

**PROPOSALS FOR RULES CHANGES OF
GENERAL REGULATIONS 2023**

24 October 2023

Dear National Federations,

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

Please note that pending the approval of the proposed changes to the General Regulations and multi-disciplinary items by the FEI General Assembly, certain articles in the Sport Rules will be updated accordingly.

In the following document you will find 3 sections as follows:

- A. [Proposed Rules changes to be voted at the FEI General Assembly 2023;](#)
- B. [Multi-Disciplinary Items](#)
- C. [Proposed Rules changes that have been rejected or deferred to a future Rules revision.](#)

Sincerely,



Mikael Rentsch,
Legal Director

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

Proposal from (National Federation, Stakeholder or FEI)		
FEI		
Article Number – Article Name		
New Appendix – Key Event Requirements (KERs) and Art. 112 (Official Calendar)		
Explanation for Proposed Change		
<p>The FEI suggests to add the new Key Event Requirements as an Appendix to the GRs. In addition, the consequences of non-compliance to one or more KERs, such as the authority for the FEI Secretary General to cancel an Event or to remove a Competitions/Event from the FEI Calendar has been added.</p>		
Proposed Wording on 28 June 2023		
<p>Article 112.3 The Secretary General will consult with the NF, and shall have the authority to remove any Competition and/or Event from the Calendar and/or to not accept any Competition and/or an Event in the Calendar if justified circumstances relating to a Competition or the Event are established. See also Appendix K –Calendar Application Procedure and Consequences of Cancellations of Jumping Events, <u>and Appendix L – Key Event Requirements (KERs).</u></p>		
<p><u>Appendix L –Key Event Requirements (KERs) System</u></p>		
<p><u>There are 14 KERs as outlined below that shall be complied with by the relevant Organiser. KERs 1-10 are related to Horse welfare and Horse and human safety, and are covered under FEI Veterinary Regulations. Medical services (KER 11) is covered by FEI General Regulations, while Field of Play, Training/Schooling, and Footing (KERs 12-14) are covered under relevant FEI Discipline Rules.</u></p>		
	<u>KERs</u>	<u>FEI Regulation(s) reference(s)</u>
<u>1</u>	<u>Event biosecurity</u>	<u>FEI Veterinary Regulations (VR) Art. 1027</u>
<u>2</u>	<u>Veterinary services & facilities</u>	<u>FEI VR Art. 1007.2</u>
<u>3</u>	<u>Stable cleanliness and disinfection</u>	<u>FEI VR Art. 1008.5</u>
<u>4</u>	<u>Stable security & access control</u>	<u>FEI VR Art. 1008.13 and 1008.16</u>
<u>5</u>	<u>Stable size</u>	<u>FEI VR Art. 1008.1</u>
<u>6</u>	<u>Stable ventilation</u>	<u>FEI VR Art. 1008.6 b)</u>
<u>7</u>	<u>Drinking water for horses in Stables</u>	<u>FEI VR Art. 1008.6 d)</u>
<u>8</u>	<u>Fire precautions & safety procedures in Stables</u>	<u>FEI VR Art. 1008.6 e)</u>
<u>9</u>	<u>Stable area circulation</u>	<u>FEI VR Art. 1008.6 g)</u>
<u>10</u>	<u>Horse inspection</u>	<u>FEI VR Art. 1011.2</u>
<u>11</u>	<u>Medical services</u>	<u>FEI General Regulations Art. 109.10.1 and 109.10.3</u>
<u>12</u>	<u>Field of Play</u>	<u>FEI Jumping Rules Art. 201.2 FEI Dressage Rules Art. 411.3</u>

		FEI Para Dressage Rules Art. 8407.2 FEI Eventing Rules Art. 550, 542, Annex B.2 FEI Endurance Rules Art. 813.1, 814.4.2, 814.4.4 FEI Driving and Para Rules Art. 950, 960.2, 960.7, 972.1.2, Annex 1 FEI Vaulting Rules Art. 715.1, 715.5, 715.7
13	Adequate availability to training/schooling	FEI Jumping Rules Art. 201.3 FEI Dressage Rules Art. 418.2 FEI Para Dressage Rules Art. 8415.2 FEI Eventing Rules Art. 535.3, 535.4 FEI Endurance Rules Art. TBD FEI Driving and Para Rules Art. 960.1.6, 960.1.17 FEI Vaulting Rules Art. 715.2
14	Footing	FEI Jumping Rules Annex VI FEI Dressage Rules Art. 411.9 FEI Para Dressage Rules Art. 8407.8 FEI Eventing Rules Annex E FEI Endurance Rules Art. 818.3 FEI Driving and Para Rules Art. TBD FEI Vaulting Rules Art. 715.1

Monitoring

The FEI will monitor the KERs using the [FEI Official\(s\) Reports](#) and any other means as [deemed appropriate and necessary](#).

Follow-up and Non-Compliance

The FEI will monitor compliance with the KERs and do the follow-up as necessary and appropriate based on the KERs Follow Up Protocol as established by the FEI and published on FEI website. In case of non-compliance, the FEI may take measures, including but not limited to removing any Competition and/or Event from the Calendar and/or not accept any Competition and/or an Event in the Calendar in accordance with [Article 112 of the GRs](#).

Comments Received by 16 August 2023

GER NF: Wording of the follow-up clause needs to be corrected: "accepting".

FEI Feedback

Noted and the wording will be amended accordingly.

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

As per the above with the correction ("accepting" instead of "accept").

Proposal from (National Federation, Stakeholder or FEI)
FEI
Article Number – Article Name
Article 109 - Organisation of Events
Explanation for Proposed Change
<p>Medical Coverage (art. 109.10)</p> <p>Given the Key Event Requirements (KERs) and the updated medical coverage document, it is proposed to remove the reference to “guidelines” so that the requirements are mandatory.</p>
Proposed Wording on 28 June 2023
<p>Art. 109.10.1 Medical assistance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) the on-site presence of personnel trained in emergency medical care; and (ii) an appropriate medical emergency action plan for the evacuation, emergency treatment, and transport of injured Athletes. <p>To this effect, OCs must refer to the guidelines-requirements issued by the FEI and published on the FEI’s website www.fei.org.</p>
Comments Received by 16 August 2023
N/A
FEI Feedback
N/A
Proposed Final Wording to be Voted at the FEI General Assembly 2023
As per the above.

Proposal from (National Federation, Stakeholder or FEI)
FEI
Article Number – Article Name
Article 135 - Advertising on Athletes and Horses and Promotion
Explanation for Proposed Change
<p>To clarify that sponsor logo can appear horizontally/vertically on the protective headgear for all 3 Eventing tests as well and also on the breeches for all 3 Eventing tests (currently only permitted for Jumping and Cross Country tests).</p>

Proposed Wording on 28 June 2023

- 2.2.1 While present in the Competition area and during the prize-giving ceremonies the name and/or logo of the Athlete's sponsor(s), their team sponsor(s) and/or their NF's sponsor(s) may appear on a surface area not exceeding:
- (i) four hundred square centimeters (400 cm²) on each side of vehicles during the Driven Dressage and Obstacle-Cone Driving Phases of Driving Events and Vaulting back pads;
 - (ii) two hundred square centimeters (200 cm²) on each side of saddle cloth;
 - (iii) eighty square centimeters (80 cm²) only once on jackets or top garments at the height of breast pockets during the Driven Dressage and Obstacle-Cone Driving Phases of Driving Events;
 - (iv) eighty square centimeters (80 cm²) on each of the two sides of jackets or top garment at the height of breast pockets for Jumping Events, Dressage Events and for Jumping and Dressage tests of Eventing;
 - (v) one hundred square centimeters (100 cm²) only once on Vaulting outfits;
 - (vi) eighty square centimeters (80 cm²) (maximum twenty centimeters -20 cm- long, maximum four centimeters -4 cm- wide) only once lengthwise on the left leg of the riding breeches during the Jumping Events and the Cross-Country, Dressage and Jumping tests of Eventing. In any case, the surface area on the riding breeches should be dedicated to the visibility of the following only: the Athlete's name, identification of the Athlete's nationality, the name and/or logo of the Athlete's sponsor(s), their team sponsor(s) and/or their NF's sponsor(s);
 - (vii) sixteen square centimeters (16 cm²) on both sides of the shirt collar and of the hunting stock or centrally in the middle part of the collar on the ladies' blouses;
 - (viii) Either two hundred square centimeters (200 cm²) on one arm of jackets or top garment or one hundred square centimeters (100 cm²) on each arm of jackets or top garment for the Cross-Country tests of Eventing and Endurance Events;
 - (ix) one hundred twenty five square centimeters (125 cm²) (maximum twenty five centimeters - 25 cm- long, maximum five centimeters -5 cm- wide) vertically in the middle part of the hard hat for the Jumping Events and for the Dressage, Jumping and Cross-Country tests of Eventing and for the Endurance Events; Note: The name and/or logo may appear horizontally, provided the dimensions are complied with.
 - (x) seventy five square centimeters (75 cm²) for the logo on ear hoods in Jumping Events, Dressage Events, Driving Events, Vaulting Events and Eventing Events.

Comments Received by 16 August 2023

N/A

FEI Feedback

N/A

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

As per the above.

Proposal from (National Federation, Stakeholder or FEI)

FEI

Article Number – Article Name

Article 147 – Steward ; Article 148 Appointment of Stewards

Explanation for Proposed Change
Overall Chief Steward for multi-discipline Events:

To add this function/position as it is currently not mentioned in the Rules.

Proposed Wording on 28 June 2023
Article 147 – Steward

1. A Chief Steward reports to the President of the Ground Jury and is responsible for the stewarding team, and is appointed to ensure a level playing field and Horse welfare at International Competitions or Events in accordance with the FEI Rules and Regulations.

An Overall Chief Steward is responsible for the coordination of the various stewarding teams, and is appointed to ensure a level playing field and Horse welfare at International Competitions or Events in accordance with the FEI Rules and Regulations. The FEI Steward helps stakeholders to prevent infractions and irregularities from taking place and intervenes when infractions or irregularities occur.

Art. 148 - Appointment of Stewards

(...)

2. Unless the Sport Rules of the relevant Discipline provide otherwise, the FEI appoints the

Chief Steward and/or overall Chief Steward for FEI World Cup™ Finals, FEI Nations Cup™ Finals, FEI World and Continental Championships, Regional & Continental Games, Youth Olympic Games, Paralympic Games and Olympic Games.

Comments Received by 16 August 2023

N/A

FEI Feedback

N/A

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

As per the above.

Proposal from (National Federation, Stakeholder or FEI)
Article Number – Article Name

Article 164.4 – Incorrect Behaviour Card ; Art. 161.2 – Decisions not subject to Protest

Explanation for Proposed Change

Removal of references to Incorrect Behaviour Card from General Regulations due to the fact that it is proposed to remove this concept from the FEI Endurance Rules and Endurance is the only discipline that has this concept.

Proposed Wording on 28 June 2023
Decisions not subject to Protest

161.2 There is no Protest against:

(...)

(d) The imposition of a Warning without additional sanctions or of a Yellow Warning Card, an Eventing Recorded Warning ~~or an Incorrect Behaviour Card~~.

164.4 Incorrect Behaviour Card

In the discipline of Endurance the President of the Ground Jury, the Chief Steward or the Technical Delegate may issue an Incorrect Behaviour Card to an Athlete or Trainer for Incorrect Behaviour. An Incorrect Behaviour Card will result in 100 penalty points, Disqualification, and a suspension of two months.

Comments Received by 16 August 2023

N/A

FEI Feedback

N/A

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

As per the above.

Proposal from (National Federation, Stakeholder or FEI)

FEI

Article Number – Article Name

Terminology “Period of an Event” v “Period of Jurisdiction”

Explanation for Proposed Change

To remove the references to “Period of the Event” and add “Period of Jurisdiction” instead as “Period of Jurisdiction” is defined in the GRs (while “Period of an Event” is no longer defined).

Proposed Wording on 28 June 2023

158.1 The Ground Jury deals with all Protests within the meaning of Article 161 provided that they relate to matters occurring during or in direct connection with an Event and that they are presented within the Period of ~~the Event~~ Jurisdiction.

158.3 The Ground Jury must be available throughout the Period of ~~the Event~~ Jurisdiction.

164.3 Yellow Warning Card

(a) A Yellow Warning Card may be issued to a Person Responsible by the President of the Ground Jury, the Chief Steward or the Technical Delegate during the Period of ~~the Event~~ Jurisdiction for the following offences:

(...)

(b) The Yellow Warning Card may be delivered either by hand or by any other suitable means. If after reasonable efforts the Person Responsible cannot be notified during the Period of ~~the Event~~ Jurisdiction that the Person Responsible has received a Yellow Warning Card, the Person Responsible must be notified in writing within fourteen (14) days of the Event.

Comments Received by 16 August 2023

GER NF: In Anti-Doping matters, there is still a distinction between in and out-of competition. The EADMCR and ADRHA contain independent definitions of these terms. We expect that other sets of Rules that are applicable only during Events are constructed in the same way and offer their own definitions.

The Code of Conduct for Officials binds them to a certain behaviour during the time they are officiating (“...while I am officiating”).

We have not found a rule in the GRs that states FEI Rules are applicable during Events.

FEI Feedback

The FEI Rules contain provisions that are applicable during Events but also provisions that are applicable outside of Event times. For example in the General Regulations there are provisions about the FEI Calendar or Draft Schedules that must be complied with prior to the Events.

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

As per the above.

Proposal from (National Federation, Stakeholder or FEI)

FRA NF, NOR NF, NZL NF, USA NF

Article Number – Article Name

Appendix E – CIMs

Explanation for Proposed Change

FRA NF: There is a strong willingness from several NFs and endurance stakeholders to bring back CEI2* within the “CIMs” in regards to the extra costs involved and the cuts it made in terms of growth of the discipline.

Nevertheless, being aware of the purpose for the change which has been made we do see the possibility to find a better solution which would suit fair arguments from both sides.

We don’t see the financial reason as the one for the FEI to have promoted this change a few years ago. Based on these elements we suggest to find a regulatory way to do not impose the extra costs on riders/owners shoulders when it comes to participate in CEI2* in their home country. It would also have a positive impact on number of entries on 2* events which are potentially prioritising to compete nationally.

By doing so and keeping all other requirements from CIs we consider it would be a positive step forward, especially for the stakeholders who constitute the base of the international discipline in every country and even bigger part of the community in endurance newcomer countries.

NOR NF: The goals for the change proposed by the FEI at the last GA have not been reached. The drifts have not been counter. The side effects were for all worldwide stakeholders to endorse the costs (complexity, finance) of it. As there are no positive results of the change, we believe it is important to review this problematic implementation.

NZL NF: Smaller Nations running CEI 1* and CEI 2* are desperately trying to support and grow the FEI Endurance sport in their Countries. To be successful and sustainable these events need to minimise costs to the OC, NF and Athlete. The market for Endurance riding

is now very competitive and passport costs have seen many riders opt out of the FEI Discipline and into Nationally based cheaper options. Riders in smaller nations isolated from the main Endurance events also see little or no value added by the purchase of the passport. Particularly where the horse is most unlikely to ever compete at international events in Foreign Countries due to high cost of travel.

Adding CEI2* back into the CIMs table makes it consistent with CEIYJ2* and all the other FEI disciplines.

Criteria for Periodical Rules Revision

3. New/recently introduced rule that has proven to be problematic in its implementation.

USA NF: Smaller Nations running CEI 1* and CEI 2* are desperately trying to support and grow the FEI Endurance sport in their Countries. To be successful and sustainable these events need to minimise costs to the OC, NF and Rider. The market for Endurance riding is now very competitive and passport costs have seen many riders opt out of the FEI Discipline and into Nationally based cheaper options. Riders in smaller nations isolated from the main Endurance events also see little or no value added by the purchase of the passport. Particularly where the horse is most unlikely to ever compete at international events in Foreign Countries due to high cost of travel.

FEI Feedback: In order to address the hardships that some National Federations have reported as a result

of removing the CEI2* from the CIM category, we propose to re-instate the CEI2* as a CIM provided that it comes within certain criteria that will be set out in the FEI Endurance Rules (subject to approval at the FEI General Assembly 2023). We expect that the majority of current CEI2* will meet the criteria to be considered as a CIM.

A CEI2* will be categorised as a CIM provided that it meets all of the following criteria:

- The distance is between 120 – 126km;
- The prize money is less than CHF 20,000 (including the value of prizes in kind);
- The number of entries is below 100.

2* Championships are not considered as CIMs regardless of the distance or the prize money.

2* Competitions can be held in one day, or between 70-89 km per day over two days with a minimum of three loops per day.

Proposed Wording on 28 June 2023

DISCIPLINE	LEVEL:
ENDURANCE	CEI1* & CEI2* that meet all of the criteria outlined below *
	CEIYJ1* & CEIYJ2*

- * - The distance is between 120 – 126km;
- The prize money is less than CHF 20,000 (including the value of prizes in kind);
- The number of entries is below 100.

2* Championships are not considered as CIMs regardless of the distance or the prize money.

2* Competitions can be held in one day, or between 70-89 km per day over two days with a minimum of three loops per day.

Comments Received by 16 August 2023

SWE NF: The SWE NF fully support the suggestions from the nations of NOR NF, NZL NF, USA NFs to bring back CEI2* within CIMs listed levels inside the table. ENDURANCE CEI1* and CEI2* CEIYJ1* & CEIYJ2 and with FEIs proposed wording.

FEI Feedback

The initial proposal for Endurance will then be put forward for approval at the FEI General Assembly. In addition, further to proposed changes to the relevant Discipline Rules and review of the list of CIMs, further clarifications have been made.

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

DISCIPLINE:	LEVEL:
JUMPING	CSI1*, CSI2*, CSIYH1*, CSIYH2*
	CSIP, CSI Y, J, Ch, V, Am, U25 – Category A & B
EVENTING	CCI1* -Intro, & CCI2*-L or S, & CCI3*-L or S
	CCIP1-L or S & CCIP2-L or S, CCIJ1*-L or S, CCIY2*-L or S, CCIYH1*-L or S, CCIYH2*-L or S, CCIU252*-L or S, CCIU253*-L or S
	CCIP, CCIJ, CCIY, CCIU25, CCIYH
DRESSAGE	CDI1* & CDI2*
	CDI Y, J, Ch, P, YH, Am, U25
DRIVING	CAI1* & CAI2*
	CAI Y <u>U25</u> , J, Ch, YH
ENDURANCE	CEI1* & CEI2* <u>that meet all of the criteria outlined below *</u>
	CEIYJ1* & CEIYJ2*
VAULTING	CVI1* & CVI2*
	CVI <u>Y</u> , J, Ch
PARA-EQUESTRIAN	CPEDI1*, CPEDI2*, CPEAI1* & CPEAI2*

* - The distance is between 120 – 126km;

- The prize money is less than CHF 20,000 (including the value of prizes in kind);
- The number of entries is below 100.

2* Championships are not considered as CIMs regardless of the distance or the prize money.

2* Competitions can be held in one day, or between 70-89 km per day over two days with a minimum of three loops per day.

Proposal from (National Federation, Stakeholder or FEI)

FEI

Article Number – Article Name

Appendix F – FEI Code of Ethics

Explanation for Proposed Change

The FEI suggests to specifically add grooms in the FEI Code of Ethics.

Proposed Wording on 28 June 2023

To recognize the interests of all the constituencies of equestrianism including National Federations, Athletes, Owners, Organisers, Officials, grooms, sponsors, and the FEI itself to foster their harmonious collaboration and to formalise the collective commitment to the Olympic ideal.

The achievement of this goal and the image of Equestrian Sport are dependent on the respect of the following ethical principles that are compatible with maintenance of the values, spirit and ideals of Equestrian Sport and its part in the Olympic Movement. Consequently, all participants in Equestrian Sport, including but not limited to Athletes (and their Support Personnel), Owners, Organisers, Officials, grooms, sponsors, and FEI volunteers and staff undertake to respect and be bound at all times by the present Code, and by the IOC Code of Ethics where applicable.

Comments Received by 16 August 2023

N/A

FEI Feedback

N/A

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

As per the above.

Proposal from (National Federation, Stakeholder or FEI)
FEI
Article Number – Article Name
Appendix G - FEI Code on the Prevention of the Manipulation of Competitions
Explanation for Proposed Change

- The Code is to be updated as per the changes approved by the IOC in October 2022 already into force.
- To include, as per the new Swiss Gambling Act 2019 that “The FEI will report any behaviour, which in the reasonable opinion of the FEI, amounts to potentially criminal behaviour to the appropriate legal authorities.”
- To add “Organiser” as a category as currently Organisers are not bound by this Code.

Proposed Wording on 28 June 2023

A. APPENDIX G - FEI CODE ON THE PREVENTION OF THE MANIPULATION OF COMPETITIONS

PREAMBLE

- a. Acknowledging the danger to sports integrity from the manipulation of sports competitions, ~~all sports organisations, in particular the International Olympic Committee, all International Federations, National Olympic Committees and their respective members at the Continental, Regional and National level and IOC recognised organisations (hereinafter “Sports Organisations”), through the Olympic Movement Code on the Prevention of the Manipulation of Competitions, the FEI~~ restates their commitment to safeguarding the integrity of sport, including the protection of clean athletes and competitions as stated in Olympic Agenda 2020 and the Olympic Agenda 2020+5;
- b. Due to the complex nature of this threat, ~~Sports Organisations~~ the FEI recognises that they cannot tackle this threat alone, and hence cooperation with public authorities, in particular law enforcement and sports betting entities, is crucial;
- c. The purpose of this Code is to provide the FEI and its members with harmonised regulations to protect all competitions from the risk of manipulation. This Code establishes regulations that are in compliance with the Council of Europe Convention on the Manipulation of Sports Competitions¹, in particular its Article 7. This does not prevent Sports Organisations from having more stringent regulations in place;
- d. ~~Sports Organisations bound by the Olympic Charter and the IOC Code of Ethics~~ The FEI declares their commitment to support the integrity of sport and fight against the manipulation of competitions by adhering to the standards set out in the Olympic Movement Code on the Prevention of the Manipulation of Competitions and by requiring their members to do likewise. ~~Sports Organisations are committed to take all appropriate steps within their powers to incorporate this Code by reference, or to implement regulations consistent with or more stringent than this Code;~~
- e. ~~Pursuant to Rule 1.4 of the Olympic Charter, all Sports Organisations bound by the Olympic Charter agree to respect this Code;~~
- f. ~~These Sports Organisations are responsible for the implementation of the present Code within their own jurisdiction, including educational measures;~~
- g. ~~Therefore the Olympic Movement Code on the Prevention of the Manipulation of Competitions is hereby incorporated by the FEI in its Rules and Regulations.~~

ARTICLE 1 - Definitions and Application
1.1 Definitions

- 1.1.1. “Benefit” means the direct or indirect receipt or provision of money or the equivalent such as, but not limited to, bribes, gains, gifts and other advantages including, without limitation, winnings and/or potential winnings as a result of a wager; the foregoing

¹ The Council of Europe Convention on the Manipulation of Sports Competitions is open for signatories from non-European states. The Convention entered into force on 1 September 2019.

shall not include official prize money, appearance fees or payments to be made under sponsorship or other contracts; Sporting advantage is also a benefit;

- 1.1.2. "Competition" has the meaning given in Appendix A of the General Regulations and for the avoidance of doubts it also includes "Events" (as defined in the General Regulations). For the purpose of this Code also means any sports Competition, tournament, match or event, organised in accordance with the rules of a Sports Organisation or its affiliated organisations, or, where appropriate, in accordance with the rules of any other competent sports organisation;
- 1.1.3. "Inside Information" means information relating to any Competition that a person possesses by virtue of his or her position in relation to a sport or Competition, excluding any information already published or common knowledge, easily accessible to interested members of the public or disclosed in accordance with the rules and regulations governing the relevant Competition;
- 1.1.4. "Participant" means any natural or legal person belonging to one of the following categories:
- a. "Athlete" as defined in Appendix A of the GRs;
 - b. "Officials" as defined in Appendix A of the GRs;
 - c. "Organisers" as defined in Appendix A of the GRs
 - c. Person Responsible as defined in Article 118 of the GRs;
 - d. Support Personnel as defined in the FEI Equine Anti-Doping and Controlled Medication Regulations.
 - e. Accredited Persons at an FEI Event and/or FEI Meeting
- 1.1.5. "Sports Betting, Bet or Betting" means any wager of a stake of monetary value in the expectation of a prize of monetary value, subject to a future and uncertain occurrence related to a sports Competition.

1.2 Application

- 1.2.1. This Code shall apply to all Participants who participate, assist in or prepare Athletes to participate in Competitions. Each Participant shall be bound by, and be required to comply with this Code by virtue of such participation, assistance or preparation.
- 1.2.2. It shall be the personal responsibility of every Participants to make themselves aware of this Code including, without limitation, what conduct constitutes a violation of this Code and to comply with those requirements. Participants should also be aware that conduct prohibited under this Code may also constitute a criminal offence and/or a breach of other applicable laws and regulations including other regulations of FEI or any other Sports Organisations. Participants must comply with all applicable laws and regulations at all times. The FEI will report any behaviour, which in the reasonable opinion of the FEI, amounts to potentially criminal behaviour to the appropriate legal authorities.

Article 2 - Violations

The following conduct as defined in this Article constitutes a violation of this Code:

2.1. Betting

Betting in relation either:

- a. ~~to a competition in which the Participant is directly participating; or~~
- ~~b.~~ to the Participant's sport; or
- ~~c.~~ to any event of a multisport competition in which they are accredited to participate ~~Participant is a Participant.~~

2.2. Manipulation of ~~sports~~ Competitions

A. Intentional arrangement

An intentional arrangement, act or omission aimed at an improper alteration of the result or the course of a ~~sports~~ Competition in order to remove all or part of the unpredictable nature of the sports Competition with a view to obtaining an undue Benefit for oneself and/or for others.

~~2.3.B.~~ Corrupt conduct

Providing, requesting, receiving, seeking, or accepting a Benefit related to the manipulation of a Competition or any other form of corruption.

~~2.43.~~ Inside information

- 2.3.1. Using Inside Information for the purposes of Betting, any form of manipulation of ~~sports~~ Competitions or any other corrupt purposes whether by the Participant or via another person and/or entity.
- 2.3.2. Disclosing Inside Information to any person and/or entity, with or without Benefit, where the Participant knew or should have known that such disclosure might lead to the information being used for the purposes of Betting, any form of manipulation of Competitions or any other corrupt purposes.

2.3.3. Giving and/or receiving a Benefit for the provision of Inside Information regardless of whether any Inside Information is actually provided.

2.54. Failure to report

2.4.1. Failing to report to the FEI, at the first available opportunity, full details of any approaches or invitations received by the Participant to engage in conduct or incidents that could amount to a violation of this Code.

2.4.2. Failing to report to the FEI, at the first available opportunity, full details of any incident, fact or matter that comes to the attention of the Participant (or of which they ought to have been reasonably aware) including approaches or invitations that have been received by another Participant to engage in conduct that could amount to a violation of this Code.

2.65 Failure to cooperate

2.5.1. Failing to cooperate with any investigation carried out by, or on behalf of, the FEI in relation to a possible breach of this Code, including, without limitation, failing to provide accurately, completely and without undue delay any information and/or documentation and/or access or assistance requested by the FEI as part of such investigation.

2.5.2. Obstructing or delaying any investigation that may be carried out by, or on behalf of, the FEI in relation to a possible violation of this Code, including without limitation concealing, tampering with or destroying any documentation or other information that may be relevant to the investigation.

2.76 ~~Application of Articles 2.1 to 2.6~~ Determination of violation

2.6.1. For the determination of whether a violation has been committed, the following are not relevant:

- a. Whether or not the Participant is participating in the competition concerned;
- b. The outcome of the competition on which the Bet was made or intended to be made;
- c. Whether or not any Benefit or other consideration was actually given or received;
- d. The nature or outcome of the Bet;
- e. Whether or not the Participant's effort or performance in the competition concerned were (or could be expected to be) affected by the acts or omission in question;
- f. Whether or not the result of the competition concerned was (or could be expected to be) affected by the acts or omission in question;
- g. Whether or not the manipulation included a violation of a technical rule of the ~~respective Sports Organisation~~ FEI;
- h. Whether or not the Competition was attended by the competent national or international representative of the ~~Sports Organisation~~ FEI.

2.72. Aid, abetment or attempt

Any form of aid, abetment or attempt by a Participant that could ~~culminate result~~ in a violation of this Code shall be treated as if a violation had been committed, whether or not such an act in fact resulted in a violation and/or whether that violation was committed deliberately or negligently.

Article 3 - Disciplinary Procedure

3.1 Investigation

3.1.1. The Participant who is alleged to have committed a violation of this Code must be informed of the alleged violations that have been committed, details of the alleged acts and/or omissions, and the range of possible sanctions.

3.1.2. Notice to a Participant may be accomplished by delivery of the notice to the Member Federation concerned. The Member Federation shall be responsible for immediately communicating the notice to the Participant.

3.1.3. Upon request by the FEI, or a body acting on behalf of the FEI, the concerned Participant must provide any information which the FEI, or a body acting on behalf of the FEI, considers may be relevant to investigate the alleged violation, within a reasonable time frame, including but not limited to records relating to the alleged violation (such as betting account numbers and information, itemised telephone bills, bank statements, internet service records, computers, hard drives and other electronic information storage devices), and/or a statement setting out the relevant facts and circumstances around the alleged violation.

3.1.4. The Sports Organisation shall coordinate with the law enforcement authorities' investigations on the same facts.

3.2. Rights of the concerned person

In all procedures linked to violations of the present Code, the following rights must be respected:

1. The right to be informed of the charges; and
2. The right to a fair, timely and impartial hearing either by appearing personally in front of the competent Sports Organisation and/or submitting a defence in writing; and
3. The right to be accompanied and/or represented.

3.3. Burden and standard of proof

The FEI shall have the burden of establishing that a violation has been committed. The standard of proof in all matters under this Code shall be the balance of probabilities, a standard that implies that on the preponderance of the evidence it is more likely than not that a breach of this Code has occurred.

3.4. Admissibility of Evidence

The relevant body or person shall review any evidence and facts submitted, including but not limited to, admissions, evidence of third parties, witness statements, betting monitoring reports, expert reports, documentary evidence and other analytical information.

3.45. Confidentiality

The principle of confidentiality must be strictly respected by the FEI during all the procedure; information should only be exchanged with entities on a need to know basis. Confidentiality must also be strictly respected by any person concerned by the procedure until there is public disclosure of the case.

3.56. Anonymity of the person making a report Reporting

3.6.1. Safe Reporting Mechanism

The FEI shall ensure that an appropriate and safe reporting mechanism is available and that this is duly made known to Athletes, Support Personnel and Officials. The FEI shall ensure that the information received is promptly transmitted in a secure and confidential manner to the organisations having competence/jurisdiction to handle the case.

3.6.2. Anonymous reporting

Anonymous reporting is facilitated through the Equestrian Community Integrity Unit (ECIU) (<https://inside.fei.org/fei/about-fei/integrity>).

3.6.3. Reporting

The FEI will report any behaviour, which in the reasonable opinion of the FEI, amounts to potentially criminal behaviour to the appropriate legal authorities.

3.67. Jurisdiction & Appeal

1. The FEI Tribunal shall have jurisdiction to decide on alleged breaches of this Code in the first instance according to the process set out in Chapter VIII of the GRs (The Legal System).
2. An Appeal may be lodged against a Decision of the FEI Tribunal in accordance with Article 162 (Appeals) of the GRs.

Article 4 - Provisional Measures

- 4.1. The FEI ~~Secretary General~~ may impose provisional measures, including a provisional suspension, on the Participant where there is a particular risk to the reputation of the sport, while ensuring respect for Articles 3.1 to 3.4 of this Code. Where a provisional measure is imposed, a Participant shall be entitled to apply to the FEI Tribunal for relief against such provisional measures, including the lifting of a provisional suspension.
- 4.2. Where a provisional measure is imposed, this shall be taken into consideration in the determination of any sanction which may ultimately be imposed.

Article 5 - Sanctions

- 5.1. Where it is determined that a violation has been committed, the FEI Tribunal shall impose an appropriate sanction upon the Participant from the range of permissible sanctions set out in Article 164 (Sanctions) of the GRs and which may range from a minimum of a Warning to a maximum of life ban.
- 5.2. When determining the appropriate sanctions applicable, the FEI Tribunal shall take into consideration all aggravating and mitigating circumstances and shall detail the effect of such circumstances on the final sanction in the written decision.
- 5.3. Substantial assistance provided by a Participant that results in the discovery or establishment of an offence by another Participant or Participants may reduce any sanction applied under this Code.
- 5.4. Once the period of the Participants' ineligibility has expired, they will become automatically re-eligible to participate in Competitions provided that they have:
 - i. completed to FEI's satisfaction any official integrity education imposed on them as a sanction by the relevant body;
 - ii. have paid, in full, any fine imposed under this Code and/or any order of costs made against them by the relevant body; and

- iii. have agreed to subject themselves to any reasonable and proportionate monitoring of their future activities in connection with equestrian sport as the FEI may reasonably consider necessary given the nature and scope of the violation that they have committed.

Article 6 - Mutual recognition and globalisation of the Decisions

6.1. Subject to the right of appeal, any decision issued in compliance with this Code (or its equivalent) by any other Sporting Organisations ~~must~~will be recognised and respected by the FEI.

6.2. The FEI shall recognise and respect the relevant decision(s) made by any court of competent jurisdiction which is not a Sports Organisation as defined under the Olympic Movement Code on the Prevention of the Manipulation of Competitions.

6.3. A multisport events organiser's disciplinary body's decision does not prevent the FEI from imposing its own sanction.

6.4. The FEI extends the sanctions imposed by a National Federation to all other National Federations.

Article 7 – Implementation

~~e7.1. Pursuant to Rule 1.4 of the Olympic Charter, all Sports Organisations bound by the Olympic Charter agree to respect this Code. The FEI is bound by the Olympic Charter and therefore agrees to respect the Code;~~

~~f.7.2. These Sports Organisations are responsible for~~ The FEI commits to the implementation of the present Code within their own jurisdiction, including educational measures;

~~g.7.3. Therefore~~ The Olympic Movement Code on the Prevention of the Manipulation of Competitions is hereby incorporated by the FEI in its Rules and Regulations.

7.4. The FEI commits to carry out regular and continuous awareness raising initiatives.

Comments Received by 16 August 2023

N/A

FEI Feedback

N/A

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

As per the above.

Proposal from (National Federation, Stakeholder or FEI)
FEI
Article Number – Article Name
Appendix I – FEI Safeguarding Policy Against Harassment and Abuse
Explanation for Proposed Change

Further to the recommendations of FEI’s external lawyer, the FEI suggests to make some changes to the FEI Safeguarding Policy, including to clarify the scope of the FEI’s obligation to act in cases where the FEI is satisfied that the conduct (although technically a (potential) breach of the Policy) does not pose a risk of harm in the context of equestrian sport.

Proposed Wording on 28 June 2023
APPENDIX I – FEI SAFEGUARDING POLICY AGAINST HARASSMENT AND ABUSE

Consistent with the objectives and principles of the FEI, the welfare of the equestrian community, especially minors and adults at risk², is of paramount concern. When any member of the equestrian community, such as an- Athlete, Support Personnel, Coach, Trainer, Groom, Official, volunteer or staff member - is subjected to or engages in abuse or misconduct, it undermines the mission of FEI and is inconsistent with the best interests of equestrian sport. All forms of harassment and abuse are prohibited and ~~will not be tolerated by~~ the FEI will take appropriate action pursuant to this Policy to the extent there is where there is a risk of harm within the context of participation in equestrian sport.

The FEI is committed to promoting a safe environment for its members, Athletes, Support Personnel, Coaches, Trainers, Grooms, Officials, volunteers and staff in all equestrian Disciplines. The FEI has developed and adopted this Policy to set forth the efforts it will undertake to promote a safe equestrian environment, both independently and in partnership with other necessary parties, including National Federations, parents (or legal guardians), Athletes, and the equestrian community.

ARTICLE 1 - Definitions and Application
1.1 Definitions
1.1.1 Harassment and Abuse

Harassment and abuse can be expressed in five forms which may occur in combination or in isolation. These include i) psychological abuse, ii) physical abuse, iii) sexual harassment, iv) sexual abuse, and v) neglect.

These forms of abuse are defined as:

- (i) Psychological abuse** — means any unwelcome act including confinement, isolation, verbal assault, humiliation, intimidation, infantilisation, or any other treatment which may diminish the sense of identity, dignity, and self-worth.
- (ii) Physical abuse** — means any deliberate and unwelcome act – such as for example punching, beating, kicking, biting and burning – that causes physical trauma or injury. Such act can also consist of forced or inappropriate physical activity (e.g., age- or physique- inappropriate training loads; when injured or in pain), forced alcohol consumption, or forced doping practices.

² Adults at risk is defined as “any person aged 18 or older who is engaged in activities in connection with the FEI (whether as a Participant or otherwise) and who is, or may be, vulnerable to or unable to protect themselves against harm or the risk of it (whether generally or a result of circumstances in which they find themselves at the relevant time)

- (iii) **Sexual harassment** — any unwanted and unwelcome conduct of a sexual nature, whether verbal, non-verbal or physical. Sexual harassment can take the form of sexual abuse.
- (iv) **Sexual abuse** — any conduct of a sexual nature, whether non-contact, contact or penetrative, where consent is coerced/manipulated or is not or cannot be given.
- (v) **Neglect** — within the meaning of this Policy means the failure of a coach or another person with a duty of care towards the Covered Individual to provide a minimum level of care to the Covered Individual, which is causing harm, allowing harm to be caused, or creating an imminent danger of harm.

Harassment and abuse can be based on any grounds including race, religion, colour, creed, ethnic origin, physical attributes, gender, sexual orientation, age disability, socio-economic status and athletic ability. It can include a one-off incident or a series of incidents. It may be in-person or online.

Harassment and abuse often result from an abuse of authority, meaning the improper use of a position of influence, power or authority by an individual against another person.

1.1.2. Covered Individual means any person in one or more of the following categories:

- a. **Athlete** as defined in Appendix A of the GRs;
- b. **Accredited Persons** at an FEI Event and/or FEI Meeting
- c. **FEI Representatives**, such as FEI Board Members, Members of a Technical or Standing Committee or Sub-Committee thereof, other members of a body or group designated by any of the former to act on behalf of or advise the FEI (including but not limited to working groups and task forces), and FEI employees;
- d. **Officials** as defined in Appendix A of the GRs;
- e. **Organiser** as defined in Appendix A of the GRs;
- f. **Person Responsible** as defined in Article 118 of the GRs;
- g. **Support Personnel** means any Coach, Trainer, Athlete, Horse Owner, Groom, Steward, Chef d'Equipe, team staff, Official, Veterinarian, medical, or paramedical personnel or any other person assisting in any fashion a Person Responsible participating in or preparing for an FEI Event.

1.1.3. Protected Person means any individual participant in equestrian sport, including Athletes, Support Personnel, Coaches, Trainers, Grooms, Officials, volunteers and staff in all equestrian Disciplines.

1.2 Application

1.2.1. This Policy shall apply to all Covered Individuals.

1.2.2. It shall be the personal responsibility of every Covered Individuals to make themselves aware of this Policy including, without limitation, what conduct constitutes a violation of this Policy and to comply with those requirements. Covered Individuals should also be aware that conduct prohibited under this Policy may also constitute a criminal offence and/or a breach of other applicable laws and regulations including other regulations of FEI or any other Sports Organisations. Covered Individuals must comply with all applicable laws and regulations at all times.

ARTICLE 2 - Violations

The following conduct constitutes a violation of this Policy:

- 2.1** Psychological Abuse;
- 2.2** Physical Abuse;
- 2.3** Sexual Harassment;
- 2.4** Sexual Abuse;
- 2.5** Neglect;
- 2.6** Engaging, or attempting or threatening to engage, in conduct that directly harms the physical and/or mental welfare and/or safety of one or more Protected Persons;
- 2.7** Posing a risk of harm* to the physical and/or mental welfare and/or safety of one or more Protected Persons.
- 2.8** Complicity, i.e. assisting, encouraging, aiding, abetting, conspiring, covering up or any other type of intentional complicity involving a violation of this Policy;
- 2.9** Retaliation as defined in 3.1
- 2.10** Failure to cooperate

(i) Failing to cooperate with any investigation carried out by, or on behalf of, the FEI in relation to a possible breach of this Policy, including, without limitation, failing to provide accurately, completely and without undue delay any information and/or documentation and/or access or assistance requested by the FEI as part of such investigation.

(ii) Obstructing or delaying any investigation that may be carried out by, or on behalf of, the FEI in relation to a possible violation of this Policy, including without limitation concealing, tampering with or destroying any documentation or other information that may be relevant to the investigation.

It is not necessary for conduct (or attempted or threatened conduct) to take place in the context of equestrian sport in order for action to be taken pursuant to this Policy, provided that the FEI considers that any such conduct suggests a risk of harm to one or more Protected Person in the context of their participation in equestrian sport. For example (and without limitation), in the event that a Covered Individual has at any time been convicted of, warned/cautioned for, or charged with, any offence that concerns relevant harm to other individuals (whether or not those individuals are Protected Persons), that may form the basis of action under this Policy as a result of that Covered Individual posing a risk of harm to one or more Protected Person in the context of their participation in equestrian sport (regardless of whether or not the relevant offence, or alleged offence, took place in the context of equestrian sport). For the avoidance of doubt, conduct that took place prior to this Policy coming into effect may indicate a risk of harm within the meaning of Article 2.7.

ARTICLE 3 – Retaliation, Reporting, and Confidentiality

Covered Individuals should report to the FEI, at the first available opportunity, full details of any incident, fact or matter that comes to their attention or of which they are aware that could amount to a violation of this Policy.

The FEI will report any behaviour, which in the reasonable opinion of the FEI, amounts to potentially criminal behaviour to the appropriate legal authorities.

3.1 Retaliation

* 'Harm' is not a narrow concept and can mean different things in different contexts, but (in very general terms) it can be considered as meaning ill-treatment or the impairment of health, welfare or development. Harassment and abuse are examples of conduct that cause harm.

Retaliation is any adverse action taken by a Covered Individual against a person participating in any investigation or proceedings initiated by the FEI pursuant to this Policy. Retaliation by a Covered Individual against a person for making an allegation, supporting a reporting party, or providing information relevant to an allegation is a serious violation of this Policy.

3.2 Reporting Harassment and Abuse at any time, including at FEI Events

For reporting any Harassment or Abuse, the FEI and/or the ECIU will take a report in the way that is most comfortable for the person initiating the report including an anonymous, in-person, verbal, or written report. Regardless of the method of reporting, it is helpful to the FEI and/or the ECIU to get the following information: (1) the name of the complainant(s); (2) the type of misconduct alleged; (3) the name(s) of the alleged victim(s); and (4) the name(s) of the individual(s) alleged to have committed the misconduct.

Individuals may complete an Incident Report Form. Information on this form will include:

1. The name(s) of the complainant(s);
2. The type of misconduct alleged (including psychological abuse, physical abuse, sexual harassment, sexual abuse, and neglect);
3. The name(s) of the alleged victim(s);
4. The name(s) of the individual(s) alleged to have committed the misconduct;
5. The approximate date(s) and location(s) where the misconduct was committed;
6. The names of other individuals who might have information regarding the alleged misconduct; and
7. A summary statement of the reasons to believe that misconduct has occurred.

The FEI will withhold the complainant's name upon request, to the extent permitted by law. A copy of the FEI Incident Report Form can be found at www.inside.fei.org.

3.3. Confidentiality

To the extent permitted by law, and as appropriate, the FEI and/or the ECIU will handle any report it receives confidentially and discretely and will not make public the names of the complainant(s), potential victim(s), or accused person(s); however, the FEI may disclose such names on a limited basis when conducting an investigation, or reporting to the ECIU, or the relevant bodies or when required to do so under applicable law.

The FEI may update any individual who has filed a safeguarding report with the FEI on the status of (i) their report; and/or (ii) the related safeguarding procedure (if applicable). The FEI's provision of such updates shall not constitute a violation of the confidentiality provisions of this Article 3.3.

3.4. Anonymous Reporting

The FEI recognises it can be difficult to report an allegation of misconduct and strives to remove as many barriers to reporting as possible. Anonymous reports may be made without the formality of completing an Incident Report Form:

1. by completing the FEI Incident Report Form without including their name;
2. by expressing concerns of misconduct to the FEI and/or the ECIU; or
3. by expressing concerns in writing or verbally to one of the following individuals on the Athlete Protection Team:
 - a. FEI Legal Director
 - b. FEI Deputy Legal Director
 - c. Legal Counsel

Please be aware that anonymous reporting may make it difficult to investigate or properly address allegations.

ARTICLE 4 – FEI Investigation, Notification

Following the receipt of an allegation of a misconduct, the FEI may consider the circumstances in which it will notify other Athletes and/or the parents (or legal guardians) of Athletes with whom the accused individual may have had contact. At the FEI's discretion, and as appropriate or required by law, the FEI may notify relevant persons, i.e., competition managers, staff members, contractors, volunteers, parents (or legal guardians), and/or Athletes of any such allegation that (a) law enforcement authorities are actively investigating; or (b) that the FEI and/or the ECIU is investigating. Advising others of an allegation may lead to additional reports of harassment or abuse and other misconduct.

ARTICLE 5 – Opening a ~~Disciplinary-Safeguarding~~ Procedure

Following an investigation by or on behalf of the FEI and/or the ECIU pursuant to this Policy, the FEI shall evaluate all the evidence and shall decide whether or not to open a ~~disciplinary-safeguarding~~ procedure by referring the matter to the FEI Tribunal.

Any case referred to the FEI Tribunal pursuant to this Policy will be dealt with according to the procedures set out in the Internal Regulations of the FEI Tribunal, ~~in particular, Section B (Specific procedures in Claims proceedings before the FEI Tribunal)~~. Where appropriate, the FEI may wait until the outcome of any related criminal or civil investigation and/or proceedings is known before deciding whether or not to refer a case to the FEI Tribunal.

ARTICLE 6 – Jurisdiction & Appeal

- 6.1.** The FEI Tribunal shall have jurisdiction to decide on alleged breaches of this Policy in the first instance according to the process set out in Chapter VIII of the GRs (The Legal System). The FEI Tribunal may, either on its own initiative or upon the application of one or all of the parties concerned, stay the proceedings before the FEI Tribunal pending the outcome of any related criminal or civil investigation and/or proceedings.
- 6.2** An Appeal may be lodged against a Decision of the FEI Tribunal in accordance with Article 162 (Appeals) of the GRs.

ARTICLE 7 – Provisional Measures

- 7.1.** The FEI may impose provisional measures, including a provisional suspension, on the Covered Individual. The FEI shall also be entitled to recognise and apply Provisional Suspensions and/or provisional measures imposed by other bodies, such as National Federations or Safeguarding authorities. Where a provisional measure is imposed or recognised and applied by the FEI, a Covered Individual shall be entitled to apply to the FEI Tribunal for relief against such provisional measures, including the lifting of a Provisional Suspension.
- 7.2.** Where a provisional measure is imposed, this shall be taken into consideration in the determination of any sanction which may ultimately be imposed.

ARTICLE 8 – Sanctions

- 8.1.** Where it is determined that a violation has been committed, the FEI Tribunal shall impose an appropriate sanction upon the Covered Individual from the range of permissible sanctions set out in Article 164 (Sanctions) of the GRs, including a lifetime ban.
- 8.2.** When determining the appropriate sanctions applicable, the FEI Tribunal shall take into consideration all aggravating and mitigating circumstances and shall detail the effect of such circumstances on the final sanction in the written decision.
- 8.3** The FEI shall be entitled to prevent any person (regardless of whether they are a Covered Individual or not) convicted of a criminal offence which would constitute a violation of this Policy from participating in any meetings or activities surrounding any Competition or Event, including as a spectator.

ARTICLE 9 – Mutual Recognition

9.1. Subject to the right of appeal, any decision taken by the FEI pursuant to this Policy must be recognised and respected by all National Federations.

9.2 Where the FEI is informed that a Covered Individual has been:

(i) convicted of a criminal offence which would constitute a violation of this Policy;
or

(ii) held by their National Federation or any other competent sports governing body to which the Covered Individual is subject, to have committed a violation which would constitute a violation under this ~~Safeguarding~~ Policy, the FEI shall recognise the applicable conviction/decision imposed.

Where appropriate, the FEI reserves the right to open a separate ~~safeguarding~~ Disciplinary procedure against the Covered Individual in relation to their FEI related activities.

ARTICLE 10 –Duty to inform

National Federations shall promptly inform the FEI of any allegations (where possible) and/or sanction(s) imposed on any person under their jurisdiction relating to any ~~conduct falling within the scope of Article 2 of this Policy~~ harassment and/or abuse case(s).

The FEI shall promptly inform the National Federations of any allegations (where possible) and/or sanction(s) imposed on any person under their jurisdiction relating to any ~~conduct falling within the scope of Article 2 of this Policy~~ harassment and/or abuse case(s).

Comments Received by 16 August 2023

GER NF: Compared to before, the requirement that there needs to be a risk of harm within the context of participation in equestrian sport is a clear cutback. We understand that the FEI only does so because it is legally necessary.

The question how much of an equestrian sports context is necessary in order to invoke the competence and disciplinary power of an equestrian federation is highly interesting to NFs, too. Can you give us some more background information.

IEOC:

1. The IEOC does not support the proposal for the FEI to remove its responsibility to investigate conduct that breaches the Policy but is not considered by the FEI to suggest a risk of harm in the context of equestrian sport.

The FEI has a history of not taking action against athletes or other individuals who have engaged in conduct that breaches the Policy, even where there is a risk of harm in the context of equestrian sport, and we fear that this proposed rule revision will allow the FEI to shirk responsibility in even more cases. This will further erode trust in those who have been subject to abuse and harassment, who will fear that their abuser will not be held accountable.

2. The IEOC believes that the FEI should always give the victim the option of being updated on the progress of their report and any resulting safeguarding / disciplinary proceedings against the accused.

Proposed wording:

1. Scope of FEI's responsibility

Consistent with the objectives and principles of the FEI, the welfare of the equestrian community, especially minors and adults at risk², is of paramount concern. When any member of the equestrian community, such as an Athlete, Support Personnel, Coach, Trainer, Groom, Official, volunteer or staff member - is subjected to or engages in abuse or misconduct, it undermines the mission of FEI and is inconsistent with the best interests of equestrian sport. All forms of harassment and abuse are prohibited and will not be tolerated by the FEI ~~will take appropriate action pursuant to this Policy to the extent there is where there is a risk of harm within the context of participation in equestrian sport.~~

2.10 It is not necessary for conduct (or attempted or threatened conduct) to take place in the context of equestrian sport in order for action to be taken pursuant to this Policy⁷; ~~provided that the FEI considers that any such conduct suggests a risk of harm to one or more Protected Person in the context of their participation in equestrian sport.~~ For example (and without limitation), in the event that a Covered Individual has at any time been convicted of, warned/cautioned for, or charged with, any offence that concerns **relevant** harm to other individuals (whether or not those individuals are Protected Persons), that may form the basis of action under this Policy as a result of that Covered Individual posing a risk of harm ~~to one or more Protected Person in the context of their participation in equestrian sport~~ (regardless of whether or not the relevant offence, or alleged offence, took place in the context of equestrian sport). For the avoidance of doubt, conduct that took place prior to this Policy coming into effect may indicate a risk of harm within the meaning of Article 2.7.

2. Updating the victim

3.3 The FEI ~~may~~ **will, upon request**, update any individual who has filed a safeguarding report with the FEI on the status of (i) their report; and/or (ii) the related safeguarding procedure (if applicable). The FEI's provision of such updates shall not constitute a violation of the confidentiality provisions of this Article 3.3.

NED NF: We propose to add the word **parent** to 1.1.2.g Support Person. Although you might say that they fall under 'any other person assisting', parents play a significant role in our sport in all youth categories but also still at senior competitions. Therefore we believe it is vital to have them explicitly named in the GR, for example as worded in article 164.3f the General Regulations.

Proposed wording:

1.1.2. Covered Individual means any person in one or more of the following categories:

- a. Athlete as defined in Appendix A of the GRs;
- b. Accredited Persons at an FEI Event and/or FEI Meeting
- c. FEI Representatives, such as FEI Board Members, Members of a Technical or Standing Committee or Sub-Committee thereof, other members of a body or group designated by any of the former to act on behalf of or advise the FEI (including but not limited to working groups and task forces), and FEI employees;
- d. Officials as defined in Appendix A of the GRs;
- e. Organiser as defined in Appendix A of the GRs;
- f. Person Responsible as defined in Article 118 of the GRs;
- g. Support Personnel means any Coach, Trainer, Athlete, Horse Owner, Groom, Steward, Chef d'Equipe, team staff, Official, Veterinarian, medical, or paramedical personnel, **parent, spouse or partner, family member** or any other person assisting in any fashion a Person Responsible participating in or preparing for an FEI Event.

NZL NF: Our NF would appreciate the support of the FEI as the governing body in ensuring appropriate action in all cases of harassment and abuse at FEI Event's, regardless of the risk of harm to the equestrian sport or not. The proposed wording requires strengthening to ensure our Riders, Officials, volunteers and support people are protected when attending FEI Events. The proposed wording indicates that the FEI would be void of responsibility in many situations of bullying and harassment. With clearer wording of this policy, the likelihood of harassment and bullying occurring would be significantly reduced.

Proposed wording: All forms of harassment and abuse are prohibited and the FEI will take appropriate action pursuant to this Policy.

FEI Feedback

The FEI maintains its initial position, as suggested by its external lawyers, that the scope of the FEI's obligation to act, under the FEI Safeguarding Policy, needs to be limited where there is a risk of harm in the context of equestrian sport. It does not prevent the FEI to open disciplinary proceedings under the Administrative Disciplinary Procedure or in front of the FEI Tribunal for other violations described in the FEI General Regulations, such as Incorrect Behaviour, Violence, and/or Criminal Acts.

If the FEI Social Media Policy is approved at the FEI General Assembly, some of the violations, such as online bullying or harassment could be sanctioned under such Policies.

It is also important to highlight that National Federations are entitled to take their own disciplinary proceedings based on their own safeguarding policy.

Further to the comments of the NED NF, the FEI will add parent, spouse or partner, family member to 1.1.2g.

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

As per the above, with the addition of parent, spouse or partner, family member under 1.1.2g.

Proposal from (National Federation, Stakeholder or FEI)
FEI
Article Number – Article Name
New Appendices - Social Media Policy for Athletes & FEI Officials
Explanation for Proposed Change

The FEI suggests to include a Social Media Policy for Athletes & FEI Officials in order to outline their responsibility. For example, they should exercise good judgment and think about the potential consequences of their posts and interactions on social media platforms. They should not make derogatory, offensive, or inflammatory comments about other Athletes, Chefs d'Equipes, coaches, teams, FEI Officials, Organisers, the FEI or any individuals associated with equestrian sport.

Proposed Wording on 28 June 2023
APPENDIX M – SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY FOR FEI OFFICIALS
1. Purpose

The purpose of this social media policy is to provide guidelines for FEI Officials regarding their use of social media platforms. FEI Officials should be mindful of their actions and the potential impact their online presence can have on their professional reputation, integrity, and the integrity of the FEI and equestrian sport.

2. Personal Responsibility

FEI Officials are personally responsible for their online activities and should act in a manner that upholds the values and standards of their profession. They should consider the potential consequences of their posts and interactions on social media platforms.

3. Professional Conduct

FEI Officials should maintain a professional image and avoid engaging in conduct that may compromise their impartiality, integrity, or credibility. They should not make derogatory or inflammatory comments about Organisers, Athletes, Chefs d'Equipes, coaches, teams, support personnel, National Federations (and their representatives), the Athlete entourage, the FEI (or FEI representatives) or any other individuals involved in equestrian sport. Publicly expressing personal biases or making discriminatory remarks is strictly prohibited.

4. Confidentiality and Privacy

FEI Officials must respect the privacy and confidentiality of equestrian sport. They should not disclose sensitive or confidential information related to officiating assignments or any other details that could compromise the fairness and integrity of the sport.

5. Transparency

If FEI Officials choose to discuss officiating matters on social media, they should clearly indicate that they are expressing personal opinions and not representing the official views of the FEI. It is important to avoid creating confusion or misleading the public.

6. Conflict of Interest

FEI Officials must disclose any potential conflicts of interest that may arise from their online activities. They should refrain from promoting or endorsing products, services, or organizations that may compromise their impartiality or raise questions about their integrity as FEI Officials.

7. Respectful Communication

FEI Officials should communicate respectfully and professionally with others on social media platforms. They should refrain from engaging in personal attacks, harassment, or any form of online bullying. Constructive discussions and exchanges of ideas are encouraged as long as they are conducted in a respectful manner.

8. Use of Official Titles and Logos

FEI Officials should avoid using their official titles, logos, or affiliations in a way that may mislead or create the impression that they are speaking on behalf of their sports organizations or governing bodies. Clarifying their personal capacity when expressing opinions related to the sport is essential to maintain transparency.

9. Reporting Violations

If a FEI Official becomes aware of any violations of this social media policy by fellow FEI Officials, they should report such incidents to the FEI. It is the collective responsibility of all officials to maintain the highest standards of conduct.

10. Consequences of Policy Violations

Violations of this social media policy may result in disciplinary action, including but not limited to warnings, suspensions (including a provisional suspension), demotion or removal from the FEI List of Officials.

APPENDIX N – FEI SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY FOR ATHLETES

1. Introduction

This social media policy outlines guidelines for Athletes regarding their use of social media platforms. Athletes should be aware that their online presence can have a significant impact on their personal brand, reputation, and the reputation of their National Federation, sport, sponsors and equestrian sport.

2. Personal Responsibility

Athletes are personally responsible for their online activities and should remember that they are representing themselves, their National Federation and their sport. They should exercise good judgment and think about the potential consequences of their posts and interactions on social media platforms.

3. Professional Conduct

Athletes should maintain a professional image and avoid engaging in conduct that may bring discredit to themselves, their team, or their sport. They should not make derogatory, offensive, or inflammatory comments about other Athletes, Chefs d'Équipes, coaches, teams, FEI Officials, Organisers, the FEI or any individuals associated with equestrian sport. Engaging in online disputes or public arguments or targeting a particular individual for specific criticism/comment is strongly discouraged.

4. Respect and Sportsmanship

Athletes should treat others with respect and demonstrate sportsmanship both on and off social media platforms. They should refrain from engaging in personal attacks, harassment, or any form of online bullying. Constructive and respectful discussions are encouraged, while maintaining the integrity of the sport and its participants.

5. Confidentiality and Privacy

Athletes must respect the privacy and confidentiality of their National Federation/team, fellow Athletes, Chefs d'Équipes, coaches, FEI Officials and any other individuals they interact with in their sporting environment. They should not

disclose sensitive or confidential information that could harm their National Federation/team or compromise the integrity of the sport.

6. Accuracy and Responsibility

Athletes should strive to provide accurate and reliable information on social media platforms. They should fact-check before sharing or commenting on news or events related to their sport. Sharing false information or spreading rumours can have a detrimental effect on the sport and its stakeholders.

7. Use of Media Content

Athletes should respect intellectual property rights and avoid unauthorized use or distribution of copyrighted material, including photographs, videos, or other media content. Properly crediting the original source when sharing such content is encouraged.

8. Reporting Violations

If an athlete becomes aware of any violations of this social media policy by fellow athletes, they should report such incidents to their National Federation, Chef d'Equipe, or the FEI. It is the collective responsibility of Athletes to maintain a positive and respectful online environment.

9. Consequences of Policy Violations

Violations of this social media policy may result in disciplinary actions, which could include warnings, fines, suspension (including provisional suspension) from FEI Events. The severity of consequences will be determined based on the nature and impact of the violation.

Comments Received by 16 August 2023

BEL NF: It is good to work on this topic but more clarity is needed here. Not detailed enough now, more discussion is needed in this. And we think it is better to talk about guidelines rather than using the terms Rules & Violations.

EEF: Policing the social media is not an FEI Rules matter. The FEI cannot simply become a regulator of equestrian-sport related social media separately and without taking into consideration the principles of freedom of speech and relevant EU legislation (and maybe other jurisdictions as well).

GBR NF: We are supportive of the Social Media Policies for both officials and athletes but we feel that some of the areas are left open to interpretation and are ambiguous (for example "...as long as they are conducted in a respectful manner" and "...any other details that could compromise the fairness and integrity of the sport'). Further clarity would be greatly appreciated to avoid any issues of consistency in the application of the rules (in varying circumstances). In point 3 of the Athletes' Policy – the end statement, the words "strongly discouraged" does not imply there will be consequences. Ambiguity needs to be tightened and any sanctions, should there be any clearly outlined.

There appears to be some inconsistency when referring to the groups of people that may be affected by these changes, for example in some places support personnel are mentioned and in other areas reference is made to people that interact. We believe it would be beneficial to have some further clarity in this area.

We do have concerns about the reporting obligations imposed. In many circumstances it will be clear when there is an issue which needs to be reported under these provisions, but it will not always be the case. It is entirely foreseeable that there will be shades of grey in terms of comments or opinions made on social media and officials/athletes may well be left in doubt as to whether they need to report something or not. Many will also feel

conflicted if they know the individuals involved and may simply prefer to run the risk of breaching the reporting obligations rather than report a concern. We would therefore request additional support for officials and athletes in the interpretation and application of these rules so that they have a clearer understanding of what they are required to do. Some of our stakeholders felt that the policy of peer policing could lead to a suspicious and uncomfortable culture with colleagues. Formally requesting that riders report their National Federation or fellow competitors did not sit well. Equally, is there a whistleblower policy to protect those who do speak up? What if someone does not report an activity but is found out to have knowledge of it? We do believe the policy should be part of a wider responsibility and not just athletes and officials.

GER NF: Social Media Policy for Officials: 2nd para – Officiating is not a “profession” in most cases. Find a more suitable word. Maybe “role”?

Social Media Policy for Athletes:

Is there something in place for behaviour that is not on social media? If not, why such restrictions?

The “borderlines” for behaviour are not described very clearly. Who is supposed to judge individual cases? No. 9 allows for severe consequences. So there needs to be more clarity and further discussion.

IDRC, IJRC and IDTC: The FEI suggests to include a Social Media Policy for Athletes & FEI Officials in order to outline their responsibility.

It is important that much clearer definitions should be sought.

Except in the case of falsehoods or discrimination there should be a separate body to determine what is and is not offensive and the level of misconduct. Would there be a role for the integrity unit here? It is important that it be made crystal clear that criticism if done respectfully should not be discouraged and the benefit of the doubt would always go to the athlete.

Reading the draft of the Social Media Policy, the legal doubts remain.

APPENDIX N – FEI SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY FOR ATHLETES

1. Introduction

This social media policy outlines guidelines for Athletes regarding their use of social media platforms. Athletes should be aware that their online presence can have a significant impact on their personal brand, reputation, and the reputation of their National Federation, sport, sponsors and equestrian sport.

2. Personal Responsibility

Athletes are personally responsible for their online activities and should remember that they are representing themselves, their National Federation and their sport. They should exercise good judgment and think about the potential consequences of their posts and interactions on social media platforms.

3. Professional Conduct

Athletes should maintain a professional image and avoid engaging in conduct that may bring discredit to themselves, their team, or their sport. They should not make derogatory, offensive, or inflammatory comments—about other Athletes, Chefs d’Equipes, coaches, teams, FEI Officials, Organisers, the FEI or any

individuals associated with equestrian sport. Engaging in online disputes or public arguments or targeting a particular individual for specific criticism/comment is strongly discouraged.

Comment and rationale

It appears that the "media policy" proposed by the FEI for the athletes is a bit generic.

It states, in fact (here POINT 3) that the athletes "should not make derogatory, offensive, or inflammatory comments about other Athletes, Chefs d'Equipes, coaches, teams, FEI Officials, Organisers, the FEI or any individuals associated with equestrian sport".

We cannot find any mention of what the FEI precisely and concretely intends by "derogatory, offensive, or inflammatory comments."

"Commonly understood terms" is not specific and considering the consequences of a suspension we believe that specific legal explanation is requested.

It is important and enrol in the rule at what stage such affirmations would become serious enough to determine the application of sanctions that might lead to suspension?(POINT 9)

4. Respect and Sportsmanship

Athletes and all stakeholders should treat others with respect and demonstrate sportsmanship both on and off social media platforms. They should refrain from engaging in personal attacks, harassment, or any form of online bullying. Constructive and respectful discussions are encouraged, while maintaining the integrity of the sport and its participants.

Comment and rational

Reciprocity is paramount.

Proposed Wording

Athletes and all stakeholders should treat others with respect and demonstrate sportsmanship both on and off social media platforms.

5. Confidentiality and Privacy

Athletes must respect the privacy and confidentiality of their National Federation/team, fellow Athletes, Chefs d'Equipes, coaches, FEI Officials and any other individuals they interact with in their sporting environment. They should not disclose sensitive or confidential information that could harm their National Federation/team or compromise the integrity of the sport.

Comment and rational

Reciprocity is paramount.

Proposed Wording

Athletes **and all stakeholders** must respect the privacy and confidentiality of their National Federation/team, fellow Athletes, Chefs d'Equipes, coaches, FEI Officials and any other individuals they interact with in their sporting environment.

6. Accuracy and Responsibility

Athletes should strive to provide accurate and reliable information on social media platforms. They should fact-check before sharing or commenting on news or events related to their sport. Sharing false information or spreading rumours can have a detrimental effect on the sport and its stakeholders.

7. Use of Media Content

Athletes should respect intellectual property rights and avoid unauthorized use or distribution of copyrighted material, including photographs, videos, or other media content. Properly crediting the original source when sharing such content is encouraged.

Comment and rationale

Reciprocity is paramount.

Proposed wording

Athletes **and all stakeholders** should respect intellectual property rights and avoid unauthorized use or distribution of copyrighted material, including photographs, videos, or other media content.

8. Reporting Violations

If an athlete becomes aware of any violations of this social media policy by fellow athletes, they should report such incidents to their National Federation, Chef d'Equipe, or the FEI. It is the collective responsibility of Athletes to maintain a positive and respectful online environment.

9. Consequences of Policy Violations

~~Violations of this social media policy may result in disciplinary actions, which could include warnings, fines, suspension (including provisional suspension) from FEI Events. The severity of consequences will be determined based on the nature and impact of the violation.~~

It is important to know and enrol in the rule at what stage such affirmations would become serious enough to determine the application of sanctions that might lead to suspension?

Furthermore, it is written that "the severity of consequences will be determined based on the nature and impact of the violation".

Who will determine the "impact of the violation"? Based on what criteria?
At a legal level, sanctions cannot be imposed if the incriminating conduct is not characterised by the principle of the "legality"; we kindly ask that the conduct which leads to the sanction should be determined beforehand in specific legal terms, in order that the athlete is aware beforehand that a "specific mode" of conduct risks incurring sanctions.

Finally, we really would like that the new rule should be respectful in all directions also from officials FEI and other parties.

IDTC: The IDTC shares the concerns expressed by the IJRC.

We believe the language needs to be further refined. The working is not sufficiently precise and could inhibit legitimate disagreement. This is particularly important as the party who determines what is offensive could be foreseen to also be the party who takes offence. We recommend the responsibility for determination sit with a more neutral party. As protection for athletes, we would also like the policy to affirm that disagreement, if done respectfully, is allowed and in cases of uncertainty the athlete should receive the benefit of the doubt. It is important to be mindful of the fact that often athletes will be speaking in their second language and thus nuances can easily be lost.

IEOC: The IEOC welcomes the addition of a Social Media Policy for Athletes and Officials. However, there are some uncertainties about the policies and it would be useful for the FEI to provide guidance and education on how to avoid violating the policies, before imposing the policies.

For example, could the FEI provide some examples of / guidance on:

- a. what would count as “derogatory or inflammatory comments”;
- b. what would count as endorsement of a product that compromises an official’s impartiality;
- c. whether negative feedback about an individual / an event / the FEI in a private Facebook group or private WhatsApp group would be a violation of the proposed rules?

Further, will the FEI actively look for violations or will it only act upon reports about potential violations?

IJOC: The IJOC agrees with the expectations of professional behavior of FEI officials. We also agree that online bullying and similar activities should not be done.

Even though we understand the reasoning behind the policy we would like to have the point 10 (consequences of policy violations) reworded to guarantee the right of defence. Even if quick action is needed, modern technologies provide the capacity to organise for example a hearing via tools like zoom, Webex or Microsoft Teams.

This is a basic principle that should be embedded in the policy

Proposed wording:

9. Consequences of Policy Violations

Violations of this social media policy may result in disciplinary actions, which could include warnings, fines, suspension (including provisional suspension) from FEI Events. The severity of consequences will be determined based on the nature and impact of the violation. **In any case a sanction can only be implemented after at least an official hearing has been conducted with all parties involved, respecting the basic right of defence.**

NED NF: Although we understand why this proposal was made, we don’t believe it is possible to capture this topic under an appendix in the GR. There are too many open endings and questions raised with the document as such. For example: who will safeguard this policy and on what ground – and by who – will someone be disciplined? This needs further discussion.

Because we do believe this is a valid topic, we suggest it to be entered as **guidelines** for all athletes and FEI officials. This could for a start be done by leaving out the proposed article 10 and 9 respectively.

Proposed wording: Either a separate guideline for the social media policy without article 10 and 9 respectively, or leaving article 10 and 9 respectively out of the Social Media Policy in the GRs.

SUI NF: We support this approach and feel it is important that this point is included in the rules. However, this important point requires more clarity and details than those proposed. There are several open questions, such as: where is the limit for publication ? Who judges ? What are the clear sanctions or consequences ? These are not spelled out in Appendix M and N.

We propose that specific guidelines addressing these issues be created, and not just 9-point appendices.

USA NF: We have received concerns on this proposed policy regarding: the enforcement mechanisms including the process for determining policy violations; the scope of this policy and whether this should extend beyond athletes and officials; and, the impact on an individual's freedom of expression.

FEI Feedback

The FEI still recommends that an FEI Social Media Policy is adopted as this is an increasing issue as many inappropriate comments, contents or behaviours are published on social media. Social media policies are common across many sports. The FEI's position is that such a policy does not contravene the principle of free speech. It simply clarifies that statements (such as the use of threatening or offensive language) that would be punishable if made in person during an Event (and would come within the definition of Incorrect Behaviour) are also punishable if used online during/after an Event.

The FEI will not proactively monitor any social media posts from Athletes or Officials, but it is important to have the necessary tools to act in case that breaches have been committed and are reported to the FEI.

Similar to any other violations of the FEI Rules and Regulations, the FEI Legal Department would be prosecuting the cases, either through the Administrative Disciplinary Procedure for Minor violations or through a "standard" disciplinary procedure for more serious violations.

The Board also agreed that we should expand the Social Media Policies to a wider group as the initial proposal was to "only" have policies for Athletes and Officials. Therefore, the proposal is to have only one FEI Social Media Policy but that applies to anyone, such as Support Personnel, Owners, Committee Members, Board Members, FEI Staff, in addition to Athletes and Officials. Clarifications and amendments have also been made to the Social Media Policy (highlighted in yellow).

Finally, the Legal Department has produced an FAQ document to give more clarity and concrete examples (see hereinafter). Subject to the approval of the FEI Social Media Policy at the FEI General Assembly, such FAQ document will be published on inside.fei.org website.

FEI Social Media Policy - FAQ

1. What is the purpose of the FEI Social Media Policy?

As social media usage has increased, regrettably so has the trend towards offensive and hurtful posts. Although the majority of FEI Participants use social media in a respectful manner and with the aim of promoting their own participation and equestrian sport.

Regrettably, there is a small minority who use social media platforms to make negative and personalised comments. The aim of the FEI Social Media Policy is to give the FEI the tools to intervene in such cases with the aim of making the online equestrian community a safe space for all FEI Participants.

The FEI Social Media Policy serves to protect the equestrian community, FEI Participants, the FEI, its members, Athletes, Officials and anyone involved in equestrian sport, while also offering guidelines for responsible and effective use of social media in the context of the FEI's values. It's an essential tool in the digital age, where social media plays a significant role in interaction and communication. The FEI Social Media Policy aims to provide FEI Participants with clear guidelines on using social media responsibly, protecting their personal and professional image and reputation.

The FEI fully respects the principle of free speech; at the same time the FEI wants all FEI Participants to be able to engage with in equestrian sport in a safe and respectful online environment.

2. Who does this policy apply to?

This policy applies to all persons who participate in FEI activities including but not limited to Athletes, Officials, Accredited Persons, FEI Representatives (FEI Board members, FEI Committee members, FEI Headquarters staff, etc), Organisers, Support Personnel (Coaches, Trainers, Horse Owners, Grooms, Stewards, Chefs d'Equipe, team staff, etc), and Persons Responsible.

3. What are the key principles of social media usage?

- **Respect and Integrity:** FEI Participants should always treat others with respect and maintain the highest level of integrity in their online interactions.
- **Positive Representation:** FEI Participants are encouraged to showcase positive aspects of their sportsmanship, teamwork, and dedication to their sport and community.
- **Privacy:** Personal and sensitive information should not be shared on social media. FEI Participants should be cautious about sharing personal details and must respect the privacy of others (fellow Athletes, Grooms, FEI Officials, etc).
- **Avoid Controversy:** FEI Participants should refrain from engaging in or promoting controversial topics, offensive language, or discriminatory content.

4. Can FEI Participants have personal social media accounts?

Yes, of course, any FEI Participants are allowed to have personal social media accounts. However, it is important to remember that their behaviour on personal accounts can still reflect on the equestrian community, their team, colleagues, Trainers, Coaches, Horse Owners or sponsors. FEI Participants are encouraged to maintain a positive and professional image on all platforms.

5. Are there any restrictions on the content FEI Participants can post?

As mentioned above, the FEI fully respects the principle of free speech, but there are still some limitations. FEI Participants should not make derogatory, offensive, or inflammatory comments about other Participants, the FEI or any other individuals involved in equestrian sport.

For example, hate speech, discriminatory content, and incitement of violence based on race, religion, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, or other factors are prohibited. Harassing, stalking, or bullying individuals on social media is also not allowed.

6. Can FEI Participants express their personal opinions?

Yes, FEI Participants can generally express their personal opinions on various topics, such as politics, social issues, sport or other non-sports-related matters on social media platforms. Social media is a platform for sharing ideas, thoughts, and opinions, and it allows users to express themselves freely. This does not absolve FEI Participants from adhering to social media platform-specific rules and the FEI Social Media Policy or potentially facing consequences for violating them.

7. How should FEI Participants handle negative comments or online conflicts?

FEI Participants should refrain from engaging in online conflicts. If they come across negative comments or messages, it is best to first consider if it is really necessary to respond. Try to resist the temptation to reply immediately. If a response is necessary, then the advice is to respond professionally and consider taking the conversation offline if necessary. If the situation escalates and involves any person under the jurisdiction of the FEI, such as an FEI Participant, the matter should be reported to the FEI HQ for follow up.

8. How will this Policy be enforced?

Enforcement of this policy will be carried out by the FEI Legal Department. It is important to highlight that the FEI will not proactively monitor social media accounts of FEI Participants. However, alleged violations of the FEI Social Media Policy are likely to be reported to the FEI. The FEI will assess all reported posts on a case-by-case basis to decide if follow up action is necessary. The FEI may also contact the FEI Participant (either directly or through their NF) who made the post and request them to remove the post.

For minor violations, the FEI may, for example, either report any incident to the National Federation of the Athlete's or Official's concerned for follow up or the FEI Legal Department can rely on the provisions in the FEI General Regulations for "Minor Offences" through the Administrative Disciplinary Procedure (ADP). A right to be heard is naturally provided to the person who allegedly breached the FEI Social Media Policy.

Minor Offences are those offences where the maximum sanction(s) would be:

- (a) Formal Warning;
- (b) Fine not exceeding CHF 2,000;
- (c) Provisional Suspension;
- (d) Suspension not exceeding 3 (three) months;
- (e) Demotion of Official (following consultation with the FEI Director of Officials and the relevant FEI discipline director);
- (f) Removal of an Official from a specific Event (following consultation with the FEI Director of Officials and the relevant FEI discipline director).

For major violations, the matter would be submitted, through the FEI Legal Department, to the FEI Tribunal for an FEI Tribunal's decision. Here as well, a full right to be heard is naturally provided to the person who allegedly breached the FEI Social Media Policy.

10. Who can FEI Participants contact if they have questions or concerns about social media use?

FEI Participants can reach out to the FEI Headquarters for any questions, concerns, or clarifications about social media use and this policy.

11. Can you provide an example of the type of post that could lead to disciplinary action?

Athlete A is competing in an FEI Event with their horse "Mark Zuck" and is disqualified by the President of the Ground Jury "B. Spears" for a violation of the Sports Rules. On their way home from the Event, Athlete A posts the following on social media together with a picture of B. Spears.

"Disqualified from Event X today. Mark Zuck & I were doing a fantastic round and we were in contention for the podium until B Spears got involved and decided to DSQ us for no reason. Wrong, wrong, wrong. B Spears is a joke; she has no idea of the rules and always takes the wrong decision. Everyone knows she is secretly training Athlete B. So it's no big surprise that Athlete B won today..... #moneytalks"

The above post is insulting to the President of the Ground Jury by alleging that the PGJ does not know the rules. It also calls into question the PGJ's ethics/morality by implying that the PGJ took the decision in order to grant an unfair advantage to Athlete B and may have benefitted financially.

How could Athlete A have posted differently to avoid risking disciplinary action?

See below an example:

"Disqualified from Event X today. Mark Zuck & I were doing a fantastic round and we were in contention for the podium but we were disqualified. Apparently, we breached the sports rules. Don't agree with the decision! I thought we were doing everything right! But we will pick ourselves up from this disappointment and we will go again next week."

Please note that this FAQ document is meant to provide general information and guidance about the FEI Social Media Policy. For the most accurate and up-to-date information, please refer to the official FEI Social Media Policy.

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

APPENDIX M – FEI SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

1. Purpose

The purpose of this FEI Social Media Policy is to provide guidelines for all persons who participate in FEI activities including but not limited to Athletes, Officials, Accredited Persons, FEI Representatives, Organisers, Support Personnel, Persons Responsible (each an "FEI Participant") regarding their use of social media platforms. FEI Participants should be mindful of their actions and the potential impact their online presence can have on their professional and personal reputation, integrity, and the integrity of the FEI and equestrian sport. The FEI fully respects the principle of free speech; at the same time the FEI wants all FEI Participants to be able to engage with in equestrian sport in a safe and respectful online environment.

2. Personal Responsibility

FEI Participants are personally responsible for their online activities and should act in a manner that upholds the values and standards of their activity or role. They should exercise good judgement and consider the potential consequences of their posts and interactions on social media platforms.

3. Professional Conduct

FEI Participants should maintain a professional image and avoid engaging in conduct that may compromise their impartiality, integrity, or credibility. They should not make derogatoryⁱ, offensiveⁱⁱ, or inflammatoryⁱⁱⁱ comments about other Participants, the FEI or any other individuals involved in equestrian sport. Publicly expressing personal biases or making discriminatory remarks is strictly prohibited. Engaging in online disputes or public arguments or targeting a particular individual for specific criticism/comment is strongly discouraged.

4. Respect and Sportsmanship

FEI Participants should treat others with respect and demonstrate sportsmanship both on and off social media platforms. They should refrain from engaging in personal attacks, harassment, or any form of online bullying. Constructive and respectful discussions are encouraged, while maintaining the integrity of the sport and its participants.

5. Confidentiality and Privacy

FEI Participants must respect the privacy and confidentiality of other FEI Participants and equestrian sport. They should not disclose sensitive or confidential information that could compromise the fairness and integrity of the sport.

6. Accuracy and Responsibility

FEI Participants should strive to provide accurate and reliable information on social media platforms. They should fact-check before sharing or commenting on news or events related to equestrian sport. Sharing false information or spreading rumours can have a detrimental effect on the sport and its stakeholders.

7. Transparency

If FEI Representatives and/or FEI Officials choose to discuss FEI related matters on social media, they should clearly indicate that they are expressing personal opinions and not representing the official views of the FEI. It is important to avoid creating confusion or misleading the public. Clarifying their personal capacity when expressing opinions related to equestrian sport is essential to maintaining transparency.

8. Conflict of Interest

FEI Officials must disclose any potential conflicts of interest that may arise from their online activities. They should refrain from promoting or endorsing products, services, or organizations that may compromise their impartiality or raise questions about their integrity as FEI Officials.

9. Use of Media Content

FEI Participants should respect intellectual property rights and avoid unauthorised use or distribution of copyrighted material, including photographs, videos, or other

media content. Properly crediting the original source when sharing such content is encouraged.

10. Reporting Violations

If an FEI Participant becomes aware of any violations of this FEI Social Media Policy by an FEI Participant, they should report such incidents to the FEI. It is the collective responsibility of all FEI Participants to maintain the highest standards of conduct and a positive and respectful online environment.

11. Consequences of Policy Violations

Violations of this FEI Social Media Policy may result in disciplinary action, including but not limited to Warnings, Fines, Suspensions (including a Provisional Suspension), Fines. The severity of consequences will be determined based on the nature and impact of the violation.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, the FEI reserves the right to request an FEI Participant to remove/take down/delete a social media post if in the opinion of the FEI (acting reasonably) such post violates this Social Media Policy. Failure by an FEI Representative to promptly comply with the FEI's request can be taken into consideration by the FEI and/or FEI Tribunal, as appropriate, when considering the relevant disciplinary action/sanctions.

- i. Derogatory comments are remarks or statements that belittle, demean, or disparage someone or something, often in a disrespectful or offensive manner. These comments are intended to insult or degrade a person, group, idea, or attribute, and they can be based on stereotypes, prejudices, or biases. Derogatory comments can be hurtful, offensive, and are typically aimed at diminishing the worth or dignity of the subject.

Derogatory comments can take various forms, such as:

1. **Name-calling:** Using insulting or offensive terms to refer to someone, often based on their appearance, identity, or characteristics.
2. **Stereotyping:** Making generalized, negative assumptions about a group of people based on their race, religion, gender, or other attributes.
3. **Mockery:** Ridiculing or making fun of someone, their beliefs, or their actions in a hurtful or disparaging way.
4. **Insults:** Directly attacking a person's character, intelligence, professionalism, personal ethics or abilities with the intent to demean or humiliate them.
5. **Slurs:** Using offensive or discriminatory language that targets a specific racial, ethnic, or social group.

The above list is non-exhaustive.

- ii. Offensive comments are remarks or statements that are likely to cause discomfort, displeasure, or distress to others. These comments can be offensive in various ways, including being vulgar, disrespectful, or hurtful. What is considered offensive can vary widely from one person or culture to another, as it is often influenced by individual sensitivities and social norms.

Offensive comments can encompass a range of topics and can be related to matters of:

1. **Taste:** Comments that offend someone's sense of decency, good manners, or aesthetics. For example, making lewd or obscene remarks.
2. **Morality:** Comments that challenge someone's moral values or ethical principles. This may involve discussions about controversial topics like religion, ethics, or social issues.
3. **Sensitivity:** Comments that target sensitive topics or personal experiences, such as someone's appearance, abilities, or past traumas.
4. **Cultural or Social Norms:** Remarks that go against the accepted norms, practices, or beliefs of a particular culture or society.

The above list is non-exhaustive

iii. Inflammatory comments are remarks or statements that are deliberately designed to provoke strong negative emotions, such as anger, outrage, or resentment in others. These comments are typically intended to escalate tensions, provoke conflict, or create a hostile or incendiary atmosphere. The primary purpose of inflammatory comments is to spark a reaction, often in a confrontational or aggressive manner.

Inflammatory comments can include:

1. **Provocation:** Statements that aim to antagonize or irritate individuals or groups, often by challenging their beliefs, values, or opinions.
2. **Insults:** Harsh and demeaning language meant to personally attack or humiliate someone, thereby eliciting a strong emotional response.
3. **Misinformation or Disinformation:** Spreading false or misleading information to manipulate opinions and provoke outrage or fear.
4. **Sensationalism:** Exaggerating or distorting facts or events in a way that amplifies their emotional impact and encourages strong reactions.
5. **Divisive Rhetoric:** Encouraging division, polarization, or conflict by targeting and accentuating differences among people or groups.

The above list is non-exhaustive.

Proposal from (National Federation, Stakeholder or FEI)

FEI

Article Number – Article Name

New - Integrity/Ethics matters

Explanation for Proposed Change

Other International Federations (IFs) have provisions allowing the IF to request access to any information or record (such as personal devices) to an applicable person in order to assist the investigations.

The FEI's external lawyers (Bird & Bird) recommend to adopt such provisions in order to have the necessary tools to conduct investigations in case of alleged integrity or ethics matters.

Proposed Wording on 28 June 2023

The FEI may at any stage make a written demand (Demand) to an Applicable Person to provide the FEI and/or the Integrity Unit with any information, record, article or thing in their possession or control that the FEI reasonably believes may evidence or lead to the discovery of evidence of a non-doping violation. The Applicable Person shall furnish such record or information immediately, where practical to do so, or within such other time as may be set by the FEI and/or the Integrity Unit. Each Applicable Person waives and forfeits any rights, defences and privileges provided by any law in any jurisdiction to withhold any information, record, article or thing requested in a Demand.

The FEI and/or the Integrity Unit may require an Applicable Person to attend before the FEI, the Integrity Unit and/or its designee for an interview, or to answer any question, or to provide a written statement setting out their knowledge of any relevant facts and circumstances.

A refusal or failure by an Applicable Person to comply with the Demand shall constitute a violation of article 164.12 (f) and any attempted or actual damage, alteration, destruction or hiding of such information, record, article or thing upon receipt of or after the Demand shall also constitute a violation of article 164.12 (f).

Comments Received by 16 August 2023

BEL NF: "Request access to any information or record (such as personal devices)" This goes too far. We oppose. This is a violation of the human rights.

GBR NF: Whilst the investigative powers set out in the new provision are beneficial in enforcing integrity matters, we are concerned that the broad nature of this waiver may be unenforceable in some circumstances. In the UK, for example, certain statutes provide that an individual may not contract out of their statutory rights.

It would be helpful if the FEI could confirm that the breadth of the waiver in this rule will not undermine the consent being given.

We also consider that it would also help athletes if "non-doping violation" was a defined term.

Proposed wording: **Save where it would be contrary to national laws**, each Applicable Person waives and forfeits any rights, defences and privileges provided by any law in any jurisdiction to withhold any information, record, article or thing requested in a Demand.

GER NF: We strictly oppose this proposal as in our view this is a clear violation of the nemo tenetur principle and an infringement of human rights as protected by the European Convention of human rights.

There are not even any standards or balances installed in the rule. Even investigative measures by the state are governed by strict standards (such as the requirement that a judge needs to issue a warrant, a certain degree of suspicion, a catalogue of rule violations that the applicable person must be suspected to have committed.)

If nothing else, we are sure that this rule will not stand if put to trial in Germany.

Please provide us with all background information on how this proposal has been checked for possible violations of personal rights, procedural rules such as the right to a fair trial, data protection rules etc.

IEOC: The IEOC notes the proposal for the FEI to be able to demand evidence from individuals and to sanction those who refuse to comply.

1. The IEOC would like there to be a way to object to demands for evidence, before the individual is forced to provide evidence. The IEOC understands that this is required for the rules to be compatible with the European Convention on Human Rights.
2. The IEOC would like reassurance in the rules that any evidence obtained under these rules will be kept confidential.

Proposed wording:

1. Objections

For Demands made pursuant to these rules, the Applicable Person may file an objection to the [FEI / FEI Tribunal / Demand Review Board]. An objection to a Demand must be filed within 7 days of receipt of the Demand and must specify the grounds for such objections. The [FEI / FEI Tribunal / Demand Review Board] shall consider the objection to the Demand within a reasonable time frame. The decision of the [FEI / FEI Tribunal / Demand Review Board] may be appealed to [the FEI Tribunal / the Court of Arbitration for Sport].

2. Confidentiality

Any information, record, article or thing provided to the FEI under these rules will be kept confidential except when it becomes necessary to disclose such information, record, article or thing to further the investigation of and/or to bring, or as part of, proceedings relating to a rule violation, or when such information, record, article or thing is reported to administrative, professional or judicial authorities pursuant to an investigation or prosecution of non-sporting laws or regulations, or is otherwise required by law.

NED NF: We oppose to this proposal in its current form. By asking for any information and a forfeit of all other laws it is an infringement of rights we have as individuals. With regard to integrity and ethics the proposal in its current form goes against the very same values. This proposal needs more time, for instance limiting the information to relevant information, and without a forfeit of all other laws.

SUI NF: We are clearly opposed to this proposal.

On reading this article, it appears that the FEI can request any type of document at any time without the possibility of a justified refusal. Furthermore, the notion of "Applicable person" is not explained, nor are the sanctions that may be applied.

SWE NF: We do understand the FEIs rationale behind the new proposal but in principle we are against for the following reasons.

As an accused you have the right not to present evidence against yourself and it is essential in criminal cases, it is the prosecutor who must prove guilt, not the accused who must prove innocence.

USA NF: Concerns have been raised to our Federation regarding whether right to privacy and whether appropriate checks and balances are in place to ensure no misuse or abuse of this right to Demand, including an opportunity to be heard if an individual believes the Demand is unreasonable and too broad in scope.

FEI Feedback

While there are some concerns raised by some National Federations, it is not against Human Rights to have the proposed provisions (many other International Federations have similar provision, and many have even stronger provisions). In order to have the necessary tools to gather information and evidence to legally prosecute cases, it is an important element to have such provisions. We therefore suggest to maintain the initial proposal.

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

As per the above.

Proposal from (National Federation, Stakeholder or FEI)

FEI

Article Number – Article Name

New Appendix – Equestrian Charter

Explanation for Proposed Change

To add the Equestrian Charter as an Appendix.

Proposed Wording on 28 June 2023

APPENDIX O – THE FEI EQUESTRIAN CHARTER

Equine welfare involves the physical, psychological, social and environmental wellbeing of the Horse, and all Horses involved in sport and leisure activities should be able to live a good life. The FEI requires all those involved in sport involving Horses adhere to the FEI Code of Conduct, and to acknowledge and accept that at all times the welfare of the Horse must be paramount by pledging to the FEI Equestrian Charter.

1. I understand that it is a privilege to involve Horses in sport and this comes with responsibilities to the Horse.
2. I commit to respecting the Horse as a sentient creature capable of feeling both positive and negative emotions, and to ensuring its welfare is always my priority.

I undertake to continually develop my understanding of Horse behaviour and welfare needs, and to proactively use this knowledge to provide a good life for Horses with which I am involved.

Comments Received by 16 August 2023

CAN NF: Equestrian Canada supports the addition of the Equestrian Charter, as part of that we suggest a wording edit to 2.3 to reflect the use of evidence based research and learning as part of the continued development:

2.3. I undertake to continually develop my understanding of Horse behaviour and welfare needs, and to proactively use this knowledge to provide a good life for Horses with which I am involved.

Proposed wording: 2.3. I undertake to continually develop my understanding of Horse behaviour and welfare needs, **seeking evidence-based sources of information**, and to proactively use this knowledge to provide a good life for Horses with which I am involved.

GBR NF: We support the proposed FEI Equestrian Charter and will adopt this within welfare policies. However, we feel that it does not go far enough in its current form and lacks sufficient depth or detail. Attention should be given to the 'other 23 hours' out of competition, as well as the lifetime care of the horse. These general principles could be expanded further to include references to the five domains for animal welfare, as well as the three 'Fs' (friends, freedom, and forage).

We would like to request that the FEI considers expanding this wording (in consultation with the FEI's Equine Ethics and Welfare Commission) to be more all-encompassing, reflecting the equestrian's responsibility for the care of the horse, and what this effectively means in practice.

FEI Feedback

Please see hereinafter the feedback from the Equine Ethics and Wellbeing Commission:

The commission has considered the proposals as requested by the FEI and offers the following responses:

1. We are happy with the proposed rewording from the Canadian NF.
2. We do not feel it that rewording the Charter to go into greater depth is required for the following reasons:

The Commission has provided the Charter as a method for equestrians to clearly demonstrate their active commitment to ensuring the ongoing wellbeing of the horse in sport. The Charter lacks the guidelines or detail as to how this is achieved because the Charter clearly indicates that these guidelines are in the associated Code of Conduct (Welfare guidelines for horse when in and outside sport during their lifetime – see Recommendation 18).

Equine welfare involves the physical, psychological, social and environmental wellbeing of the horse, and all horses involved in sport and leisure activities should be able to live a good life. The FEI requires all those involved in sport involving horses adhere to the FEI Code of Conduct, and to acknowledge and accept that at all times the welfare of the Horse must be paramount by pledging to the FEI Equestrian Charter.

We have suggested that the framework for contextualising the Vision of 'A Good Life' – and the Five Domains in relation to the sport horse needs to be developed through an FEI working group (see section 5 of the final report) and the guidelines for providing a Good Life should be reflected in the newly developed FEI Equine Welfare or Ethical Code and disseminated via co-developed education modules (as per Recommendations 18 and 20).

Based on the above, please see below the minor modifications to the initial proposed wording, highlighted in yellow.

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

APPENDIX O – THE FEI EQUESTRIAN CHARTER

Equine welfare involves the physical, psychological, social and environmental wellbeing of the Horse, and all Horses involved in sport and leisure activities should be able to live a good life. The FEI requires all those involved in sport involving Horses adhere to the FEI Code of Conduct, and to acknowledge and accept that at all times the welfare of the Horse must be paramount by pledging to the FEI Equestrian Charter.

2. I understand that it is a privilege to involve Horses in sport and this comes with responsibilities to the Horse.

3. I commit to respecting the Horse as a sentient creature capable of feeling both positive and negative emotions, and to ensuring its welfare is always my priority.

I undertake to continually develop my understanding of Horse behaviour and welfare needs, seeking evidence-based sources of information, and to proactively use this knowledge to provide a good life for Horses with which I am involved.

B. MULTI-DISCIPLINARY ITEMS

Proposal from (National Federation, Stakeholder or FEI)

FEI

Article Number – Article Name

Multi-Disciplines item: Noseband Tightness

Explanation for Proposed Change

Further to the recommendations of the Equine Ethics and Wellbeing Commission, the FEI proposes to introduce a general provision harmonising the approach to measuring the tightness of noseband(s) across all FEI Disciplines using an FEI Objective Measuring Tool. To be confirmed and decided if the provisions pertaining to the measuring of the tightness of noseband(s) and related consequences should be specified in the relevant Discipline Rules or in the Veterinary Regulations.

“Fingers” are a subjective measuring unit, as they differ in size and as such do not provide consistency in measurements of noseband tightness at FEI Events. The FEI proposes to introduce an FEI Objective Measuring Tool which will provide the repeatability and consistency in measuring the tightness of nosebands. This will ensure that the same Horse Welfare standards are applied globally across all FEI Events while providing clarity for all FEI stakeholders.

The measurement will be performed either on the nasal bone or on the maxilla (to be confirmed at a later stage, i.e. before the Final Draft, further to consultation with external experts and pending the conclusion of a study on the matter).

Detailed on-site protocols for the measurement of noseband tightness across FEI Disciplines will be provided in Discipline specific Noseband Tightness Measuring Protocol(s) – a flexible document, not regulated in the Rules, and amended if needed.

The consequences of an excessively tightened noseband need to be agreed upon and added in the Rules as well. The FEI proposes:

- Pre-Competition: The Horse and the Athlete combination is not allowed to start unless the noseband is re-adjusted to allow enough laxity.
- During Competition: The Horse and Athlete combination is eliminated from the Competition in question and the Athlete is issued with a Yellow Warning Card.

Proposed Wording on 28 June 2023

Noseband Tightness

"The noseband must be adjusted with sufficient laxity, i.e. to allow for an insertion of an FEI Objective Measuring Tool. The rule applies to all types of nosebands and to both the upper and lower noseband.

The detailed protocol for measuring the tightness of noseband(s) is provided for in the (Discipline specific) Noseband Tightness Measuring Protocol(s).

Excessively tightened noseband(s), not allowing for an insertion of an FEI Objective Measuring Tool, shall incur the following consequences:

Pre-Competition: The Horse and the Athlete combination is not allowed to start unless the noseband is re-adjusted to allow enough laxity.

During the Competition: The Horse and Athlete combination is eliminated from the Competition in question and the Athlete is issued with a Yellow Warning Card.

Comments Received by 16 August 2023

CAN NF: Equestrian Canada supports the work on noseband tightness and recognizes that internally in the organizations both at the FEI and at Equestrian Canada levels there are conflicts between the stakeholder groups. Equestrian Canada supports noseband regulations and encourages the FEI to set specific parameters for the measures by discipline based on science and research. These regulations impact not only the wellbeing of the horse, but also the continued work in the areas of social licence.

EEF: We express our concern about this rule change. This is dangerous to implement and we need to know how a steward can even do that at a bit check with nervous horse. We also struggle to find any scientific evidence that this is the right tool to address this issue. Who is liable for incident that occurs from the use of that tool? Furthermore we don't believe that the tool is approved according to the EU Rule for ensuring that measuring instruments are accurate.

GBR NF: We are in support of monitoring the tightness of the noseband and recognise that fingers are considered to be a subjective measuring unit. We would support the introduction of an FEI-approved Objective Measuring Tool to enable consistent and appropriate measurement of noseband tightness. The design of the measuring tool must have a practical application and be underpinned by high quality science and research, which is currently lacking.

More specifically:

"The noseband must be adjusted with sufficient laxity, i.e. to allow for an insertion of an FEI Objective Measuring Tool. The rule applies to all types of nosebands and to both the upper and lower noseband. "

Based on high quality science and research:

- We support a limit on the tightness of nosebands and developing a practical FEI-approved Objective Measuring Tool
- We support the option that the measurement location may be over the nasal bone or side of the maxilla to account for the range of noseband types and variations in head conformation.

"The detailed protocol for measuring the tightness of noseband(s) is provided for in the (Discipline specific) Noseband Tightness Measuring Protocol(s). "

- We support a **across all disciplines** "noseband measuring protocol" that is informed by high-quality science and research, and any proposed "noseband measuring protocol" has a sufficient phased approach for implementation and a robust review process.
- National Federations to have the opportunity to review any proposed "noseband measuring protocol".

We strongly advise that before any "noseband measuring protocol" is considered or agreed upon, a strategy outlining a clear communication and education programme for stewards, officials, owners and athletes is submitted to all National Federations.

"Excessively tightened noseband(s), not allowing for an insertion of an FEI Objective Measuring Tool, shall incur the following consequences:"

Pre-Competition:

- We would support the option for pre-competition measurement and would support that a noseband could be re-adjusted to meet the level of acceptable tightness prior to starting the competition.

During the Competition:

- Sanctions for using a noseband that is tighter than the threshold (agreed based on high quality science and research): we support the elimination of the horse/athlete combination.
- We consider that sanctions given should be in line with sanctions given for the use of FEI-prohibited equipment and not have a more substantial sanction.

Whilst supportive, the practical application and process of an FEI-approved Objective Measuring Tool and a "noseband measuring protocol" pre and during competition must be carefully considered.

Notes:

We acknowledge that there is a measuring tool available, however, from practical (and experimental) experience, this tool is not suitable for "in the field" measuring of noseband tightness.

It is essential that any equipment used addresses safety issues for horses, handlers and officials and minimises stress for the horse, areas which are not considered with the existing gauge. We would therefore support a small measurement device that is dark coloured, has smooth edges, ideally soft (but incompressible) and therefore easier and safer to use for stewards, officials, athletes and support team. An objective measuring tool will eliminate competitor challenge.

We would support this device being able to define the tightness threshold (pass/fail, threshold based on high quality science and research evidence) without the need to provide specific dimensions.

We would like to request strongly that there is a full trial period for all devices put forward by National Federations to be carried out by respected officials before the final decision is made to which measuring device will be adopted by the FEI. We would also like to request a transitional period, to trial and review this universal measuring tool as a pilot scheme before it is fully implemented.

Some of our stakeholders have asked if the measuring tools will be available outside of the competition environment and have asked for clarity on who would be issued with the "Objective Measuring Tool".

Driving consideration:

To our knowledge such a device has never been used in carriage driving so any introduction would need to be very considered. The types of bridles used in Driving tend to be heavier in construction and may need further thought around the testing tool. We do use standard nosebands in conjunction with driving nosebands. The nose band is used to help maintain the position of the blinkers.

GER NF: We have discussed about rules on measuring and defining noseband tightness in the past. Scientific evidence was missing as to what exactly would have to be the right spacing between the Horse's nose and the noseband. We are not aware of sufficient scientific evidence that has been delivered in the meantime, but which must be a prerequisite for determining the size of an "FEI Objective Measuring Tool" because it needs to be verified that the tool meets all the essential requirements of EU legislation (we refer to "Directive 2014/32/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 February 2014 on the harmonisation of the laws of the Member States relating to the making available on the market of measuring instruments"). Therefore, we ask to conduct further studies with the aim to have an objective, recognised measuring tool.

In the interest of the Horse, we support a workable solution for the transitional period that ensures the noseband is tightened lax enough for the Horse to feel comfortable.

IDOC: Rider or groom should check the tightness of the noseband when a steward is present at bit check, in accordance with the procedure regarding the check of the Ear Bonnets off (Stewards no longer take them off since it was decided this was also not safe).

IDRC: We express our concern about this rule change. This is dangerous to implement and we need to know how a steward can even do that at a bit check with nervous horse. We also struggle to find any scientific evidence that this is the right tool to address this issue. We are not aware of any scientific evidence that has been delivered in the meantime, but which must be a prerequisite for determining the size of an "FEI Objective Measuring Tool".

Who is liable for incident that occurs from the use of that tool?

Furthermore we don't believe that the tool is approved according to the EU Rule for ensuring that measuring instruments are accurate. It needs to be verified that the tool meets all the essential requirements of EU legislation (we refer to "Directive 2014/32/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 February 2014 on the harmonisation of the laws of the Member States relating to the making available on the market of measuring instruments").

Therefore, this rule violates existing EU law.

IDTC: The IDTC supports the principle that nosebands should not be too tight (or loose) however we find this rule to be premature as:

1. The parameters for tightness have not been established
2. Issues regarding implementation have not been sufficiently considered
3. The precise tool to be used has not been established
4. There could be EU implications regarding approval for the measuring device

We recognize that the current procedure is imprecise however changing for a precise but fault procedure is of no benefit.

IRL NF: The IRL NF disagree that there is a need for a Measuring Tool and an Official should be able to identify if there is clear space around a noseband without the use of this tool. The use of a Measuring Tool may have safety implications for an Official in certain disciplines. If the FEI is insistent on bringing in a Measuring Tool, it should be developed first in order to trial it at designated events across all FEI disciplines where Officials have the opportunity to provide feedback to the FEI.

SWE NF: The SWE NF welcomes this new proposal to harmonise measuring the tightness of noseband(s) across all FEI Disciplines. We believe that the measuring can only be performed on the nasal bone until other is proven.

USA NF:

We agree that welfare must be at the forefront of this debate and with that in mind, we must ensure that all decisions are based on a detailed analysis of peer reviewed research and evidence. From a veterinary perspective, we have heard from FEI veterinarians who question what constitutes "sufficient laxity" in regard to welfare of the horse. We must implement rules that have been thoroughly researched and vetted as the unintended consequences could be far greater than the current perceived issue.

Additionally, for a rule regarding noseband tightness to be successfully implemented, there must be time to train officials and to educate athletes, trainers, and grooms. A date of January 1, 2024, is too soon considering there are research studies underway, and the protocols have not yet been published.

FEI Feedback

The FEI Board, FEI Veterinary Committee and FEI HQ agreed the following:

- To keep the initial proposal to use an FEI Objective Measuring Tool, with some very minor modifications further to the Veterinary Committee's feedback
- To include the wording in the Veterinary Regulations (in art. 1044)
- To delay the implementation to **1 January 2025** in order to have sufficient time to educate/train the Officials/Stewards and to develop/manufacture the FEI Objective Measuring Tool.

It is also important to highlight that the Directive 2014/32/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 February 2014 on the harmonisation of the laws of the Member States relating to the making available on the market of measuring instruments mentioned in the comments actually does not apply (it covers other measuring instruments, such as water meters, gas meters, taximeters, etc). In any event, the FEI would be totally free to implement a measuring tool for its own purpose and as part of its regulatory framework.

Concerns were also raised about liability, but it is the FEI's position that it is actually safer to use an FEI approved Measuring Device than to use the fingers (as you can imagine, if a finger gets stuck, it is much more dangerous than if a Measuring Device gets stuck). And for clarity purposes, the FEI does have an insurance covering the work of FEI Officials.

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

Effective 1 January 2025, the following provisions apply regarding the Noseband Tightness:

"The noseband must be adjusted with sufficient laxity, as determined by an FEI approved Measuring Device. The rule applies to all types of nosebands and to both the upper and lower noseband.

The detailed protocol for measuring the tightness of noseband(s) is provided for in the (Discipline specific) Noseband Tightness Measuring Protocol(s).

Excessively tightened noseband(s), as determined by an FEI approved Measuring Device, shall incur the following consequences:

Pre-Competition: The Horse and the Athlete combination is not allowed to start unless the noseband is re-adjusted to allow enough laxity.

During the Competition: The Horse and Athlete combination is eliminated from the Competition in question and the Athlete is issued with a Yellow Warning Card.

Proposal from (National Federation, Stakeholder or FEI)

FEI

Article Number – Article Name

Multi-Disciplines item: Tack & Equipment

Explanation for Proposed Change

Given the launch of the FEI TackApp and FEI Tack, Equipment & Dress Database (available at <https://tack.fei.org/>), we suggest to remove the references to the current Guidelines for Use of Tack, Equipment and Dress in the relevant Discipline Rules as they are therefore no longer applicable. In addition, the FEI's decision(s) whether a specific tack and/or equipment is permitted or not permitted shall be specified in the FEI TackApp and FEI Tack, Equipment & Dress Database.

Proposed Wording on 28 June 2023

Tack & Equipment

Please also refer to the FEI TackApp and FEI Tack, Equipment & Dress Database. The FEI's Decision(s) whether a specific tack and/or equipment is permitted or not permitted shall be specified in the FEI TackApp and FEI Tack, Equipment & Dress Database.

Comments Received by 16 August 2023

GBR NF: We fully support the introduction of the FEI Tack App, which has been positively received. However, there are concerns about access to this platform (and therefore capacity to check the rules) where sufficient 4G/5G or Wi-fi is not available.

In addition, we do feel that the introduction of the FEI Tack App has revealed flaws in the current approval process. We support an overhaul and review of the tack review and approval procedures to ensure that these are more open and transparent, with clear reasons provided by the expert panel as to what equipment is / is not permitted and why.

The current process makes it difficult for National Federations to follow and support the FEI's rules on tack and equipment effectively, as there is little communication about the reasons for any changes. This then results in pressure on the National Federations from manufacturers when their tack and equipment is excluded without sufficient feedback, data, or evidence to support decisions. This is particularly relevant when these decisions are for welfare reasons.

We would like to request that the FEI look to change how they define what tack and equipment is able to be used in competition and warm up. With the focus firmly on equine welfare even those steeped in the sports are questioning the appearance of some of the bits that are allowed to be used currently.

We also note that at present we are not keeping pace with manufacturers who make adaptations to equipment which is not permitted to evade the restrictions in place along with the increase in new equipment some of which is being advertised as "welfare friendly" with limited evidence to back this up.

Our proposal is that in each discipline the FEI provides a list of permitted bits (with clear parameters around length of shank, use with curb chain or not, two reins or single rein etc), bridles and equipment allowed and that this is only updated on an annual basis. We

appreciate that this approach may require a lead in period especially if we were to remove some tack that is currently being used in the sport, but this would give a far easier platform for the athletes, officials and National Federations to work from.

We would request that the App needs to be up to date with all the latest rules and updates before the Tack Guidelines document is discontinued and we have concerns on event if there is no internet/phone signal that the latest version may not be available to competitors and officials.

IEOC: The IEOC believes the FEI TackApp and FEI Tack, Equipment & Dress Database are great in theory, but they do not work in practice for the Eventing discipline for the following reasons:

1. Technology is all very good, but it's very difficult to try to find something on your phone, and share it with the athlete, in bright sunlight or rain.
2. There are often internet connectivity issues in Eventing, as we're out in the middle of a field.

We have also received feedback from Stewards advising the tack database is not ready for use for Eventing as it is missing a lot of information.

Therefore, we continue to require access to the FEI Eventing Guidelines on Use of Tack, Equipment and Dress.

SWE NF: We welcome the new Tack and Equipment App but urge the FEI not to update the App more than twice a year, i.e every 6 months. If the app is constantly updated, it will be very difficult for everyone to follow the updates and unnecessary mistakes can happen.

USA NF: The FEI TackApp is a great tool for the sport. We strongly recommend that items added into the FEI TackApp and FEI Tack, Equipment, & Dress Database must be published with an effective date that reasonably allows time for compliance.

FEI Feedback

The FEI Tack, Equipment & Dress Database is still in its first phase of development, as tack, equipment and dress items are currently being entered into the system. This entails uploading existing tack, equipment and dress items with accompanying photographs and/or videos across all FEI disciplines and marking them as "Permitted", "Not Permitted", "Not Applicable", with exceptions where required. All the current content of the guidelines have been incorporated into the FEI Tack, Equipment & Dress Database

Due to the high number of tack that is being used, or is attempted to be used, in FEI Competitions, this first phase of populating the Database will continue in the following months but once concluded, the number of new items being uploaded to the Database will diminish significantly. It is important to highlight that **updates are only done once a month, i.e. the first Monday of the month.**

Each time a new item of tack, equipment and dress is added or amended, it will appear in the "Recently Updated" section of the Database. This will allow all stakeholders to acquaint themselves with any new item that may be relevant to them for upcoming competitions. At a later stage, the FEI aims to develop notification alerts which users will be able to activate for their respective discipline(s), when a new item (marked "Not Permitted") is added.

The FEI will continue with developing new features of the FEI Tack, Equipment & Dress Database, to further enhance its practicality and usefulness. In the future, FEI Officials and others will be able to submit new items of tack, equipment and dress directly to the FEI via the FEI TackApp for review and eventual designation in the Database. In addition, the FEI TackApp will be available offline as well.

In the meantime, we are grateful for your patience while the Database is being populated and perfected. We strive to make the FEI Tack, Equipment & Dress Database and its mobile version, the FEI TackApp, an essential, indispensable and user-friendly tool for FEI Officials, Athletes, their Support Personnel and other stakeholders.

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

As per the above.

C. PROPOSED RULES CHANGES THAT HAVE BEEN REJECTED OR DEFERRED TO A FUTURE RULES REVISION

Proposal from (National Federation, Stakeholder or FEI)
URU NF
Article Number – Article Name
Article 118 - Person Responsible
Explanation for Proposed Change
<p>The high standards and professionalism of the athletes, their participation in different countries, and competing for different owners, gets tackled with the PR regulations. Riders are considered the PR where in the majority of situations they are not involved in the treatments applied to the horse.</p> <p>There are situations where the rider handles the horse to the trainer or groom during the event and has no authority over what happens with the horse, the rider should be exonerated of responsibility if he or she is not the owner, trainer of the horse, (when owner or trainer of the horse then you can consider him or her the PR).</p> <p>The same situation occurs when the rider's horse tests positive to a banned or controlled drug, he or she should not be considered PR if he or she is not owner or trainer of the horse.</p> <p>In our opinion the horse and the trainer should be penalized (longer resting periods for the horse and penalty points for the trainer) in situations where they do not comply with the endurance rules and riders should have no responsibility over the case. Riders should only be penalized when seen by stewards applying not permitted treatments to the horse during an event or being by the horse when this happens, or any other direct action that can be penalized.</p>
Proposed Wording on 28 June 2023
N/A
Comments received by 16 August 2023
<p>GER NF: We agree with the position of the FEI. The Athlete must under all circumstances remain a Person Responsible that can be held liable for what happens to the Horse(s) he/she is competing with. It is the Athlete who makes the last decision to enter into the competition with the Horse. In most disciplines, it is only the Athletes that reliably fall under the disciplinary authority of the FEI. If an Athlete can prove that he bears no fault, he will not receive a sanction. Of course, he will be held liable for actions by his team members. He can seek legal redress and compensation within the team.</p>
FEI Feedback
<p>As mentioned in the Memo on the First Draft, there is already the penalty point system where trainers are penalised for certain issues arising during the ride.</p> <p>The FEI does not propose to deviate from the current system where the general rule is that the rider is always the Person Responsible. However, we already have the concept of "Additional Personal Responsible" (someone who has "made a relevant Decision about the Horse"), so via this procedure the FEI can also apply sanctions to the trainer based on the specific circumstances of the case.</p>

Proposal from (National Federation, Stakeholder or FEI)
FRA NF
Article Number – Article Name
Article 138 - Names of Horses FEI Financial Charges
Explanation for Proposed Change
<p>The name given to a horse is the link to it's breeder, it represents the work of a lifetime, carries the weight of the genetic value of a breeder's bloodlines.</p> <p>When changing a horse's name, the visible aspect of all work accomplished by the breeder, the stud books and their programs, previous riders and all people involved is erased.</p> <p>Name changes negate the crucial role of data collection, analysis and publication, by severing the access to the databases to members of the public, as they are oftentimes indexed via horse names.</p> <p>This practice contributes to diluting and losing crucial information regarding major contributors to our breeds and more globally to the equestrian sport industry.</p>
Proposed Wording on 28 June 2023
N/A
Comments received by 16 August 2023
N/A
FEI Feedback
<p>The FEI's opinion is that the current name changes provisions in the General Regulations, Financial Charges and Horse name change guidelines should not be amended. They were part of a wide consultation and consensus a few years ago and the current system seems to be widely accepted in the community.</p>

Proposal from (National Federation, Stakeholder or FEI)
ARG NF
Article Number – Article Name
Article 164 - Sanctions 164.8 Removal of an Official from an Event
Explanation for Proposed Change
<p>There is no consolidated instrument for specific use that allows the issuance of reports from CO's or Endurance Departments of each National Federation to inform about the performance of Officials in the different events.</p> <p>Therefore, it is requested to implement a Report Model in this regard.</p> <p>This would contribute to greater control over the performance of the Officials and would even act as a record of actions.</p>

Proposed Wording on 28 June 2023

N/A

Comments received by 16 August 2023

N/A

FEI Feedback

The FEI can look into how information regarding officials is shared with the relevant National Federation. However this would not be a matter to be regulated under the rules. Currently, in principle whenever disciplinary action is initiated by the FEI in relation to an FEI Official, the Official's National Federation is copied on the notification letter/decision.

Proposal from (National Federation, Stakeholder or FEI)

IRL NF

Article Number – Article Name

APPENDIX D - Article 108 Championships Table

Explanation for Proposed Change

The IRL propose the addition of a World Championship for Young Riders, Juniors and Children in Olympic Year + 1 and Olympic Year + 3. This would replicate what is in place for Young Riders and Juniors in Endurance and Vaulting and additionally include Children. All of the underage groups, especially the 'Children's' class has a very narrow age window, and it would give these ambitious young drivers another goal in their prospective careers.

The practicalities of organising a World Championship mean that the proposed change would have to be considered and approved in 2023/2024 so that a bidding process can be undertaken in 2024 so that, if practical, the Championships can take place in 2025 (Summer Olympic Year + 1). The IRL NF accept that it may be 2027 before the first World Championship is held but note that if this proposal was to wait until Driving Rules are up for a full revision in 2025, it may be 2029 before the first World Championships are held for the underage groups and a generation of underage drivers will miss out.

Proposed Wording on 28 June 2023

N/A

Comments received by 16 August 2023

GER NF: We do not support the introduction of further World Championships in youth categories in any discipline.

IRL NF: The IRL NF acknowledge the FEI response and desire to wait for the full revision of the FEI Driving Rules in 2025 but feel that to delay it until then would result in a generation of Youth Drivers missing the opportunity to compete on the World stage. A deferral to 2025 would result in the rules changing, if passed, on 1st Jan 2026 and the next opportunity for a World Youth Driving Championship would be Summer Olympic Year + 3, i.e., 2027. This would leave a lead in time of 12 – 18 months for a Championship

which is unrealistic meaning it would be Summer Olympic Year + 1, 2029, before a Championship could be held.

FEI Feedback

The FEI Driving Committee and Board agreed that such proposal could wait the next full revision of the FEI Driving Rules (in 2025) and thus no change would be made this year.
