

**PROPOSALS FOR RULES CHANGES OF
GENERAL REGULATIONS 2024**

16 October 2024

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.

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

- A.** [Proposed Rules changes to be voted at the FEI General Assembly 2024;](#)
and
- B.** [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 2024

Proposal from (National Federation, Stakeholder or FEI)
FEI
Article Number – Article Name
Article 106- Application for and Allocation of FEI-Named Events
Explanation for Proposed Change
<p>To remove the restrictions that a NF cannot be allocated more than one World or Continental Championships for Seniors in the Olympic Disciplines (respectively more than two consecutive FEI World or Continental Championship in the same Discipline). This is to introduce more flexibility into the allocation process.</p> <p>In addition, it is proposed to allow the Board the possibility to allocate a Championship to an Organiser more than one edition (e.g. to allocate two consecutive editions of a Championship to the same Organiser).</p>
Proposed Wording on 26 June 2024
<p>1. Allocations shall be decided by the Board on the advice of the FEI and the relevant Technical Committee in accordance with this Article. <u>The Board shall be entitled to allocate FEI Named Events to the same Organiser on a multi-edition/year basis.</u></p> <p>(...)</p> <p>4. No NFs shall be allocated more than one (1) FEI World or FEI Continental Championship for Seniors in the Olympic Disciplines in any one year, unless decided otherwise by the Board in the interests of equestrian sport.</p> <p>5. No NFs shall be allocated two (2) consecutive FEI World or FEI Continental Championships in the same Discipline for the same Category of Athletes, unless there are no other suitable applications.</p>
Comments Received by 21 August 2024
<p>GBR NF: Would it be better to allocate two consecutive editions of a Championship to the same Organiser 'under exceptional circumstances' (for example, if the same venue and organiser was the only applicant)?</p> <p>Proposed wording: "1. Allocations shall be decided by the Board on the advice of the FEI and the relevant Technical Committee in accordance with this Article.</p> <p><u>Under exceptional circumstances, the Board shall be entitled to allocate FEI Named Events to the same Organiser on a multi-edition / year basis."</u></p>
FEI Feedback
<p>We suggest to keep the initial wording as the idea was to have as much flexibility as needed and that it should not necessarily be in exceptional circumstances that such multi-edition/year basis are allocated.</p>
Proposed Final Wording to be Voted at the FEI General Assembly 2024
<p>As per the initial wording.</p>

Proposal from (National Federation, Stakeholder or FEI)
FEI
Article Number – Article Name
Articles 127 (Allocation of Prizes) and 128 (Distribution of Prizes)
Explanation for Proposed Change

Amend to provide that prize money must be paid by bank transfer and that it cannot be paid in cash or that payment in cash may only be made if specific FEI approval is sought and granted in the event schedule. A certain threshold will be set under which prior approval from the FEI is not needed i.e. for small amounts of money prizes.

Proposed Wording on 26 June 2024
ARTICLE 127 - ALLOCATION OF PRIZES

1. In all Competitions the prizes must be distributed according to the provisions of this Article.
2. The value of the first prize for individuals or teams, either in cash or in kind easily convertible into cash, may never exceed one third (1/3) of the total value of the prize money and prizes convertible into cash, offered for the whole Competition unless otherwise specified in the Sport Rules for the relevant Discipline.
3. The minimum number of prizes offered for each Competition must be allocated on the basis of one (1) prize for every commenced four Athletes, with a minimum of five (5) prizes.
4. Prizes, as set forth above, must be offered for all qualifying Competitions for a general classification at that Event, or for a general classification after a Series of Events.
5. A single prize in cash, or in kind, may be allocated for a general classification at the conclusion of a Series of qualifying Competitions, or at the end of the Event for the accumulation of points, or at the conclusion of a Series of qualifying Events, provided always that prizes have been offered for each of the preliminary or qualifying Competitions or Events, according to this Article.
6. Prize money shall be paid by bank transfer only and shall not be paid in cash, subject to Article 127.7.
7. Prize money may be paid in cash only if (i) specific approval for payment of prize money in cash is sought from and granted by the FEI in the approved Schedule for the Event, or (ii) the total value of the prize money does not exceed CHF 10,000 (in which case payment of prize money in cash is permitted and approval need not be sought from the FEI).

1.1. Article 128 - Distribution of Prizes
Subject to Article 127:

1. The total amount of prize money shown for each Competition in the schedule must be distributed.
2. Prize money must be distributed to the Chefs d'Equipe or to the winning Owners, lessees or Athletes within ten (10) days after the last Competition of the Event provided they have met all their financial and other obligations to the OC.
3. Prize money for a Competition may not be distributed while any Protests relating to that Competition are under consideration during an Event.

Comments Received by 21 August 2024

N/A

FEI Feedback

N/A

Proposed Final Wording to be Voted at the FEI General Assembly 2024

As per the initial wording.

Proposal from (National Federation, Stakeholder or FEI)

FEI

Article Number – Article Name

Art. 135 - Advertising on Athletes and Horses and Promotion

Explanation for Proposed Change

References to Driving include Para Driving and references to Dressage include Para Dressage. In addition, to add the Paralympics under art. 135.2 "At all Events, except Regional and Olympic Games under the patronage of the IOC, Athletes may wear clothing and use equipment...."

Proposed Wording on 26 June 2024

(...)

References to Driving include Para Driving and references to Dressage include Para Dressage.

At all Events, except Regional and Olympic Games under the patronage of the IOC, and the Paralympic Games, Athletes may wear clothing and use equipment (including, but not limited to, riding equipment and vaulting back pads) and vehicles which identify the manufacturer, the Athlete's sponsor(s), the Athlete's team sponsor(s), the NF's sponsor(s), the Athlete's nation, and/or the Athletes themselves, but only under the specific conditions set forth below: (...)

Comments Received by 21 August 2024

N/A

FEI Feedback

N/A

Proposed Final Wording to be Voted at the FEI General Assembly 2024

As per the initial wording.

Proposal from (National Federation, Stakeholder or FEI)
EEF and GER NF
Article Number – Article Name
Art 142.1. (x) Abuse of Horses and Annex A - Definitions
Explanation for Proposed Change

Urgent Repair – Horse Welfare

Proposed wording: (x). To use of any device or equipment which causes excessive pain to the horse or influence the natural movement of the horse with artificial methods, like attaching elastic band to the horse's legs.

Proposed Wording on 26 June 2024

2. Any person witnessing an Abuse must report it ~~in the form of a Protest (Article 161)~~ without delay. If an Abuse is witnessed during or in direct connection with an Event, it should be reported as a Protest (Article 161) to an Official. If the Abuse is witnessed at any other time it should be reported ~~as a Protest (Article 161) to the Secretary General to the FEI at the dedicated email address (welfare@fei.org and/or any other email address as communicated by the FEI) and/or through the FEI reporting mechanism/tools.~~ ~~who, f~~Following a review of the ~~Protest report,~~ the FEI shall take a Decision as to whether or not to open disciplinary proceedings (either through the Administrative Disciplinary Procedure or by referring the matter to the FEI Tribunal).

Comments Received by 21 August 2024

GER NF: We maintain our position that the amendment of the indicative list in Art. 142.1 is required. Sports Federations need to be able to adapt to new situations and show quick reactions to new unwanted methods. From a European perspective the actions described in the proposed example are such obvious violation horse welfare that no broad discussion is needed. As soon the EEWC action plan is in place, we are happy to discuss adjustments.

Proposed wording: (x). To use of any device or equipment which causes excessive pain to the horse or influence the natural movement of the horse with artificial methods, like attaching elastic band to the horse's legs.

FEI Feedback

We maintain our initial position that the FEI does not support such proposal as it is mainly linked to recent incidents. Any changes to the definition should be part of broader discussions further to the Equine Ethics and Wellbeing Commission's report and related actions plan. Therefore, it is proposed not to make the above-mentioned change but the FEI will be reviewing any matter linked to Horse abuse, the FEI Code of Conduct for the Welfare of the Horse, and other welfare related items as part of the EEWC action plan.

However, the provisions pertaining to reporting a Horse Abuse (art. 142.2) should be amended in order to reflect what is being done in practice. Given the new online horse abuse reporting form, the FEI no longer needs the email address welfare@fei.org and only the new online horse abuse reporting form should be used.

Proposed Final Wording to be Voted at the FEI General Assembly 2024

2. Any person witnessing an Abuse must report it ~~in the form of a Protest (Article 161)~~ without delay. If an Abuse is witnessed during or in direct connection with an Event, it should be reported as a Protest (Article 161) to an Official. If the Abuse is witnessed at any other time it should be reported ~~as a Protest (Article 161) to the Secretary General to the FEI through the FEI Horse Abuse Reporting Form available on inside.fei.org. who,~~ ~~Following a review of the Protest report, the FEI shall take a Decision as to whether or not to open disciplinary proceedings (either through the Administrative Disciplinary Procedure or by referring the matter to the FEI Tribunal).~~

Proposal from (National Federation, Stakeholder or FEI)

FEI

Article Number – Article Name

Art. 163 – Disciplinary Proceedings

Explanation for Proposed Change

To clarify the current provisions on the imposition of a Provisional Suspension to confirm that FEI HQ is entitled to impose a Provisional Suspension during the investigations, without the need to formally open a Disciplinary Case (as the FEI needs to gather evidence, contact witnesses, etc, prior to be able to file a Claim).

Proposed Wording on 26 June 2024

(...)

163.11 Notwithstanding the foregoing, in urgent cases the FEI may impose an immediate Provisional Suspension via the Minor Offence Notice of Charge, ~~or~~ via a Notification Letter in Claim proceedings and/or via a Notice of open investigation. The Provisional Suspension will remain in effect until such time as FEI Headquarters or the FEI Tribunal (as the case may be) issues its Decision or unless and until the Provisional Suspension is lifted in accordance with Article 163.12 below.

Comments Received by 21 August 2024

GER NF: We understand that there may be cases where the FEI needs to act quickly and impose a suspension at the beginning of the investigation. However, a provisional suspension on an insufficient factual basis not only is a strong invasion on the rights of the affected athlete, it also creates a substantial liability risk for the FEI. In general, a provisional suspension is only warranted, if the continued participation of the concerned athlete is an unacceptable imposition for other athletes or the federation. This must be even more true, if it is based on nothing more than an initial suspicion.

We suggest that the term "urgent cases" is replaced by a clearer description of the circumstances in which athletes must expect the imposition of a provisional suspension. Also, we doubt that these circumstances can ever exist in a Minor Offence Case.

Proposed wording: 163.11 Notwithstanding the foregoing, in urgent cases, where the continued participation of the concerned athlete is an unacceptable imposition for other athletes or the FEI, the FEI may impose an immediate Provisional Suspension via the Minor

~~Offence Notice of Charge, or via~~ a Notification Letter in Claim proceedings and/or via a Notice of open investigation. The Provisional Suspension will remain in effect until such time as FEI Headquarters or the FEI Tribunal (as the case may be) issues its Decision or unless and until the Provisional Suspension is lifted in accordance with Article 163.12 below.

FEI Feedback

First of all, there are instance where a Provisional Suspension should be imposed even through a Minor Offence Notice of Charge, as the FEI may want to prevent participation to an upcoming FEI event (for example if the offence occurred just before an FEI Championships). In addition, the person's rights will always be fully respected as they may petition to the FEI Tribunal and ask for the lifting of their Provisional Suspension. We therefore suggest to keep the initial wording.

Proposed Final Wording to be Voted at the FEI General Assembly 2024

As per the initial wording.

Proposal from (National Federation, Stakeholder or FEI)

FEI

Article Number – Article Name

Art. 164 – Sanctions

Explanation for Proposed Change

Add a sanction for misconduct that specifically enables the FEI to disqualify ranking points and forfeit/recover prize point in cases involving fraudulent conduct that affect competition results.

To expand the list of offences so that we can "catch" all wrongdoings. The table of sanctions with the various ranges has been updated and sanctions slightly increased for Horse Abuse, especially taking into account the Social Licence to Operate and EEWC action plan. In addition, for the "Low End" category the sanctions were increased up to 3 months so that it matches the sanctions available under the Administrative Disciplinary Proceedings.

Proposed Wording on 26 June 2024

ARTICLE 164 - SANCTIONS

Types of Sanctions

...

164.5 Disqualification

(a) Disqualification is appropriate when (i) it is specified in the Statutes, GRs or Sport Rules, (ii) fraudulent conduct has affected the results of a Competition or Event, or (iii) if the circumstances otherwise require an immediate action. Disqualification from the Competition or Event may be retroactive.

(b) Disqualification from a Competition means that the Athlete and/or Horse(s) concerned - even should they change ownership - are removed from the list of starters and the classification and includes all resulting consequences including forfeiture of any prize money, ranking points, medals, or other prizes won in that particular Competition.

(c) Disqualification from an Event means that the Athlete and/or Horse(s) - even should they change ownership - may take no further part in that Event and it may include (in addition to what is mandated under paragraph 164.5(b) above) the forfeiture of any prize money won in previous Competitions at that Event where provided for in the Statutes, GRs or Sport Rules, with all resulting consequences including forfeiture of any prize money, ranking points, medals, or other prizes won in previous Competitions at that Event.

(...)

Offences

164.11 In addition to breaches of specific provisions of the FEI Rules and Regulations, the following is a list of other offences that the FEI may sanction:

- (a) Incorrect Behaviour;
- (b) Abuse of Horse;
- (c) Acts defined as criminal by the national law and/or Swiss law ("Criminal Acts");
- (d) Fraud of any kind, including (without limitation) offering or accepting a bribe to perform or fail to perform an act, falsifying documents, procuring false testimony from witnesses, or committing any other fraudulent act to affect the conduct or outcome of disciplinary proceedings or the conduct or results of any Competition/Event;
- (e) Violence;
- (f) Failure to cooperate promptly, truthfully, completely, and in good faith with an investigation undertaken by, or on behalf of, the FEI, including failure to comply with any Demand; or otherwise obstructing, delaying, frustrating, or otherwise interfering with any such investigation;
- (g) Conduct that is contrary to the integrity of equestrian sport or that risks bringing the FEI and/or equestrian sport into disrepute or that risks causing the public opinion of the FEI and/or equestrian sport to be diminished;
- (h) Witness intimidation or retaliation:
 - (i) Any act that threatens or seeks to intimidate another person with the intent of discouraging the person from the good-faith reporting of information that relates to an alleged violation or non-compliance with the FEI Rules and Regulations to the FEI, any NF, hearing body, or any person/body conducting an investigation by or on behalf of the FEI.
 - (ii) Retaliation against a person who, in good faith, has provided evidence or information that relates to an alleged violation or non-compliance with the FEI Rules and Regulations to the FEI, any NF, hearing body, or any person/body conducting an investigation by or on behalf of the FEI.
- (i) Breach of the FEI Code of Ethics;
- (j) Breach of the FEI Code of Conduct on the Welfare of the Horse;
- (k) Breach of the FEI Code on the Manipulation of Competitions;
- (l) Breach of the FEI Officials Code of Conduct; or
- (m) Breach of the FEI Safeguarding Policy against Harassment and Abuse;
- (n) Breach of the FEI Social Media Policy

Art. 164.13

(...)

Offence	Low-End	Mid-Range	Top-End	Max
Incorrect Behaviour	<u>Up to 23</u> months	<u>Up to 6 months</u> <u>1</u> year	<u>Up to 3</u> <u>3</u> years	<u>2</u> <u>Up to 5</u> years
	Up to CHF 1,500	CHF 1,500 – 3,000	CHF 3,000 – 7,000	CHF 10,000
Abuse of Horse	<u>Up to 36</u> months	<u>6</u> months – <u>2</u> <u>3</u> years	<u>2</u> <u>3</u> – <u>5</u> <u>10</u> years	<u>Up to Life</u>
	CHF 1000 – 1,500	CHF 2,000 – 3,000	CHF 5,000 – 10,000	CHF 15,000
Criminal Acts, Fraud, Violence	<u>Up to 13</u> months	3 months – 2 years	2 – 5 years	<u>Up to Life</u>
	CHF 1000 – 1,500	CHF 2,000 – 3,000	CHF 5,000 – 7,500	CHF 10,000
Failure to cooperate with an investigation	<u>Up to 13</u> months	Up to 6 months	Up to 9 months	1 year
	Up to CHF 1,500	CHF 1,500 – 3,000	CHF 3,000 – 7,000	CHF 10,000

Bringing the FEI and/or equestrian sport into disrepute	Up to 13 months	Up to 6 months	Up to 9 months	1-2 years
	Up to CHF 1,500	CHF 1,500 – 3,000	CHF 3,000 – 7,000	CHF 10,000
Breach of the FEI Code on the Manipulation of Competitions	Warning Up to 3 months	3 months - 2 years	Up to 5 years	Up to Life
	CHF 1000 – 1,500	CHF 2,000 – 3,000	CHF 5,000 – 10,000	CHF 15,000
Breach of the FEI Safeguarding Policy against Harassment and Abuse	Warning Up to 3 months	3 months - 2 years	2 years to 10 years	Up to Life
	CHF 1000 – 1,500	CHF 2,000 – 3,000	CHF 5,000 – 10,000	CHF 15,000
Witness Intimidation or Retaliation	Up to 3 months	Up to 1 year	Up to 3 years	Up to 5 years
	Up to CHF 1,500	CHF 1,500 – 3,000	CHF 3,000 – 7,000	CHF 10,000
Breach of the FEI Social Media Policy	Up to 3 months	Up to 1 year	Up to 3 years	Up to 5 years
	Up to CHF 1,500	CHF 1,500 – 3,000	CHF 3,000 – 7,000	CHF 10,000

Comments Received by 21 August 2024

GBR NF: Are these sanctions proportionate in relation to each other? For example, social media breaches carry a greater sanction (penalties up to five years) than bringing the sport into disrepute.

We would like to suggest that sanctions are tiered in accordance with severity, with bringing the sport into disrepute used as the main sanction, in conjunction with other rule breaches. Any listed breaches by their definition would bring the sport into disrepute.

GER NF: While we understand the rationale of the FEI, we feel that the rights of the defendants need to be reflected in a more transparent way. Where they maintain their rights.

According to the decision CAS 2017/A/5003 the obligation to cooperate is subject to a weighing of interests. Federations may not request the cooperation of the defendant in any and all circumstances, but only when the federations interest in investigating the facts takes precedents over the privacy rights of the defendant. The rule needs to reflect this in a transparent way.

Proposed wording: (f) Failure to cooperate promptly, truthfully, completely, and in good faith with an investigation undertaken by, or on behalf of, the FEI, including failure to comply with any Demand; or otherwise obstructing, delaying, frustrating, or otherwise interfering with any such investigation; This rule does not apply in cases where the rights of a potentially accused person outweigh the interests of the FEI in investigating the facts.

FEI Feedback

When looking at the list of offences and the corresponding sanctions, it is true that it does not seem to always be proportionate. Please see below more harmonised/proportionate sanctions in the table of sanctions.

As to the GER NF comment regarding the privacy rights of the defendant, the FEI suggests to keep the initial wording as the rights of an defendant/accused persons would be dealt with on a case by case basis.

Proposed Final Wording to be Voted at the FEI General Assembly 2024

ARTICLE 164 - SANCTIONS

Types of Sanctions

...

164.5 Disqualification

(a) Disqualification is appropriate when (i) it is specified in the Statutes, GRs or Sport Rules, (ii) fraudulent conduct has affected the results of a Competition or Event, or (iii) if the circumstances otherwise require an immediate action. Disqualification from the Competition or Event may be retroactive.

(b) Disqualification from a Competition means that the Athlete and/or Horse(s) concerned - even should they change ownership - are removed from the list of starters and the classification and includes all resulting consequences including forfeiture of any prize money, ranking points, medals, or other prizes won in that particular Competition.

(c) Disqualification from an Event means that the Athlete and/or Horse(s) - even should they change ownership - may take no further part in that Event and it may include (in addition to what is mandated under paragraph 164.5(b) above) the forfeiture of any prize money won in previous Competitions at that Event where provided for in the Statutes, GRs or Sport Rules, with all resulting consequences including forfeiture of any prize money, ranking points, medals, or other prizes won in previous Competitions at that Event.

(...)

Offences

164.11 In addition to breaches of specific provisions of the FEI Rules and Regulations, the following is a list of other offences that the FEI may sanction:

(a) Incorrect Behaviour;

(b) Abuse of Horse;

(c) Acts defined as criminal by the national law and/or Swiss law ("Criminal Acts");

(d) Fraud of any kind, including (without limitation) offering or accepting a bribe to perform or fail to perform an act, falsifying documents, procuring false testimony from witnesses, or committing any other fraudulent act to affect the conduct or outcome of disciplinary proceedings or the conduct or results of any Competition/Event;

(e) Violence;

(f) Failure to cooperate promptly, truthfully, completely, and in good faith with an investigation undertaken by, or on behalf of, the FEI, including failure to comply with any Demand; or otherwise obstructing, delaying, frustrating, or otherwise interfering with any such investigation;

(g) Conduct that is contrary to the integrity of equestrian sport or that risks bringing the FEI and/or equestrian sport into disrepute or that risks causing the public opinion of the FEI and/or equestrian sport to be diminished;

(h) Witness intimidation or retaliation:

(i) Any act that threatens or seeks to intimidate another person with the intent of discouraging the person from the good-faith reporting of information that relates to an alleged violation or non-compliance with the FEI Rules and Regulations to the FEI, any NF, hearing body, or any person/body conducting an investigation by or on behalf of the FEI.

(ii) Retaliation against a person who, in good faith, has provided evidence or information that relates to an alleged violation or non-compliance with the FEI Rules and Regulations to the FEI, any NF, hearing body, or any person/body conducting an investigation by or on behalf of the FEI.

(i) Breach of the FEI Code of Ethics;

(j) Breach of the FEI Code of Conduct on the Welfare of the Horse;

(k) Breach of the FEI Code on the Manipulation of Competitions;

(l) Breach of the FEI Officials Code of Conduct; or

(m) Breach of the FEI Safeguarding Policy against Harassment and Abuse;

(n) Breach of the FEI Social Media Policy

ARTICLE 164 - SANCTIONS

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(b) Disqualification from a Competition means that the Athlete and/or Horse(s) concerned - even should they change ownership - are removed from the list of starters and the classification and includes all resulting consequences including forfeiture of any prize money, ranking points, medals, or other prizes won in that particular Competition.

(c) Disqualification from an Event means that the Athlete and/or Horse(s) - even should they change ownership - may take no further part in that Event and it may include (in addition to what is mandated under paragraph 164.5(b) above) the forfeiture of any prize money won in previous Competitions at that Event where provided for in the Statutes, GRs or Sport Rules, with all resulting consequences including forfeiture of any prize money, ranking points, medals, or other prizes won in previous Competitions at that Event.

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- (c) Acts defined as criminal by the national law and/or Swiss law ("Criminal Acts");
- (d) Fraud of any kind, including (without limitation) offering or accepting a bribe to perform or fail to perform an act, falsifying documents, procuring false testimony from witnesses, or committing any other fraudulent act to affect the conduct or outcome of disciplinary proceedings or the conduct or results of any Competition/Event;
- (e) Violence;
- (f) Failure to cooperate promptly, truthfully, completely, and in good faith with an investigation undertaken by, or on behalf of, the FEI, including failure to comply with any Demand; or otherwise obstructing, delaying, frustrating, or otherwise interfering with any such investigation;
- (g) Conduct that is contrary to the integrity of equestrian sport or that risks bringing the FEI and/or equestrian sport into disrepute or that risks causing the public opinion of the FEI and/or equestrian sport to be diminished;
- (h) Witness intimidation or retaliation:
 - (i) Any act that threatens or seeks to intimidate another person with the intent of discouraging the person from the good-faith reporting of information that relates to an alleged violation or non-compliance with the FEI Rules and Regulations to the FEI, any NF, hearing body, or any person/body conducting an investigation by or on behalf of the FEI.
 - (ii) Retaliation against a person who, in good faith, has provided evidence or information that relates to an alleged violation or non-compliance with the FEI Rules and Regulations to the FEI, any NF, hearing body, or any person/body conducting an investigation by or on behalf of the FEI.
- (i) Breach of the FEI Code of Ethics;
- (j) Breach of the FEI Code of Conduct on the Welfare of the Horse;
- (k) Breach of the FEI Code on the Manipulation of Competitions;
- (l) Breach of the FEI Officials Code of Conduct; or
- (m) Breach of the FEI Safeguarding Policy against Harassment and Abuse;
- (n) Breach of the FEI Social Media Policy

Art. 164.13

The following table sets out the sanctions that will apply for certain offences listed in Article 164.11 above. Where an offence is not listed in the table below, general sanctioning power will apply and sanctions may be imposed in accordance with this Article 164. For the avoidance of any doubt, the Sanction(s) imposed in any given case can consist of any of the Sanctions set out in Articles 164.2 – 164.9, including but not limited to Warnings, Disqualifications.

Offence	Low-End	Mid-Range	Top-End	Max
Incorrect Behaviour	Up to 23 months	Up to 6-3 months - 1 year	Up to 1-3 years	23 - 5 years
	Up to CHF 1,500	CHF 1,500 - 3,000	CHF 3,000 - 7,000	CHF 7,000 - CHF 10,000
Abuse of Horse	Up to 36 months	63 months - 2 years	23 - 5-10 years	10 years up to Life
	CHF 1000 - 1,500	CHF 2,01,500 - 3,000	CHF 53,000 - 10,000	CHF 10,000 - 15,000
Criminal Acts, Fraud, Violence	Up to 13 months	3 months - 2 years	2 - 5 years	5 years up to Life
	CHF 1000 - 1,500	CHF 2,01,500 - 3,000	CHF 53,000 - 7,500	CHF 7,500 - 10,000
Failure to cooperate with an investigation	Up to 13 months	Up to 6 months	Up to 9 months	1 year
	Up to CHF 1,500	CHF 1,500 - 3,000	CHF 3,000 - 7,000	CHF 10,000
Bringing the FEI and/or equestrian sport into disrepute	Up to 13 months	3 months - 2 years Up to 6 months	Up to 9 months 2 - 5 years	1-5 years up to Life
	Up to CHF 1,500	CHF 1,500 - 3,000	CHF 3,000 - 7,000	CHF 7,000 - 105,000
Breach of the FEI Code on the Manipulation of Competitions	Warning Up to 3 months	3 months - 2 years	Up to 2 - 5 years	5 year up to Life
	CHF 1000 - 1,500	CHF 2,01,500 - 3,000	CHF 53,000 - 10,000	CHF 10,000 - 15,000
Breach of the FEI Safeguarding Policy against Harassment and Abuse	Warning Up to 3 months	3 months - 2 years	2 years to 10 years	10 years up to Life
	CHF 1000 - 1,500	CHF 2,01,500 - 3,000	CHF 53,000 - 10,000	CHF 10,000 - 15,000
<u>Witness Intimidation or Retaliation</u>	<u>Up to 3</u> months	<u>3 months - 1</u> year	<u>1 - 3</u> years	<u>3 - 5</u> years
	<u>Up to CHF</u> <u>1,500</u>	<u>CHF 1,500 -</u> <u>3,000</u>	<u>CHF 3,000 -</u> <u>7,000</u>	<u>CHF 7,000 -</u> <u>10,000</u>
<u>Breach of the FEI Social Media Policy</u>	<u>Up to 3</u> months	<u>3 months - 1</u> year	<u>1 - 3</u> years	<u>3 - 5</u> years
	<u>Up to CHF</u> <u>1,500</u>	<u>CHF 1,500 -</u> <u>3,000</u>	<u>CHF 3,000 -</u> <u>7,000</u>	<u>CHF 7,000 -</u> <u>10,000</u>
<u>Breach of the FEI Code of Ethics</u>	<u>Up to 3</u> months	<u>3 months - 2</u> years	<u>2 - 5</u> years	<u>5 years up to</u> Life
	<u>CHF 1000 -</u> <u>1,500</u>	<u>CHF 1,500 -</u> <u>3,000</u>	<u>CHF 3,000 -</u> <u>10,000</u>	<u>CHF 10,000 -</u> <u>15,000</u>
<u>Breach of the FEI Code of Conduct on the Welfare of the Horse</u>	<u>Up to 6</u> months	<u>6 months - 3</u> years	<u>3 - 10</u> years	<u>10 years up to</u> Life
	<u>CHF 1000 -</u> <u>1,500</u>	<u>CHF 1,500 -</u> <u>3,000</u>	<u>CHF 3,000 -</u> <u>10,000</u>	<u>CHF 10,000 -</u> <u>15,000</u>
<u>Breach of the FEI Officials Code of Conduct</u>	<u>Up to 3</u> months	<u>3 months - 1</u> year	<u>1 - 3</u> years	<u>3 - 5</u> years
	<u>Up to CHF</u> <u>1,500</u>	<u>CHF 1,500 -</u> <u>3,000</u>	<u>CHF 3,000 -</u> <u>7,000</u>	<u>CHF 7,000 -</u> <u>10,000</u>

Proposal from (National Federation, Stakeholder or FEI)
FEI
Article Number – Article Name
Appendix A, FEI General Regulations
Explanation for Proposed Change

Amend definition of Incorrect Behaviour.

Amend definition of "Organiser" so it includes a de facto Organiser.

Proposed Wording on 26 June 2024

Incorrect Behaviour: Any form of unsportsmanlike or improper conduct by any Participant (including any Organiser) in connection with an Event or Competition or that otherwise (even if not in connection with an Event or Competition) may impact the reputation of the FEI or equestrian sport, including (without limitation) towards (a) Officials or any other party connected with the Event (other Athletes, journalist, volunteers, OC staff, FEI representatives, members of the public etc.) and/or (b) Doping Control Officers, Testing Veterinarian, Chaperones and/or any other person involved in the collection of a doping control sample. Examples of Incorrect Behaviour include, but are not limited to, (i) shouting aggressively or using offensive, abusive, or otherwise inappropriate language (e.g., swearing, derogatory language); (ii) physical violence, intimidation, or harassment (iii) making offensive, abusive, or otherwise inappropriate gestures; (iv) issuing a threat or acting in a threatening manner; (v) hostility, prejudice, or unlawful discrimination on grounds of race, colour, sex, sexual orientation, language, religion, national or social origin, disability, or other protected status; (vi) failure or refusal to comply with the reasonable instructions of an Official, the FEI, or the OC; (vii) disrupting the preparation of other Athletes for Competition or disrupting a prize giving ceremony or other official ceremony; (viii) damaging the property of another person; (ix) inciting or encouraging others to engage in Incorrect Behaviour; (x) engaging in conduct that endangers others persons, ~~or~~ Horses, or animals; ~~or~~ (xi) assisting, encouraging, aiding, abetting, conspiring, covering up a rule violation (or attempted rule violation) by another person, (xii) failing to promptly report to the FEI any incident, fact, or matter that may indicate a potential violation of the FEI Rules and Regulations, including failure to report horse abuse, (xiii) acting in a dishonest or deceptive manner or in bad faith, or (xiv) acting in a manner contrary to the principles of fair play or good sportsmanship.

Organiser or Organising Committee (OC): Any organisation, group, society, body, or person which is (i) recognised by the applicable NF, or named in the approved Schedule, and held to be as responsible for the management of any Event, or (ii) de facto responsible for the management of the Event. For the purpose of interpreting these FEI General Regulations, a Related Organiser shall also be considered as an Organiser.

Comments Received by 21 August 2024

GER NF: In our view, this rule is too strict. I can require a lot of hippological knowledge to recognise a rule violation or horse welfare issues. What standard of knowledge is the FEI going to apply to the different kinds of persons that are bound by the rules?

What persons are attributed to the organiser? The organiser is any organization, group, society, body or person. Considering the failure to report an incident to the FEI creates a strong liability of legal entities for individual persons. Individual persons may know of an incident, but the legal entity organising the event may not.

Proposed wording: (xii) failing to promptly report to the FEI any incident, fact, or matter that may indicate a potential violation of the FEI Rules and Regulations, including failure to report horse abuse, provided they have recognised the potential violation of FEI Rules and Regulations or horse abuse

FEI Feedback

A person reporting a horse abuse may not be familiar with all the FEI Rules and Regulations and is not necessarily able to identify/recognise which provision of the Rules have been violated. We suggest to keep the wording as initially presented.

Proposed Final Wording to be Voted at the FEI General Assembly 2024

As per the initial wording.

Proposal from (National Federation, Stakeholder or FEI)

FEI

Article Number – Article Name

Appendix D – Art. 108 FEI Championships Table

Explanation for Proposed Change

To amend Appendix D regarding the FEI World Para Driving Championships to have them take place every uneven year.

Proposed Wording on 26 June 2024

PARA-EQUESTRIAN
PARALYMPIC GAMES: Olympic Year ; WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS: Each uneven year for Para-Equestrian Driving; WORLD EQUESTRIAN GAMES/FEI World Championships: Summer Olympic Year +2 for Para-Equestrian Dressage; CONTINENTAL CHAMPIONSHIPS: Twice every 4 years, or at least once between each Paralympic Games

Comments Received by 21 August 2024

N/A

FEI Feedback

N/A

Proposed Final Wording to be Voted at the FEI General Assembly 2024

As per the initial wording.

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

Proposal from (National Federation, Stakeholder or FEI)
ITA NF
Article Number – Article Name
100.4
Explanation for Proposed Change
<p>We feel that it is important for NFs to have the opportunity to offer proposals also for series such as the FEI Nations Cup. The Nations Cups are a qualification for the Olympic Games and there should be the opportunity for NFs to review the draft documents and offer proposals in a clear and transparent manner.</p> <p>This already happens for the Olympic and Paralympic Rules.</p> <p>We feel that the wording in point 4 is outdated and needs to be updated to represent the current situation.</p> <p><u>Proposed wording:</u> Sport Rules, including Series, Olympic Regulations for Equestrian Events at Olympic Games and Paralympic Regulations for Equestrian Events at Paralympic Games are published under the authority of the General Assembly.</p> <p>In alternative: Sport Rules are published under the authority of the General Assembly whereas Sport Rules for Series, Olympic Regulations for Equestrian Events at Olympic Games, and Paralympic Regulations for Equestrian Events at Paralympic Games are published under the authority of the Bureau following a period for review and evaluation by National Federations to be included in the FEI Rules Revision Policy.</p>
Proposed Wording on 26 June 2024
N/A
Comments received by 21 August 2024
N/A
FEI Feedback
<p>The FEI does not support such proposal. This matter has already been raised and discussed in the past years and the FEI’s position has not change that Rules for Series shall be under the authority of the Board. Having such Rules for Series under the authority of the FEI General Assembly would be way too heavy (as then the full consultation periods and statutory deadlines would apply). In addition, the FEI did consult with all relevant NFs and Stakeholders prior to launching the Longines League of Nations.</p>

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

GR 2024 Art 142.1-142.2 – Abuse of Horse
 DR 2024 Art 424.5.6.1-424.5.6.4 – Bleeding
 DR 2024 Art 438 – Abuse of Horse
 JR 2024 Art 241.3.30-241.3.31 – Eliminations
 JR 2024 Art 242.3-242.3.1 – Disqualifications
 JR 2024 Art 243.1-243-2.3 – Abuse of Horse
 ER 2024 Art 526.1-526.4 – Abuse of Horse; Definition, Warnings and Penalties, Use of the Whip, Blood on Horses

Explanation for Proposed Change

Correction of inconsistencies, manifest errors, contradictions, etc

There are obvious differences in the Rules regarding Abuse of Horse, Blood on the Horse and penalties between the Olympic disciplines Dressage, Jumping and Eventing, as well as in the General Regulations. The above-mentioned Rules are dealing with the same issue, but in different ways.

The handling of blood on the flank is also different between the disciplines. In Jumping there is a specific protocol to be used in case of blood on the flank, which is found in the Steward´s Manual (Sep 2022), ANNEX XVI. This protocol is not used across the three disciplines.

Proposal, to oversee the regulations regarding Abuse of Horse with the goal to harmonise these regulations.

Proposed Wording on 26 June 2024

N/A

Comments received by 21 August 2024

USA NF: We support the FEI’s effort to review any matters linked to Horse abuse, the FEI Code of Conduct for the Welfare of the Horse, and other welfare related items. We believe there is an opportunity for a degree of cross-discipline harmonization of these rules and request the FEI to involve and elicit feedback from the National Federations as they proceed with the EEWC action plan.

FEI Feedback

The FEI will review any matter linked to Horse abuse, the FEI Code of Conduct for the Welfare of the Horse, and other welfare related items as part of the EEWC action plan, but it is premature to make changes at this stage.

Proposal from (National Federation, Stakeholder or FEI)
INTERNATIONAL JUMPING RIDERS CLUB (IJRC)
Article No.–Article Name

FEI General Regulations Article 161.2 – Protests

Explanation for Proposed Change

The IJRC believes that a revision of this point is necessary because of this case:
« Correction of inconsistencies, manifest errors, contradictions, etc. »

At the events where it is not implemented the Appeal Jury, the rider has the right to address the protest to the FEI Tribunal or Legal Department, as the IJRC doesn't believe is fair to send the protest to the same people or panel that judged the subject of the protest.

Moreover, the decision of the Ground Jury arising from the field of play, should not be final and binding for the followings:

- (i) where the Decision is based on a factual observation of performance during a Competition or the awarding of marks for performance;
- (v) the time taken for the round

Proposed wording:

Decisions not subject to Protest
161.2 There is no Protest against:

- (a) Decisions of the Ground Jury arising from the field of play, which are final and binding, such as, but not limited to:

~~(i) where the Decision is based on a factual observation of performance during a Competition or the awarding of marks for performance;~~

(ii) whether an obstacle was knocked down; whether a Horse was disobedient; whether a Horse refused at an obstacle or knocked it down while jumping;

(iii) whether an Athlete or Horse has fallen;

(iv) whether a Horse circled in a combination or refused or ran out;

~~(v) the time taken for the round;~~

(vi) whether an obstacle was jumped with in the time; and/or

(vi) whether, the particular track followed by an Athlete caused the Athlete to incur a penalty under the applicable Sport Rules

(b) The Elimination or Disqualification of a Horse for veterinary reasons, including non- acceptance of a Horse at a Horse Inspection unless otherwise specified;

(c) The Elimination or Disqualification of an Athlete for medical reasons/fitness to compete;

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

Proposed Wording

N/A

Comments received by 21 August 2024

GER NF: We agree to the FEI position. Field of Play decisions have to be final. Any other approach would ruin the sport and pervert it to a game of lawyers. It is a well-established and fair procedure to give the Ground Jury the first right to review and

maintain or correct their decisions. Since the riders have the opportunity to file an appeal, their rights are not constraint.

IJRC: The IJRC understands the perplexity of the FEI's Legal department. However, as already expressed, the cited case history of the CAS establishes that in the 'field of play' decisions cannot be challenged, while on the field, in many other sports (eg football and rugby), the referee or ground jury or the athletes have the chance to avail themselves of a second opinion (for example VAR in football, tennis, field Hockey, etc.). With the cancellation of the Appeal Jury, this is no longer possible in Equestrian Sport. Therefore, in compliance with the field of play, the IJRC reiterates the athlete's right to a second opinion.

FEI Feedback

We maintain our position as already communicated in the First Draft and that was as follows: "The FEI does not support such proposal. Field of play matters should not be subject to protest as otherwise any Ground Jury's decisions would be appealed or subject to a protest. As confirmed by the FEI Tribunal and the Court of Arbitration for Sport (for both FEI cases and in many other sports), field of play decisions cannot be challenged, unless there is evidence of arbitrariness, bad faith or corruption for example. There is a need for clarity and consistency and it would not be manageable to have field of play decisions challenged at every FEI Events."

Proposal from (National Federation, Stakeholder or FEI)

JPN NF

Article Number – Article Name

APPENDIX I – FEI SAFEGUARDING POLICY AGAINST HARASSMENT AND ABUSE

ARTICLE 10 –Duty to inform

Explanation for Proposed Change

We consider it relevant to improve the content of article 10 of APPENDIX I (FEI SAFEGUARDING POLICY AGAINST HARASSMENT AND ABUSE) of the FEI General Regulations, becoming clearer about the actions following the decisions.

Proposed wording: 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.

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.

ARTICLE 11 –IMPLEMENTATION OF DECISIONS

Automatic Binding Effect of Decisions on the FEI and the National Federations

A Decision made by the FEI or the National Federations under their jurisdiction relating to any conduct falling within the scope of Article 2 of this Policy shall automatically be binding beyond the parties to the proceeding upon the FEI and the National Federations.

Proposed Wording on 26 June 2024

N/A

Comments received by 21 August 2024

N/A

FEI Feedback

The FEI Statutes already specify in Article 41 that all penalties and decisions shall be accepted by all National Federations and enforced by the FEI and all National Federations concerned. Therefore, there is no need to add such provision in the FEI Safeguarding Policy.

Proposal from (National Federation, Stakeholder or FEI)

ITA NF

Article Number – Article Name

APPENDIX K

Calendar Application Procedure and consequences of cancellations of Jumping Events

Explanation for Proposed Change

APPENDIX K – Calendar Application Procedure and consequences of cancellations of Jumping Events

All references to 5* and 4* Jumping Events in this Appendix include:

- o CSI;
- o CSIO; and
- o FEI World Cup Events.

1.1. Calendar Application Fees and Calendar Application Deposit

A. The Calendar Application Fees as specified in FEI Financial Charges apply.

B. Each Calendar Application for a 4* and 5* Jumping Event taking place on or after 1 January 2024 is subject to the payment of a deposit (a "Calendar Application Deposit") in the amount specified in the table below.

~~Upon receipt of the Calendar Application~~, The FEI will issue an invoice to the NF for the applicable Calendar Application Deposit, **for events:**

CSI5*: after the 1st May prior to the year in which the event takes place

CSI4*: after the 1st October of the year in which the event takes place

and such invoice to be paid within 30 days.

The Calendar Application Deposit paid in relation to an Event will be credited against the related Organising Dues payable to the FEI after that Event has taken place.

5*: CHF 10'000

4*: CHF 5'000

If the Event **scheduled in the current year's calendar or scheduled in the following year's approved calendar** is cancelled (other than by reason of a Force Majeure Event), the FEI will retain the Calendar Application Deposit and it will not be credited against Organising Dues of future Events of the Organiser (or Related Organiser). For more details about Cancellations see section 1.4 below.

1.2. Late Date Application Fee and Date Changes to the Approved Calendar

Any Late Date Application Fee and Date Changes to the Calendar Fee as specified in the FEI Financial Charges shall apply. Calendar Application Deposits are also payable for Late Date Applications and the process set out in paragraph 1.1 above shall apply, it being understood and agreed that the FEI Secretary General may take appropriate action including the removal of the Event if the applicable Calendar Application Deposit has not been paid.

1.3. Calendar Applications for 5* Jumping Events

Applications for all CSI5* and CSIO5* Events must be received by the FEI Secretary General by 1 May prior to the year in which the Event takes place¹.

Dates must be subsequently confirmed by the National Federations/OCs by 1 June of the year before

the Event takes place. The FEI Secretary General shall then approve the Calendar for all 5* Jumping Events for the following year in principle by 31 July. If 31 July falls on a non-business day in Lausanne, Switzerland, the Calendar shall be approved on the following business day.

For all other Jumping Events, the FEI Secretary General shall receive Calendar Applications by 1

October prior to the year in which the Event will take place.

1.4. Cancellations of 5* and 4* Jumping Events

The below Cancellation Fees apply for 5* and 4* Jumping Events only **scheduled in the current year's calendar**. These Cancellation Fees do not apply to cancellations due to *Force Majeure Event*. It shall be for the FEI Secretary General to decide in their sole discretion if the stated reason for the cancellation of an Event qualifies as a Force Majeure Event. Any other cancellation of other Jumping Events or for Events in any categories in the other FEI Disciplines may be dealt with according to other provisions of the FEI Rules and Regulations.

(all amounts below are in CHF)

1st CANCELLATION:

As of 1 January 2024: OC's first cancellation during a Calendar Year

(TABLE)

Any Cancellation Fee stated above shall be paid within 30 days of receipt of an invoice from the FEI. If the amount is not paid within the 30 day deadline, the next Jumping Show of the OC (or Related OC) (after the 30 day deadline) in the Calendar will be removed (and the Calendar Application Deposit related to the cancelled Event and the removed Show will be lost). Any OC that is fined under this mechanism shall not be entitled to make a Late Date Application for the current year either directly or via a Related OC.

The above penalty mechanism will not apply in case of cancellation due to a Force Majeure Event.

2nd CANCELLATION:

As of 1 January 2024: OC's (or Related OC's) second cancellation within a 365 day period after the 1st Cancellation.

(TABLE)

Any Cancellation Fee stated above shall be paid within 30 days upon receipt of an invoice from the FEI. If the amount is not paid within the 30 day deadline, the next Jumping Show of the OC (or Related OC) (after the 30 day deadline) in the Calendar will be removed (and the Calendar Application Deposit related to the cancelled Event and the removed Show will be lost). Any OC that is fined under this mechanism shall not be entitled to make a Late Date Application for the current year either directly or via a Related OC.

The above penalty mechanism will not apply in case of cancellation due to a Force Majeure Event.

3rd CANCELLATION:

As of 1 January 2024: OC's (or Related OC's) third cancellation in a 365 days period after the 2nd Cancellation.

OC's (or Related OC's) Shows in all FEI Disciplines in the Calendar for the next 365 day period shall be removed from the FEI Calendar (and the Calendar Application Deposit

related to the cancelled Event and the removed Show(s) will be lost). Any OC that is fined under this mechanism shall not be entitled to include any Event in any FEI Discipline in the FEI Calendar during that 365 day period either directly or via a Related OC.

The above penalty mechanism will not be applied in case of cancellation due to a Force Majeure Event.

Proposed Wording on 26 June 2024

N/A

Comments received by 21 August 2024

GER NF: We support proposal 1 of NF ITA that the invoicing of the Calendar application Deposit should not be done upon receipt of the Calendar application, but after the relevant deadline for the confirmation of the events. The current procedure "punishes" events that are planned long in advance.

Proposed wording:

B. Each Calendar Application for a 4* and 5* Jumping Event taking place on or after 1 January 2024 is subject to the payment of a deposit (a "Calendar Application Deposit") in the amount specified in the table below.

~~Upon receipt of the Calendar Application~~, The FEI will issue an invoice to the NF for the applicable Calendar Application Deposit, **for events:**

CSI5*: after the 1st May prior to the year in which the event takes place

CSI4*: after the 1st October of the year in which the event takes place

and such invoice to be paid within 30 days.

FEI Feedback

We maintain the FEI's initial position as already communicated with the First Draft and that was as follows: "The FEI does not support such proposal. The Appendix K has been introduced recently, is working well and the FEI is not aware of any challenges or issues from other NFs or stakeholders."

Proposal from (National Federation, Stakeholder or FEI)

ITA NF

Article Number – Article Name

NEW ARTICLE – TO BE DETERMINED UNDER WHICH ARTICLE

Explanation for Proposed Change

In many FEI Championships (mainly in the non Olympic disciplines), it is not usual to give a accreditation to the declared NF representative (President, Secretary General, Sports Director, Chef de Mission).

The rules should provide for this – accreditation for at least 1 NF representative.

Proposed wording: **At all FEI Championships an NF representative (President, Secretary General or other NF representative (Board Member/Sports Director/Chef de Mission)) of a participating individual or team must be provided with accreditation and car pass.**

Proposed Wording on 26 June 2024

N/A

Comments received by 21 August 2024

ITA NF: The ITA NF has only highlighted this matter because there have been issues in the past. It should be accepted that NFs who form a part of the FEI have the right to ensure a representing member accreditation at Championships. Adding this to the rules would be clear for all, alternatively it should be added as a definite condition in the schedule

FEI Feedback

The FEI does not support such proposal and is unaware of any issues in practice regarding accreditations at FEI Championships.