanction has been added to Annex VI for non-compliance to the rule.

The FEI proposes a clarification is made to paragraph 9 of the article to prevent on-going confusion regarding the use of ear hoods at Horse Inspections to ensure they are carried out in a harmonised manner.

Proposed Wording

Horses that are competing without shoes (i.e. barefoot) must present at the Horse Inspection without shoes and are not permitted to present wearing hoof (equi) boots.

Horses that are competing wearing hoof boots in Jumping, Eventing (Jumping test), Endurance and Vaulting and must present at the Horse Inspection wearing hoof (equi) boots. Hoof (equi) boots must be removed at the request of the Horse Inspection Panel to allow for evaluation of the Horse's hooves, where required

9. Horses are not permitted to wear bandages or blankets/rugs, ear hoods or equivalent.

Article No.–Article Name

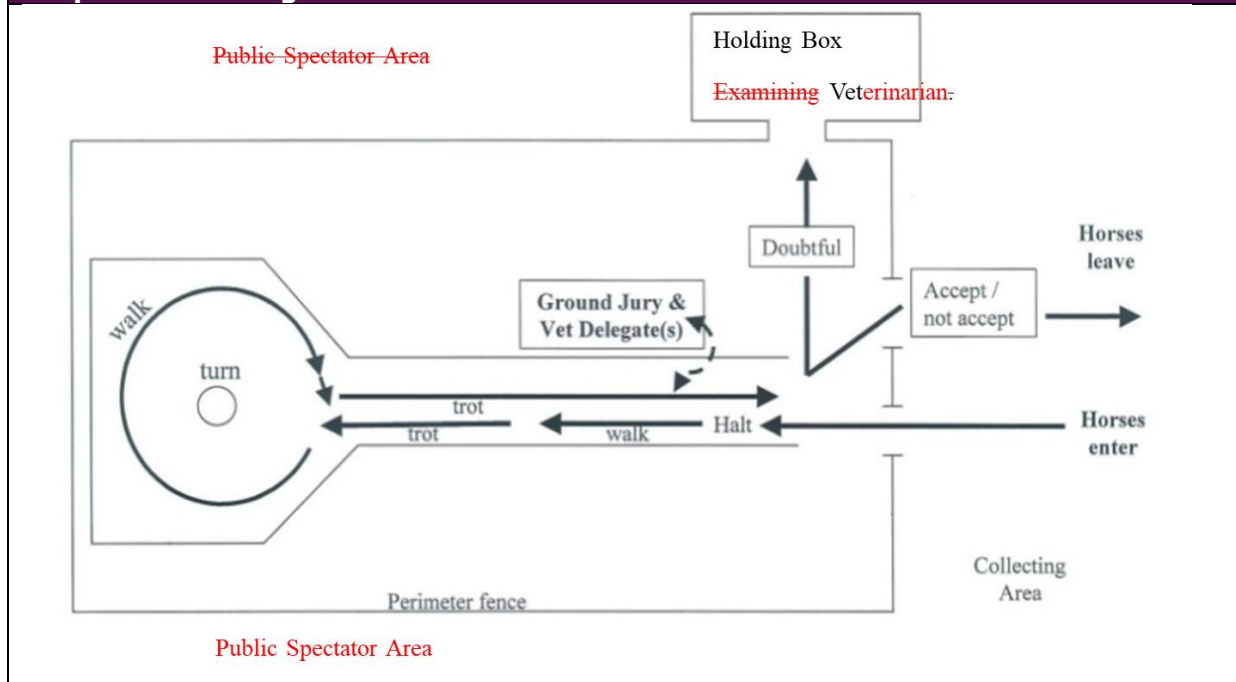
Article 1036 – Horse Inspection Procedure

Explanation for Proposed Change

Correction of inconsistencies, manifest errors, contradictions, etc

The FEI proposes the following corrections to figure 1:
 the term 'Examining Veterinarian' is incorrectly used and should be replaced with the 'Holding Box Veterinarian'.
 the location of the public spectator area is moved to comply with Article 1011.2e)

Proposed Wording



Article No.–Article Name

Article 1045 – Examination of Horses

Explanation for Proposed Change

Urgent repair

Further to the FEI Board's support for the action plan based on the Equine Ethics and Wellbeing Commission's report, changes to the examination of horses are proposed. These changes permit the wider examination of horses beyond specific stated areas of the horse's body.

Proposed Wording

1. Any part of the Horses' ~~leg~~body, boots, bandages and/or other tack may be examined by Stewards and/or OVs at any time during the Period of the Event.
...
5. The Examination should check for:
 - a) any abnormality or sensitivity of the Horse's ~~leg~~body;
 - b) any irregularity in the shape, size or weight of the boots or bandages;
 - c) any irregularity in other tack material;
 - d) the presence of foreign or prohibited materials or substances; and
 - e) the presence of blood on any part of the Horse's ~~body legs, flanks or mouth~~.
6. The Examination involves:
 - a) examination of any part of the Horses' ~~leg~~body, boots and other tack before the boots are applied. This Examination takes place prior to the Horses entering the warm up area where possible;
 - b) examining the Horses' legs after removing all boots, bandages and other items attached to the Horses' legs. This Examination takes place where the Horse exits the arena;
 - c) examination of any part of the Horse's ~~limbs and~~ body;
 - d) the weighing of boots using scales may be carried out;
 - e) the possibility of other tack being subject to inspection; and
 - f) the Steward contacting the Veterinary Delegate, who, in turn, must notify the Ground Jury, should the presence of blood be identified.

Article No.–Article Name

Article 1062 – Non-Restricted Supportive Therapies

Explanation for Proposed Change

Urgent repair

A limit relating to the length of time in which a horse is cooled with ice, is proposed. The limit is to ensure the welfare of the horse in preventing prolonged periods of cooling that can result in hyposensitivity or possible skin damage.

Proposed Wording

6. Cooling with ice and water is not permitted if the temperature is below 0°C. Ice may be applied to Horses for up to 20 minutes, after which a break of at least 40 minutes must be observed.

Article No.–Article Name

1066 - Sampling

Explanation for Proposed Change

Urgent repair

A proposal is made to allow the Measuring and Examining Veterinarians to take EADCM samples in the absence of a Testing Veterinarian. This sampling provision will allow contribute to greater equine welfare controls as well as maintaining a level playing field.

Proposed Wording

4. Sampling is carried out by the appointed Testing Veterinarian, Candidate Testing Veterinarian, ~~or~~ VD, Measuring Veterinarian or Examining Veterinarian in the absence of a Testing Veterinarian, who may be assisted by a Testing Technician(s). The Testing Veterinarian or VD is ultimately held responsible for sampling at FEI Events. Sampling may not be carried out by EVTOs officiating in the VTC at the same Event (meaning the complete meeting/show).

Article No.–Article Name

Article 1067 – Selection of Horses

Explanation for Proposed Change

Urgent repair

A proposal is made to allow the Measuring and Examining Veterinarians to carry out targeted EADCM sampling in the absence of a Testing Veterinarian. This sampling provision will allow contribute to greater equine welfare controls as well as maintaining a level playing field.

Proposed Wording

1. Three methods for the selection of Horses may be used:

a) **Obligatory sampling:**

During Olympic Games and World Equestrian Games/FEI World Championships for Seniors, Horses must be sampled as follows:

- i. in all Final Competitions for Individuals, the first 3 placed Horses; and
- ii. in all Team Competitions, 1 Horse from each of the first 3 placed Teams.

b) **Targeted sampling:**

When a specific reason or circumstances warrants that a particular Horse be selected for sampling. Horses are to be selected for target testing by the Veterinary Department, VC/VD and/or Testing Veterinarian/Examining Veterinarians in cooperation with the GJ or Measuring Veterinarian(s). The reason for sampling the Horse must be listed in the online Veterinary Report, ~~or~~ Testing Veterinarians Report, Examining Veterinarians Report or Measuring Veterinarians Report. Targeted sampling must take place in the event of a rider fatality.

c) **Random and/or results-based sampling:**

Horses may be randomly selected for sampling at any time, as agreed by the GJ, VC/VD and Testing Veterinarian in accordance with the FEI Testing Manual. Horses may also be selected based on their placings, as agreed by the GJ, VC/VD and Testing Veterinarian in accordance with the FEI Testing Manual.

Article No.–Article Name

Article 1075 – Injury and Disease Surveillance

Explanation for Proposed Change

Urgent Repairs

An additional paragraph is proposed to be included in Article 1075 regarding where, at FEI events, blood sampling can be carried out. The inclusion has been made to ensure blood sampling is not carried out in unsuitable places e.g. Field of Play which may compromise the welfare of the horse and public acceptance of sport.

Proposed Wording

Blood samples taken from Horses to support clinical diagnoses/routine health checks/export testing must be carried out in the Horse's own Box. The VC/VD may permit blood samples to be taken elsewhere on the venue in exceptional circumstances to avoid the Horse's welfare being compromised.

Article No.–Article Name

Article 1081 – Pony Measuring at FEI Measuring Sessions

Explanation for Proposed Change

Urgent repair and new/recently introduced rule(s) that has(ve) proven to be problematic in its implementation.

Changes are proposed to the following paragraphs:

Paragraphs 1 and 3: Additions to the paragraphs have been made to ensure NFs are aware of ponies, under the registration of their Federation, being measured.

Paragraph 9: A proposal is made to allow the Measuring Veterinarians to carry out targeted EADCM sampling in the absence of a Testing Veterinarian. This sampling provision will allow contribute to greater equine welfare controls as well as ensuring the measurement is valid.

Paragraph 10: An addition has been made to clarify that horses presented at Measuring Sessions should be in a condition in which they are fit to compete.

Paragraph 12: A clarification has been made to differentiate between the NF hosting the Measuring Session and the NF under which the Pony is registered.

Further changes may be made to this article with respect to the proposed changes to the EADCMRs.

Proposed Wording

1. Pony Measuring is administered by the FEI Veterinary Department which determines and maintains a calendar of FEI Measuring Sessions in conjunction with NFs, appoints the Measuring Veterinarians and provides FEI approved Measuring Equipment. Ponies are administered by the NF under which they are registered (the Pony's NF).

...

3. Pony Measuring Sessions are announced via a measuring calendar published on the FEI website. The Pony's NF is responsible for registering the Pony at the selected Measuring Session.

...

9. An FEI Testing Veterinarian may be appointed to take EADCM samples. In the absence of the Testing Veterinarian, EADCM samples may be taken by the appointed Measuring Veterinarian(s).
10. Horses attending Pony Measurements are subject to testing under the EADCM Regulations. For the purpose of the application of the EADCM Regulations to a Horse attending a Pony Measurement, a Horse shall be considered as being "In-Competition" from the time of its arrival at the Pony Measurement Station until its departure from the Pony Measurement Station following completion of the Pony Measurement process (including all related paperwork) and EADCM testing (where applicable) (the "Pony Measurement Period"). The pony must therefore be fit to compete and vaccinated in accordance with Article 1003. In addition to the consequences foreseen for violation of the EAD Rules and/or the ECM Rules under the EADCM Regulations, a violation of the EAD Rules and/or ECM Rules in connection with a test taken at a Pony Measurement may, at the discretion of the FEI, lead to the invalidation of the results of the relevant Pony Measurement.
- ...
12. The Pony's NFs must ensure that any Ponies having Measured Out at an FEI Measuring Sessions are not entered in any FEI Pony Events.

Article No.–Article Name

1083 – Pony Measuring Procedure

Explanation for Proposed Change

New/recently introduced rule(s) that has(ve) proven to be problematic in its implementation.

Changes are proposed to paragraphs 8, 9, 10 and 13 of the article.

Paragraph 8: The revised wording allowing ponies under 108cm to receive an Interim Measuring Certificate would prevent them from entering driving competitions where the minimum height was 108cm.

Paragraphs 9 and 13: A clarification has been made to differentiate between the NF hosting the Measuring Session and the NF under which the Pony is registered.

Paragraph 10: This change is proposed to simplify the re-measuring criteria and process, which is currently cumbersome and complicated to monitor both from an FEI and an NF perspective.

Proposed Wording

8. If a Pony measures in without shoes and its height does not exceed 140cm (or with shoes and its height does not exceed 141cm) and it is between 6 and 8 years, it will receive an FEI Lifetime Measuring Certificate. If a Pony measures less than 108cm and is between 6 and 8 years, it will receive an FEI Interim Measuring Certificate.
9. The Pony's NFs must ensure that the pony is not entered in an FEI pony Competition once the FEI Interim Measuring Certificate has expired.
10. If a Pony measures out the Pony's NF is notified and it is blocked from entering in any FEI Pony Competition; and registered as a horse if required. It can be re-measured once the same year at another Measuring Session, and once a year in the two following consecutive years. In in total it may be measured 34 times in 3 consecutive years.
- ...

13. The FEI Veterinary Department will notify the respective NF of any Ponies having Measured Out. It is the responsibility of the Pony's NF to ensure that Ponies having Measured Out are not entered in any future FEI Pony Events until they have obtained an FEI Interim or Lifetime Measuring Certificate.

Article No.–Article Name

1084 – Refusal to Measure

Explanation for Proposed Change

Urgent repair

An additional point is proposed to paragraph 2 with respect to equine welfare. The change has been made to prevent ponies' feet from being excessively pared and to prevent the use of very thin shoes.

Changes to paragraph 3 have been made to correspond with proposed changes to Article 1083, paragraph 10. Furthermore, the FEI requests NFs to ensure ponies are fit to compete before presenting at subsequent Measuring Sessions to safeguard their welfare and avoid a further refusal to measure.

Proposed Wording

2. The Measuring Veterinarians must refuse to measure a Pony in the event of any of the following:
 - a) there is doubt or evidence that the Pony's withers, or any part in that anatomical region, may have been interfered with so as to artificially lower the Pony's height and there is no possibility to take radiographs on site during the measuring session; or
 - b) the Pony is sweating or breathing abnormally due to too intense exercise; or
 - c) the Pony has sore feet; or
 - d) the Pony is lame; or
 - e) the Pony is in poor condition; or
 - f) the Pony shows signs of being sedated, in such cases the pony should always be sampled for EADCM-; or
 - g) the Pony is shod with shoes that are unsuitable for Competition.

3. In the event of the Measuring Veterinarians refusing to measure a Pony, the Pony's NF is notified specifying the reason for refusal to measure and it is blocked from entering in any FEI Pony Competition; and registered as a horse if required. The Pony's NF must ensure that the Pony is fit to compete in order to re-present at another Measuring Session. It can be re-measured once the same year at another Measuring Session, and once a year in the two following consecutive years. In in total it may be measured 3 4 times in 3 consecutive years.

Article No.–Article Name

1089 – Equine Fatalities

Explanation for Proposed Change

Urgent repair

Further to the FEI's work in increasing welfare standards and that of the Equine Ethics and Wellbeing Commission, the FEI proposes that the post mortem reports from FEI horses that died or were euthanased from injury or disease following participation in national events, are shared with the FEI. The pooling of information will contribute to the better understanding of the causes of accidents, injuries and disease, potentially allowing further safety measure to be applied to events.

Proposed Wording

NFs should share the any post mortem reports from any fatal injury or illness sustained by Horses arising from participation in national events.

Article No.–Article Name

1110 – Members or Presidents of the Endurance Veterinary Commission

Explanation for Proposed Change

Urgent repair

An additional paragraph is proposed to this article to support equine welfare.

Proposed Wording

The President and all other Members of the Endurance Veterinary Commission must attend the pre-ride Veterinary Briefing

Article No.–Article Name

1111 - Members or Presidents of the Endurance Veterinary Treating Commission

Explanation for Proposed Change

Urgent repair

An additional paragraph is proposed to this article to support equine welfare.

Proposed Wording

The President and all other Members of the Endurance Veterinary Treating Commission should attend the pre-ride Veterinary Briefing

Article No.–Article Name

Annex VI – Sanctions in case of FEI Veterinary Regulation Violations

Explanation for Proposed Change

Correction of inconsistencies, manifest errors, contradictions, etc

The FEI proposes that:

A sanction is added to support the use of the FEI HorseApp in recording equine influenza vaccination details. The sanction will not be implemented until 1 January 2026 to allow for an adjustment period and advisory emails will be sent in the interim.

A sanction is added to support the requirement of wearing or removing hoof boots at Horse Inspections

Sanction 35 is removed from the rules since it relates to ponies having been measured at Events, which now no longer takes place.

All subsequent sanction numbers in the rules will therefore be renumbered as required.

Proposed Wording

<u>21</u>	<u>1002</u>	<u>Failure to record equine influenza vaccination details in the FEI HorseApp (Applicable as of 1 January 2026)</u>	<u>CHF100 each time the Horse is presented</u>
<u>XX</u>	<u>1035</u>	<u>Failure to comply with the Horse Inspection presentation requirements regarding the wearing of hoof boots.</u>	<u>Horse not accepted to compete</u>
<u>35</u>	<u>1082</u>	<u>Any Pony receiving Farriery outside of the Designated Shoeing Area and/ or without the necessary prior authorisation from the GJ and VD</u>	<u>Disqualification</u>

Article No.–Article Name

Annex VII – Sanctions applied to Officiating Veterinarians in case of FEI Veterinary Regulation Violations

Explanation for Proposed Change

Urgent Repair

The FEI proposes that a sanction is added to support the proposed changes to Articles 1110 and 1111.

All sanction numbers in the rules will therefore be renumbered as required.

Proposed Wording

<u>60</u>	<u>1110 & 1111</u>	<u>Failure to attend pre-ride Veterinary Briefing in the absence of valid cause</u>	<u>Warning, Removal from the FEI Veterinarians' List or Suspension for up to a period of 1 year depending on the circumstances</u>
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Article No.–Article Name

Annex IX – FEI Veterinarians Required for FEI Events

Explanation for Proposed Change
Correction of inconsistencies, manifest errors, contradictions, etc

The deletion Regional Championships has been made to correct an inconsistency within the rules. It is to be clarified that a Veterinary Commission is required at Regional Championships for the disciplines of Jumping, Dressage, Eventing, Driving, Para-Driving and Vaulting. A correction is proposed to align the terminology relating to CEI2* Endurance events with the Endurance Rules.

Proposed Wording

Disciplines: Jumping, Dressage & Para-Dressage, Eventing, Driving & Para-Driving, Vaulting

FEI Events	FEI Veterinarians	Minimum Level	Number	Appointment
CIMs (See Appendix E of the FEI General Regulations)	Veterinary Delegate	Level 2 OV	1	OC, subject to FEI approval
	Additional Veterinary Delegates	Level 2 OV	(See Note 1)	OC, subject to FEI approval
	Veterinary Services Manager	Level 1 OV	1	OC, subject to FEI approval
CIs Children’s Classics Challenge Finals Regional Championships	Veterinary Delegate	Level 3 OV*	1 (See Note 2)	OC, subject to FEI approval
	Additional Veterinary Delegates	Level 2 OV	(See Note 1)	OC, subject to FEI approval
	Veterinary Services Manager	Level 1 OV	1	OC, subject to FEI approval
CIOs (See note 3)	Foreign Veterinary Delegate	Level 3 OV	1	OC, subject to FEI approval
	President of Veterinary Commission	Level 3 OV	1	OC, subject to FEI approval

	Member of Veterinary Commission	Level 3 OV	Minimum 1	OC subject to FEI approval
	Veterinary Services Manager	Level 1 OV	1	OC, subject to FEI approval
Young Horse Championships Non-senior World Championships Non-senior Continental Championships and Games Non-senior Regional Games/Championships	Foreign Veterinary Delegate	Level 3 OV	1	FEI Headquarters
	President of Veterinary Commission	Level 3 OV	1	OC, subject to FEI approval
	Member of Veterinary Commission	Level 3 OV	Minimum 1	OC, subject to FEI approval
	Veterinary Services Manager	Level 1 OV	1	OC, subject to FEI approval
FEI Jumping Nations Cup Final FEI World Cup™ Finals Senior Continental Championships Senior Continental Games Senior Regional Games/Championships	Foreign Veterinary Delegate	Level 4 OV**	1	FEI Headquarters
	President of Veterinary Commission	Level 3 OV	1	OC, subject to FEI approval
	Member of Veterinary Commission	Level 3 OV	Minimum 1	OC, subject to FEI approval
	Veterinary Services Manager	Level 1 OV	1	OC, subject to FEI approval

Discipline: Endurance				
FEI Events	FEI Veterinarians	Minimum Level	Number	Appointment
CEI1*, CEI2* CIM & Regional Championships (see notes 5, 6 & 7)	President Veterinary Commission	Level 3 EOVS	1	OC, subject to FEI approval
	Members Veterinary Commission	Level 2 EOVS	2 up to 39 entries + 1 per 20 additional entries	OC, subject to FEI approval
	President Treating Veterinary Commission	Level 3 EVTO	1	OC, subject to FEI approval

	Members Treating Veterinary Commission	PTV	1 per 50 additional entries	OC, subject to FEI approval
	Veterinary Services Manager	Level 2 EVTO	1	OC, subject to FEI approval
Non-CIM CEI2* (see notes 5, 6 & 7)	Foreign Veterinary Delegate	Level 3 EOVS	1	FEI Headquarters
	President Veterinary Commission	Level 3 EOVS	1	FEI Headquarters
	Members Veterinary Commission	Level 2 EOVS	1 up to 39 entries + 1 per 20 additional entries ¹	OC, subject to FEI approval
	President Veterinary Treating Commission	Level 3 EVTO	1	FEI Headquarters
	Members Veterinary Treating Commission	PTV	1 up to 59 entries + 1 per 30 additional entries	OC, subject to FEI approval
	Veterinary Services Manager	Level 2 EVTO	1	OC, subject to FEI approval

Article No.–Article Name

Annex XI – Glossary

Explanation for Proposed Change

Correction of inconsistencies, manifest errors, contradictions, etc and New/recently introduced rule(s) that has(ve) proven to be problematic in its implementation

A correction is proposed to be made to the number of the annex. An addition to the glossary is proposed to define the meaning of an infusion. Changes have been made to the definitions of 'Measuring Area', Measuring In, and Measuring Out' since measuring no longer takes place at events. The definition of a 'Second Measurement' is to be removed since it is redundant wording relating to the measuring of ponies at events.

Proposed Wording
ANNEX XI I GLOSSARY
Infusion

Intravenous administration of more than 100ml of a substance.

Measuring Area

The area provided for the Measuring Veterinarians to perform *Pony Measurements* during *FEI Events Pony Measuring Sessions*.

Measuring In

During a *Pony Measurement* at ~~an Event~~ a *Pony Measuring Session* a Pony will be accepted to compete only if the Pony measures within the height for a Pony, this is termed *Measuring In*.

Measuring Out

During a *Pony Measurement* at ~~an Event~~ a *Pony Measuring Session* a Pony will not be accepted to compete if the Pony does not measure within the height defined for a Pony, this is termed *Measuring Out*, and the Pony must then undergo the procedure set out in Annex IX if it is to compete again at FEI Pony Competitions.

~~Second Measurement~~

~~This refers to *Pony Measuring*, following an *Initial Measurement* where the Pony did not Measure In a Pony may present for measurement again within one hour of the *Initial Measurement*.~~