

**PROPOSALS FOR RULES CHANGES OF
INTERNAL REGULATIONS OF THE FEI 2023**

24 October 2023

Dear National Federations,

Please find below a summary of the proposed changes to the Internal Regulations of the FEI together with the corresponding explanations, the comments received as well as the reasoning for accepting or not accepting each proposal.

In the following document you will find 1 section as follows:

- A.** [Proposed Rules changes to be voted at the FEI General Assembly 2023.](#)

Sincerely,



Francisco P. Lima,

Director Governance & Institutional Affairs

A. PROPOSED RULES CHANGES TO BE VOTED AT THE FEI GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2023

Proposal from (National Federation, Stakeholder or FEI)
EEF, AUT NF, GBR NF, GER NF, ITA NF and SWE NF
Article Number – Article Name
6.5.2 – Discipline Committees
Explanation for Proposed Change
<p>In order to recognise the importance of youth for our sport, we propose to add a mandatory youth expert to each FEI Discipline Committee. Such expert, regardless of age, shall be an experienced person who is particularly involved in the sport at youth level.</p> <p>This follows the wish expressed by Chefs d'Equipe of EEF nations and underlined in a meeting during the Jumping Nations Cup Youth Final 2022, Kronenberg (NED) 20-25 September 2022, and a subsequent discussion in the EEF Group Meeting at the 2022 FEI General Assembly.</p> <p>Following a recommendation of the FEI Strategic Planning Committee back in 2006, the Pony Riders' and Children Riders' Committees were dissolved in 2008 in a step to create a Youth Committee, which in the end has never been installed. But young people are not a static target audience. Therefore, we are not in favour of taking up again the idea of an extra Youth Committee. Instead, we are of the opinion that having a person in each of the disciplines' Committees who is aware of and speaks up for the specific needs of youth athletes is the best way forward.</p> <p>Our goals are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To attract young people to equestrian sport and maintain their interest so that they don't quit - they are our future; - To ensure equestrian sport stays relevant within a highly competitive youth market; - To accommodate the need for greater interaction with those involved in the sport at youth level; - To ensure that someone looks after all youth related activities in the respective discipline; - To take care of the needs of the younger Athletes to optimize their potential; - To increase the possibility of youth Athletes making the transition to senior level. <p>Proposed wording:</p> <p><i>"Each Discipline Committee shall be composed of the Chair and five (5) other members with proven knowledge and experience (such as but not limited to Officials, Athletes, Organisers, Chefs d'Equipe, trainers, owners, grooms, <u>youth Athletes</u>) in the relevant Discipline. <u>A youth representative and An Athlete representative</u> must be a member of each Discipline Committee, although <u>neither</u> the Athlete <u>or youth</u> representative may not serve as Chair or Deputy Chair during their term in this capacity."</i></p>
Proposed Wording on 28 June 2023
None.
<p>The FEI Board discussed this proposal at its in-person meeting on 6-7 June 2023. The FEI Board acknowledged the significant relevance of youth, which represent the future of the equestrian sport, as well as the need to keep on working around a range of youth initiatives. However, the FEI Board agreed that populating a specific seat in the Discipline Committees</p>

by a youth representative was not the best way of tackling this topic and many questions were raised by this proposal, e.g. what is the definition of a youth representative?

Instead, the FEI Board is of the opinion that youth related topics can be efficiently covered through current Article 6.7 of the Internal Regulations which established that *“Youth shall be the competence of Discipline Committees and each Discipline Committee shall have Youth as a mandatory Agenda item for each meeting”*.

The FEI Board requested the Technical Committees to apply Article 6.7 consistently.

Comments Received by 16 August 2023

- GBR NF:

Inclusion of a Youth representative on the Discipline Technical Committee. We do not believe that the FEI Board feedback goes far enough in this area.

“Instead, the FEI Board is of the opinion that youth related topics can be efficiently covered through current Article 6.7 of the Internal Regulations which established that *“Youth shall be the competence of Discipline Committees and each Discipline Committee shall have Youth as a mandatory Agenda item for each meeting”*. The FEI Board requested the Technical Committees to apply Article 6.7 consistently. In addition, a reference to Youth could be included in the Job Descriptions for Technical Committee members to also cover this subject”.

We would like it noted that we believe that it is not necessarily a pre-requisite to be a youth athlete to have a full and comprehensive understanding of the Youth Groups. This could be someone who works specifically within this area in a different capacity, whether as a coach, chef d'équipe, or performance manager. This would broaden the pool of potential candidates, with the appropriate knowledge and experience for Committee membership.

PROPOSED WORDING:

“The Discipline Technical Committee shall strive to have at least one representative from the Youth Group Community”.

NED NF:

Although we understand the FEI feedback on this proposal, we do believe that only putting Youth as mandatory agenda item is not sufficient. We propose that one of the committee members should have youth topics in their portfolio and therefore is responsible for always keeping it at the forefront.

NO PROPOSED WORDING

GER NF:

In order to improve the handling of undisputedly important matters and meet the challenges the equestrian sport is faced with, the FEI needs to show a greater openness to make changes in the Federation's system. Addressing youth matters in a meeting can hardly be an equivalent to creating a position in every Discipline Committee that has its sole focus on the matters of the youth at all times, i.e. also during the time between the meetings, and concentrates its work on these matters. One of the core tasks in this position will be to fight for the interests of young equestrians and maybe even enter into disputes with other members of the Committees, where these interests conflict with the interests of other target groups that those members have their focus on.

The proposal by the FEI to include youth matters in the job description of existing Technical Committee members is very vague.

Of course the creation of a new position will raise questions. These questions need to be addressed and solved. The system proposed by the EEF and several NFs works perfectly fine on a national level. We are therefore confident that all questions arising from this matter can in fact be answered. The mere fact that not all questions have been fully answered is no convincing reason to just stick to the current system.

ITA NF:

In order to improve the handling of undisputedly important matters and meet the challenges the equestrian sport is faced with, the FEI needs to show a greater openness to make changes in the Federation's system. Addressing youth matters in a meeting can hardly be an equivalent to creating a position in every Discipline Committee that has its sole focus on the matters of the youth at all times, i.e. also during the time between the meetings, and concentrates its work on these matters. One of the core tasks in this position will be to fight for the interests of young equestrians and maybe even enter into disputes with other members of the Committees, where these interests conflict with the interests of other target groups that those members have their focus on.

The proposal by the FEI to include youth matters in the job description of existing Technical Committee members is very vague.

It is natural that the creation of a new position will raise questions. These questions need to be addressed and solved. The system proposed by the EEF and several NFs works perfectly fine on a national level. We are therefore confident that all questions arising from this matter can in fact be answered. The mere fact that not all questions have been fully answered is not a convincing reason to just stick to the current system.

SWE NF:

In order to improve the handling of undisputedly important matters and meet the challenges the equestrian sport is faced with, the FEI needs to show a greater openness to make changes in the Federation's system. Addressing youth matters in a meeting can hardly be an equivalent to creating a position in every Discipline Committee that has its sole focus on the matters of the youth at all times, i.e. also during the time between the meetings, and concentrates its work on these matters. One of the core tasks in this position will be to fight for the interests of young equestrians and maybe even enter into disputes with other members of the Committees, where these interests conflict with the interests of other target groups that those members have their focus on.

The proposal by the FEI to include youth matters in the job description of existing Technical Committee members is very vague.

Of course the creation of a new position will raise questions. These questions need to be addressed and solved. The system proposed by the EEF and several NFs works perfectly fine on a national level. We are therefore confident that all questions arising from this matter can in fact be answered. The mere fact that not all questions have been fully answered is no convincing reason to just stick to the current system.

PROPOSED WORDING by GER, ITA & SWE:

"Each Discipline Committee shall be composed of the Chair and five (5) other members with proven knowledge and experience (such as but not limited to Officials, Athletes, Organisers, Chefs d'Equipe, trainers, owners, grooms, **youth Athletes**) in the relevant

Discipline. **A youth representative and An Athlete representative must be a member of each Discipline Committee, although neither the Athlete nor the youth representative may not serve as Chair or Deputy Chair during their term in this capacity.**"

FEI Feedback

The FEI reiterates its commitment towards the promotion and encouragement of youth as a key stakeholder; equally important as other stakeholders.

It is necessary however to find the most effective way of handling youth matters by Technical Committees within the FEI Governance framework.

After having carefully considered National Federation's feedback, the FEI Board agreed to include a reference to "youth" in this Article as proposed below; in addition to the existing reference to "Youth" in the Internal Regulations of the FEI.

Proposed Final Wording to be Voted at the FEI General Assembly 2023

"Each Discipline Committee shall be composed of the Chair and five (5) other members with proven knowledge and experience (such as but not limited to Officials, Athletes, Organisers, Chefs d'Equipe, trainers, owners, grooms, a member with knowledge of youth matters) in the relevant Discipline. An Athlete representative must be a member of each Discipline Committee, although the Athlete representative may not serve as Chair or Deputy Chair during their term in this capacity."

Proposal from (National Federation, Stakeholder or FEI)

FEI

Article Number – Article Name

4.3.1 – Role of the Group Chairs

Explanation for Proposed Change

Clarify that Deputy Chairs can serve a maximum of three (3) full Terms, similar to the term of Regional Group Chairs.

Proposed Wording on 28 June 2023

"To nominate a Deputy Chair from among the National Federations of the Regional Group for election by the General Assembly, with whom they shall work closely and cooperate in furtherance of the tasks and responsibilities above. The Deputy Chair shall not be from the same National Federation as the Chair, and shall attend Board meetings with a vote solely in the event of unavoidable absence of the Group Chair. Deputy Chairs can serve a maximum of three (3) full Terms before a compulsory break of at least four (4) years. ~~The Term of the Deputy Chair shall match the Term of the Chair.~~"

Comments Received by 16 August 2023

GER NF:

Art. number needs to be corrected. The correct number is 4.3.14.

FEI Feedback

Thanks.

Proposed Final Wording to be Voted at the FEI General Assembly 2023

"To nominate a Deputy Chair from among the National Federations of the Regional Group for election by the General Assembly, with whom they shall work closely and cooperate in furtherance of the tasks and responsibilities above. The Deputy Chair shall not be from the same National Federation as the Chair, and shall attend Board meetings with a vote solely in the event of unavoidable absence of the Group Chair. Deputy Chairs can serve a maximum of three (3) full Terms before a compulsory break of at least four (4) years. ~~The Term of the Deputy Chair shall match the Term of the Chair.~~"

Proposal from (National Federation, Stakeholder or FEI)

FEI

Article Number – Article Name

5.2 – Internal Organisation of Headquarters

Explanation for Proposed Change

Clarify that relevant FEI Directors must convene and attend the Standing Committee meetings.

Proposed Wording on 28 June 2023

"FEI Directors (or their department representatives) must convene and attend all Standing Committee meetings."

Comments Received by 16 August 2023
GER NF:

Is it the real purpose of the provision to make FEI Directors attend the meetings or is the provision designed to keep Committees from meeting without the participation of FEI Directors or proxies. If so, please rephrase the wording, i.e. "Committee Meetings must not be conducted without the attendance of the competent FEI Directors (or their department representatives)."

PROPOSED WORDING:

Committee Meetings must not be conducted without the attendance of the competent FEI Directors (or their department representatives).

FEI Feedback

The purpose is that Directors must convene and attend all Standing Committee meetings.

Proposed Final Wording to be Voted at the FEI General Assembly 2023

"FEI Directors (or their department representatives) must convene and attend all Standing Committee meetings."

Proposal from (National Federation, Stakeholder or FEI)

FEI

Article Number – Article Name

Chapter 6 – Committees and Advisory Bodies

Explanation for Proposed Change

Remove "Advisory Bodies" from the title as it is not applicable anymore following the removal of Article 6.2 "Strategic Advisor".

Proposed Wording on 28 June 2023

Chapter 6 – Committees ~~and Advisory Bodies~~.

Comments Received by 16 August 2023

None.

FEI Feedback

This proposal is therefore maintained.

Proposed Final Wording to be Voted at the FEI General Assembly 2023

Chapter 6 – Committees ~~and Advisory Bodies~~.

Proposal from (National Federation, Stakeholder or FEI)

FEI

Article Number – Article Name

6.5.3 – Discipline Committees

Explanation for Proposed Change

To be removed as it is not applicable anymore. Nowadays all Disciplines Committee Chairs are Board Members.

Proposed Wording on 28 June 2023

~~"Chairs of the Discipline Committees who are not Board members may attend the Board meetings held in conjunction with the ordinary annual General Assembly"~~

Comments Received by 16 August 2023

None.

FEI Feedback

This proposal is therefore maintained.

Proposed Final Wording to be Voted at the FEI General Assembly 2023

~~"Chairs of the Discipline Committees who are not Board members may attend the Board meetings held in conjunction with the ordinary annual General Assembly"~~

Proposal from (National Federation, Stakeholder or FEI)

FEI

Article Number – Article Name

6.8.2 – Medical Committee

Explanation for Proposed Change

To align the composition of the Medical Committee with the other Technical Committees.

Proposed Wording on 28 June 2023

"The Medical Committee shall be composed of the Chair and ~~three five (35)~~ other members. Three (3) members, including the Chair, shall be medical doctors with significant experience in sports medicine, and preferably Equestrian Sport. The Medical Committee shall strive to have one (1) representative from the Athlete's community. The three (3) medical doctors shall constitute the TUE Panel."

Comments Received by 16 August 2023

None.

FEI Feedback

This proposal is therefore maintained.

Proposed Final Wording to be Voted at the FEI General Assembly 2023

"The Medical Committee shall be composed of the Chair and ~~three five (35)~~ other members. Three (3) members, including the Chair, shall be medical doctors with significant experience in sports medicine, and preferably Equestrian Sport. The Medical Committee shall strive to have one (1) representative from the Athlete's community. The three (3) medical doctors shall constitute the TUE Panel."