

**PROPOSAL REGARDING
PERIODICAL RULES REVISION**

Dear National Federations,

A. INTRODUCTION

On 8 July 2019 a proposal was submitted to the National Federations and Stakeholders whereby **Full Rules Review** shall take place **every 4 years** (the 8 July 2019 proposal can be consulted [here](#)).

A number of positive comments from National Federations were received welcoming this proposal (to see the comments received please check **Appendix I** below).

At the same time, some National Federations asked the FEI to further clarify the circumstances under which a FEI Rulebook can be modified during the 4 years cycle.

The FEI has taken into consideration these comments and it is proposing the requested clarification.

In addition, the FEI is also proposing to the General Assembly a staggered timeline for the full review of the 17 set of FEI Rules.

NOTE: *Please note that the present proposal is yet to be approved by the FEI Board during its in-person meeting on 16 November 2019. The FEI General Assembly will be informed of the Board's decision during the Rules Session on 18 November 2019 before the voting on this proposal on the General Assembly day on 19 November 2019*

B. INITIAL PROPOSAL SUBMITTED ON 8 JULY 2019

Can be consulted [here](#).

C. REVIEWED PROPOSAL SUBMITTED ON 22 OCTOBER 2019

Based on the proposal of having a **Full Rules Review every 4 years**, on 8 July it was proposed that a Rulebook can be modified during the quadrennial period in case of:

1. Urgent repairs, i.e., changes in the Rules that cannot await because of its impact on the welfare of the Horses or the safety of the Athletes;
2. Correction of inconsistencies, manifest errors, contradictions, etc.

In addition to the above, and based on the feedback received from National Federations, the FEI is hereby proposing the following additional reasons for a modification of a Rulebook during the 4 years cycle:

3. New/recently introduced rule(s) that has(ve) proven to be problematic in its implementation;
4. Implementation of new technology development(s) relevant to the specific set of Rules;
5. IOC, IPC, WADA, ASOIF and similar organisations' policies' implementation; and

6. Other scenarios not foreseen by this Policy as considered and approved by the Board.

D. RULES REVIEW STAGGERED TIMELINE PROPOSAL

Considering the following Rulebooks:

1. Statutes
2. Internal Regulations
3. General Regulations
4. Veterinary Regulations
5. Equine Anti-Doping
6. Human Anti-Doping
7. Olympic Regulations
8. Olympic Qualification Rules
9. Jumping
10. Dressage
11. Para Dressage
12. Eventing
13. Endurance
14. Driving
15. Para Driving
16. Vaulting
17. Reining

And in consultation with the relevant Sports Directors, we propose the following timeline for Full Rules Review:

| 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 |
|--------------------|--------------|------------|----------------------|
| Jumping | Driving | Veterinary | Statutes |
| Dressage | Para Driving | Eventing | Internal Regulations |
| Para Dressage | | Vaulting | GRs |
| Equine Anti-Doping | | | |
| Human Anti-Doping | | | |

In addition, the following Rulebooks will be modified:

- Olympic and Paralympic Regulations: as per the applicable IOC/IPC timeframe
- Olympic and Paralympic Qualifications Rules: as per the applicable IOC/IPC timeframe
- Reining: To be confirmed after the FEI General Assembly 2019

E. GENERAL ASSEMBLY RECOMMENDATION

Based on the above the FEI kindly ask the General Assembly to approve the Periodical Rules Revision proposal.

APPENDIX I**COMMENTS RECEIVED FROM
NATIONAL FEDERATIONS AND STAKEHOLDERS
by 30 AUGUST 2019**

- 1) **JPN NF:** strongly support the "Full Rules Review" every 4 years. This would allow, Organisers, Officials and Athletes to compete with certain consistency.
- 2) **GER NF:** agrees with the proposal.
- 3) **EEF:** Supported in principle. However, 4 years can be very long and it must thus still be possible to correct rules that show "teething problems" (for example when a significant rule change that was made during a full revision turns out to require correction the year after). In the same context it is recommended to make more use of pilot testing etc to identify potential issues before a major rule change is implemented. Consideration shall also be given to potential developments in the technical world (equipment, footing, judging, etc) that may benefit the sport and should not be postponed for several years only for administrative reasons.
- 4) **SWE NF:** It has in principle no objections to the proposal of having a rule revision every 4 year as long as there are a possibility to modify, change or delete a rule when it is not applicable for any reasons not only due to what has been written below:
 - Urgent repairs, i.e., changes in the Rules that cannot await because of its impact on the welfare of the Horses or the safety of the Athletes;
 - Correction of inconsistencies, manifest errors, contradictions, etc.
- 5) **ITA NF:** With reference to the timeline for the proposed changes to the revision policy, we are in total agreement to make full rule revisions every 4 years, starting with the Olympic & Paralympic Disciplines following the Olympic/Paralympic year.

It should certainly make life easier for National Federations and Stakeholders considering the very busy period we have over the National Federation comments/proposals deadline during the summer period.

It is very important to stagger the rule changes and it is critical to allow changes for welfare and safety matters or any other changes which could have an impact on our sport.

We also believe that when there are any major changes to the rules (for example the Legal System), more time should be considered for consultation and feedback with National Federations, and their own stakeholders at a national level, before approving and implementing the changes. These changes can potentially create a huge impact on the sport not only internationally but also on a national level, and therefore more time should be considered. Perhaps it would be possible to present a draft at the Sports Forum?

May we suggest that if the rules concern, for example the calendar and the Organisers, the National Federations and Organisers should be allowed sufficient time to organise the changes internally. The FEI calendar for the following year is already closed when

we approve or do not approve at the General Assembly. These changes should be implemented the following year and not immediately (i.e. approved in 2019 and implemented in 2020).

- 6) GBR NF:** Some GBR Officials feel that the proposal of a four year rules cycle could be damaging to the long term progress of the sport.

The Proposal for a Periodical Rule Revision needs careful thought. It is understandable that FEI Headquarters would recommend this initiative, however, there are still too many areas in development to sustain a four year cycle. Limiting changes to issues of safety, welfare or inconsistencies will prevent the necessary improvements and developments that are needed to keep the Eventing Rules developing in line with the sport itself.

Before our current rules are "cast in stone" we need some fundamental changes to be made. Here are some examples (referring to Eventing Rules):

- 1)** The Eventing Education Pathway Working Party has been from the start of this year, reviewing the Assessment system for officials. It has yet to meet to fully discuss the role and different levels for officials which are part of the Eventing rules. Having only 2 Levels for officials has proven to be unrealistic given the experience and technical ability necessary at the highest levels. Extra Levels are necessary to be in line with the Star System of the competitions.
- 2)** Article 549.2 Run out - Missing a Flag has had much discussion and has evolved further but it will need to be used "in the field" before we know if any further amendments or clarifications are necessary.
- 3)** Annexes to the rules: These need to be updated when necessary. Already there has been confusion in the biting section over what is a French Link and what is a Dr Bristol.

GBR invite the various Federations to give this thought and FEI to consider at least to put this principle on hold until we have made progress on the above examples.