

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

16 October 2024

Dear National Federations,

Please find below a summary of the proposed changes to the Veterinary 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,



Göran Akerström,
Veterinary Director

A. PROPOSED RULES CHANGES TO BE VOTED AT THE FEI GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2024

Proposal from (National Federation, Stakeholder or FEI)

GER NF

Article Number – Article Name

Article 1004 - Prohibited Methods

Explanation for Proposed Change

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

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



Proposed Wording on 26 June 2024

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

Comments Received by 21 August 2024

USA NF:
Comment & Rationale

In principle, we are in agreement with this proposal, however, the picture included in the proposal causes a bit of confusion. Specifically, with the picture of the bay horse, it is unclear what it is being indicated.

Proposed wording

None

FEI Feedback

We confirm that the photographs will not be used as a point of reference to support the FEI Veterinary Regulations. Please refer to the explanation of the proposed change in conjunction with the proposed text.

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

As proposed on 26 June 2024.

Proposal from (National Federation, Stakeholder or FEI)

SWE NF

Article Number – Article Name

Article 1054 – Same-Day Treatment

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

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

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

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

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

prudent use of antibiotics and to avoid antibiotic resistance, see explanation for proposed change in Article 1060.

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

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

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

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

Proposed Wording on 26 June 2024

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

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

1. ~~1.~~ Horses must not be treated by injection or infusion with any substance not listed on the EPSL prior to the Competition on the day in which they compete. ~~An exception is granted for classes starting at 18.00hrs or later where Horses may be treated by injection or infusion until 10.00hrs on the day of competition.~~
- ~~2.~~ 2. Non-emergency treatments must not be administered when the FEI Stables Area is closed.
- ~~2.3.~~ 2. In the event of an emergency or on-going treatment, Horses may be treated with injectable or infused Controlled Medication Substances or antibiotics on the day in which they compete. Prior authorisation must be obtained from the VD and GJ as described in Articles 1059 and 1060.
- ~~3.4.~~ 4. Same-day medication is subject to routine checks by the VC/VD, Stewards and other FEI Officials.
- ~~4.5.~~ 5. Disciplinary actions will be taken against PTVs who administer unauthorised same-day medication. Sanctions will be issued according to Annex VI and/or issued in accordance with the EADCMRs.

Comments Received by 21 August 2024

SWE NF:

Comment & Rationale

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

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

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

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

Recent discussions in the French Parliament consider one of prioritised areas is “The fight against doping but also the maximum reduction in the administration of even authorized drugs is one of the pillars of equine welfare on physiologically healthy horses.”

Similar statements are made by the Danish Ministry of Justice and by the Swedish Board of Agriculture.

Also racing prohibits use of medication during competition according to the Article 6 by the International Federation of Horseracing Authorities (IFHA).

Altrenogest

In a recently published textbook, the 3rd edition of Equine Sports Medicine and Surgery, edited by Hinchcliff, Kaneps, Geor and Erck-Westergren (April 2024), where both Ken Hinchcliff and Emmanuelle Erck-Westergren are members of the FEI List Group, the use of altrenogest is described. In a chapter on Veterinary Aspects of Conditioning, Training, and Competing Dressage Horses by Jonathan Foreman and Emmanuelle van Erck-Westergren it is stated that altrenogest is used to mitigate estrus behavior, but in some individual cases the *calming effect* could be considered detrimental for the mare’s performance in competition. The use of altrenogest is prohibited in geldings and stallions, but it has been used illicitly with the belief that it provides a calming effect in male horses.

In a study by Hodgson et al. (2005) it was concluded that prolonged administration of altrenogest to sedentary mares had no anabolic or behaviour effects like hierarchy, activity, body-mass or condition score. However, since altrenogest (allyl-trenbolone), especially in injectable preparations (Regumate solutions), may contain impurities of the anabolic steroids trenbolone and trendione it could not be ruled out that Regumate have a small but under long term *anabolic effect*. There have been cases in racing, where positive findings of these banned substances have been prosecuted. In 2018 the British Horseracing (BHA) published information regarding the use of products which contain altrenogest. The results of their analysis detected the presence of trendione in oral solutions of Regumate® Equine.

Therefore, altrenogest is not allowed in racing and competition in most jurisdictions and has a Detection Time (DT); e.g. European racing (EHSLC) has a DT of 12 days after oral treatment (Machnik, 2007) and thereby recommended Withdrawal Time (WT). Nordic racing and Swedish equestrian sports have a WT of 14 days.

Omeprazol

In the same textbook mentioned above, Equine Sports Medicine and Surgery, edited by Hinchcliff, Kaneps, Geor and Erck-Westergren (2024), the use of omeprazole is discussed by Ben Sykes in a chapter on Gastrointestinal Disorders in Athletic Horses.

It is described, contrary to human gastric ulcers, the differences in the two forms of Equine Gastric Ulcer Syndrome (EGUS), Equine Squamous Gastric Disease (ESGD) and Equine Glandular Gastric Disease (EGGD).

Treatment of ESGD is focused on acid suppression and omeprazole per os is the usually registered treatment option in most global markets. The prognosis for resolution of ESGD with appropriate treatment is excellent, although the author reminds of that it is important to recognize that approximately 15% to 25% of horses respond sub-optimally.

Treatment of EGGD is stated to be more challenging than treatment of ESGD. Only a limited number of clinical trials have reported the efficacy of different regimens for EGGD, preventing sound evidence-based recommendations. Extrapolation of ESGD treatment regimens to EGGD is inappropriate as the overall response of EGGD to monotherapy with omeprazole per os is poor.

Management strategies for the prevention of ESGD is claimed to focus primarily on reducing the amount of non-structural carbohydrate in the diet, avoiding extended inter-meal periods, reducing the total time exercised at a trot or above per week, and provision of adequate and appropriate timing of feeding roughage.

To date, there are no studies evaluating the role of omeprazole in the prevention of EGGD. Given that *omeprazole monotherapy is ineffective as a sole treatment for EGGD* and that dose reduction is not recommended for EGGD treatment, the author's preference is to avoid long-term omeprazole administration for EGGD prevention.

Where omeprazole is used prophylactically, the author's preference is to interval treat during high-risk periods such as transport and competition as per the treatment recommendations described previously rather than using long-term, low-dose omeprazole for prophylaxis.

Although, as stated by the author, few **adverse effects** are documented from the long-term use of omeprazole, a sound theoretical basis exists for adverse effects such as increased fracture risk because of impaired calcium absorption and the development of hyper-gastrinemia and rebound gastric hyperacidity when administration of omeprazole is paused to allow the horse to meet requirements for competition. Decreased bioavailability and reduced efficacy over time, likely due to upregulation of omeprazole metabolism, occur in horses with long-term administration of omeprazole. According to the author, these factors reinforce the importance for a focus on management changes, rather than long-duration therapy of omeprazole.

In a recent article in Equine Veterinary Journal by Campbell and Sykes (June, 2024), the authors discuss if the use of omeprazole should be allowed during equestrian competition. They state that *recent evidence suggests that withholding omeprazole treatment for two days before competition may lead to recurrence of ESGD (as de-scribed above), whereas withholding omeprazole on the day of competition does not*. Contradictory and despite the latter, they conclude that if the horse has been treated with omeprazole outside competition, the treatment on the day of competition should be permitted on welfare grounds (sic), i.e., the horse may compete despite having a gastric ulcer disease (ESGD).

Antibiotics/Antimicrobial Drugs (AMDs)

AMDs and Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) have also been discussed on an international level at the International Conference of Racing Analysts and Veterinarians (22nd ICRAV) in Dubai 2018, which resulted in a paper by Gadot et al. (2020) published in its Proceedings. The outcome of the paper showed that a large number of AMDs also have properties such as analgesic and anti-inflammatory actions, e.g., macrolides, tetracyclines, quinolones, sulphonamides and cephalosporins. Among the tetracyclines especially oxytetracycline, doxycycline and minocycline have also been used in the treatment of equine joint disease. Concerns were raised about a potential use of AMDs to conceal clinical signs of injury or disease with infection or fever, to allow a horse that is in an unsuitable condition to

race/compete and may have the potential to spread disease. The misuse of AMDs in veterinary practice may increase the development of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) which can also impair human public health. This issue has become a major priority of the World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH, former OIE), WHO and EU stating that the horse industry must play a part by providing policies to minimise the misuse of antimicrobial drugs.

One way suggested was to introduce the AMDs on the prohibited substance list and setting a stand down period before competing. European racing (EHSLC) therefore decided some years ago to recommend a stand down period of 4 days before start for most frequently used AMDs. Nordic racing and trotting (NEMAC) as well as the Swedish Equestrian Federation have since a couple of years for all AMDs implemented 8 days withdrawal time and for locally administered AMDs a shorter period of 4 days (e.g., for topical and ophthalmic use).

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

In summary, it is clear that the current FEI rules do not fulfil the EEWB Commission’s proposal in Focus area 6;

6.2 Use of drugs to mask health problems/hide health issues.

e.g., gastric ulcer medication with omeprazole etc., infection/fever/inflammation/pain with antibiotics.

6.3 Horses not being fit to compete and yet still competing.

e.g., estrus behaviour modifying/calming drugs like altrenogest/ReguMate.

- We believe that it **is not in the horse’s best interests** to have access to medications (like antibiotics) during competition. If a horse need antibiotic - due to infection, fever or inflammation - it is not fit to compete.
- We agree on the FEI proposed wording below, but with some modifications.

Proposed Wording

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

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

~~2-3. In the event of an emergency ~~or on-going treatment~~, Horses may be treated with injectable or infused Controlled Medication Substances ~~or antibiotics~~ on the day in which they compete. Prior authorisation must be obtained from the VD and GJ as described in Articles 1057 and 1060.~~

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

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

USA NF:

Comment & Rationale

The USA is in support of the FEI changes to paragraph 1 in response to the SWE NF proposal. The USA NF is supportive in eliminating the exception for same day treatment by injection or infusion. The USA NF is supportive of the FEI comments regarding this proposal and looks forward to participating in the ethical review concerning the use of medication in competition horses.

Proposed Wording

Agree with FEI proposed wording.

FEI Feedback

Thank you for your feedback. The FEI proposes to maintain the proposed changes as previously described. It intends to produce guidelines regarding the use of antibiotics at FEI events and is confident, following a recent laboratory screening exercise, that the use of antibiotics at events is minimal.

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

As proposed on 26 June 2024.

Proposal from (National Federation, Stakeholder or FEI)

SWE NF

Article Number – Article Name

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

Explanation for Proposed Change

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

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

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

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

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

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

AMDs and AMR have also been discussed on an international level at the last International Conference of Racing Analysts and Veterinarians (22nd ICRAV) in Dubai 2018, which resulted in a paper published in its Proceedings. * The outcome of the paper showed that a large number of AMDs also have properties such as analgesic and anti-inflammatory actions, e.g., macrolides, tetracyclines, quinolones, sulfonamides and cephalosporins. Among the tetracyclines especially oxytetracycline, doxycycline and minocycline may be used in the treatment of equine joint disease. Concerns were raised about a potential use of AMDs to conceal clinical signs of injury or disease, to allow a horse that is in an unsuitable condition to race/compete and may have the potential to spread disease. The misuse of AMDs in veterinary practice may increase the development of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) which can also impair human public health. This issue has become a major priority of the World Animal Health Organization (former OIE) and the horse industry must play a part by providing policies to minimise the misuse of antimicrobial drugs. One way suggested was to introduce the AMDs on the prohibited substance list and setting a stand down period before competing. European racing (EHSLC) therefore decided two years ago recommend a stand down period of 4 days before start for most frequently used AMDs. Nordic racing and trotting (NEMAC) as well as the Swedish Equestrian Federation have since a couple of years for all AMDs implemented 8 days “stand down” period/WT (comparable to go from a Detection Time by double this to get a Withdrawal Time in accordance with the “Monte Carlo Simulation”, see EHSLC website; <https://www.ehslc.com/detection-times/withdrawal-times>), and for locally administered AMDs a shorter period of 4 days (e.g., for topical and ophthalmic use).

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

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

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

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

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

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

5. Such substances may not be used between rounds or classes in which the Horse is competing on the same day or during the veterinary check rest during an Endurance Event

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

- a) joint support: aminoglycans (e.g. Adequan), pentosan polysulphate (e.g. Pentosan), hyaluronic acid;
- b) injectable vitamins;
- c) amino acids; and
- d) injectable homeopathics.

Proposed Wording on 26 June 2024

No proposed wording was published.

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

Comments Received by 21 August 2024

GBR NF

Comment & Rationale

Preventing any medication on the day of event will cause issues for those receiving ongoing treatment, for example Regumate or anti-ulcer medication, at multi-day competitions. We would therefore oppose a blanket ban, while supporting close regulation and further guidance on what treatments are permitted.

Proposed wording

None

SWE NF

Comment & Rationale

Same comments and rationales as under Art. 1054 and 1057 above.

Proposed Wording

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

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

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

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

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

USA NF

Comment & Rationale

The USA NF does not support this proposal from the SWE NF. The USA NF is supportive of the FEI comments regarding this proposal and looks forward to participating in the ethical review concerning the use of medication in competition horses.

Proposed Wording
None

FEI Feedback

Thank you for your feedback. The FEI would like to propose a change to this article on the grounds of equine welfare, further to the death of a horse at an FEI event. Supporting changes will also be made to Article 1061 and Annex VI, Sanction 31.

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

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

- a) joint support: aminoglycans (e.g. Adequan), pentosan polysulphate (e.g. Pentosan), hyaluronic acid;
- b) ~~injectable vitamins~~;
- c) amino acids; and
- d) injectable homeopathics.

Further to the above change, the following text will be added to Article 1061 Prohibited Treatments

The injection or infusion of vitamins and/or minerals during the Period of the Event unless in the event of an emergency where their use is to be supported using a Veterinary Form A.

Proposal from (National Federation, Stakeholder or FEI)

FEI

Article Number – Article Name

1002 – Vaccinations and Infectious Diseases

Explanation for Proposed Change

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

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

Proposed Wording on 26 June 2024

6. Vaccinations administered against Equine Influenza and other equine infectious diseases must be entered in the Horse's Passport on the correct vaccination page. Equine influenza vaccination details must also be recorded in the FEI HorseApp, as of 1 January 2025 or as of a date to be officially communicated by the FEI.

7. The name and batch number of the vaccine and the date of administration must be recorded in the Passport and in the FEI HorseApp, according to Article 1002.6. These details can be recorded in the Horse's FEI Recognition Card when the vaccination pages are full in the Horse's Passport.

8. Vaccination must be administered by a veterinarian who must sign and stamp the Passport against the relevant vaccination entry- And record the details in the FEI HorseApp, according to Article 1002.6.

Comments Received by 21 August 2024

GBR NF:

Comment & Rationale

We support the introduction of entering new equine influenza vaccinations in the HorseApp but are mindful of how the current history of vaccinations is to be logged on the App and who will be responsible for this data and how it is checked for validity.

Proposed wording

None

USA NF

Comment & Rationale

We support this proposed rule revision; however, how will non-FEI Veterinarians access the FEI Horse App to record the vaccines?

Proposed Wording

None

FEI Feedback

Thank you for your feedback. It will be possible for non-FEI veterinarians to register and record vaccinations in the FEI HorseApp. We appreciate concerns about the recording of historical vaccination data however a system has been devised to ensure that the history is recorded and validated with support from the FEI.

A small change has been made to the implementation date of the vaccine module of the FEI HorseApp since the original proposal was made, based on the development timeline.

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

6. Vaccinations administered against Equine Influenza and other equine infectious diseases must be entered in the Horse's Passport on the correct vaccination page. Equine influenza vaccination details must also be recorded in the FEI HorseApp, as of 1 February 2025.

7. The name and batch number of the vaccine and the date of administration must be recorded in the Passport and in the FEI HorseApp, according to Article 1002.6. These details can be recorded in the Horse's FEI Recognition Card when the vaccination pages are full in the Horse's Passport.

8. Vaccination must be administered by a veterinarian who must sign and stamp the Passport against the relevant vaccination entry- and record the details in the FEI HorseApp, according to Article 1002.6.

Proposal from (National Federation, Stakeholder or FEI)

FEI

Article Number – Article Name

Article 1003 – Equine Influenza Vaccination Requirements
Explanation for Proposed Change
New/recently introduced rule(s) that has(ve) proven to be problematic in its implementation.

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

Proposed Wording on 26 June 2024

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

Comments Received by 21 August 2024
USA NF
Comment & Rationale

The Intra-nasal vaccine does not require a booster so the exception to the vaccination scenario must be clearly stated and addressed in the rules. The intra-nasal vaccination would be required within 6 months +21 days. Clarification and education needed for vet delegates as this presents an issue with the documentation of vaccination in the passports.

Proposed Wording

None

FEI Feedback

Thank you for your feedback regarding the use of intranasal vaccines. At this stage in the rules revision process, we are unable to accept new proposals however your feedback is noted for inclusion in next year's rule revision procedure.

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

As proposed on 26 June 2024.

Proposal from (National Federation, Stakeholder or FEI)

FEI

Article Number – Article Name

Article 1008 – Stables

Explanation for Proposed Change

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

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

Proposed Wording on 26 June 2024

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

....

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

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

Comments Received by 21 August 2024

GER NF:

Comment & Rationale

The wording of b) is a bit confusing with daylight and darkness. We recommend to delete b) and add under a) that lighting of 250lux shall be available in each individual box.

Proposed Wording

1008.7. The FEI Stables Area must adhere to biosecurity requirements as described in Article 1027 and, include the following facilities:

a) lighting of at least 80 lux **when the FEI Stables Area is open** and lighting of 250 lux must be available **in each individual box, when necessary.**

~~b) Where the FEI Stables Area is lit by natural daylight during the hours of darkness it must be possible to provide lighting of 250lux to an individual box is required.~~

USA NF:

Comment & Rationale

After engaging with competition organizers since this rule went into place, we have found there is a need for further education / information about lux measurements

Proposed Wording

None

FEI Feedback

Thank you for your feedback, we appreciate the need for clarity in the wording to prevent confusion and support the application of the rule.

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

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

....

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

~~a)~~c) lighting of at least 80 lux **when the FEI Stables Area is open** and lighting of 250 lux must be available **in each individual box, when necessary.**

Proposal from (National Federation, Stakeholder or FEI)

FEI

Article Number – Article Name

Article 1018 – Stewards’ Role

Explanation for Proposed Change

Correction of inconsistencies, manifest errors, contradictions, etc

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

Proposed Wording on 26 June 2024

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

Comments Received by 21 August 2024

GBR NF:

Comment & Rationale

It is important that an updated Stewards Manual is published before these references are deleted in the main rule book. Please can the FEI confirm when this will be made available?

Proposed wording

None

SWE NF:

Comment & Rationale

The FEI propose to remove paragraph 3 due to correction of inconsistencies, manifest errors, contradictions, etc The Stewarding Manual no longer exists, and the redundant wording is proposed to be removed.

What we can see is that the Stewards manual does exist and why should this text then be removed? Better to keep original text but also refer to the FEI Tack App.

Proposed Wording

1. Stewards support and safeguard the welfare of the Horses and Athletes. They must prevent any form of illegal practice that may jeopardise Horse welfare and/or disrupt fair play.
2. VR violations witnessed must be immediately
3. For each Discipline, the Stewarding Manuals and their Annexes set forth the specific stewarding requirements applicable to Events in that Discipline and **FEI Tack App**.

FEI Feedback

The FEI plans to replace the pdf version of the Steward's Manual with an online resource instead, hosted on the FEI website. The new approach is to guarantee that the resource is always up to date and does not include inconsistencies. It will also include a link to the Tack App. The online resource will be available from 1 January 2025.

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

As proposed on 26 June 2024

Proposal from (National Federation, Stakeholder or FEI)

FEI

Article Number – Article Name

Article 1026 – Prevention of Infectious Disease Transmission

Explanation for Proposed Change
Urgent repair

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

Proposed Wording on 26 June 2024

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

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

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

Comments Received by 21 August 2024
NED NF:
Comment & Rationale

In the proposal it is not clear on what grounds the additional measures which in itself may prove beneficial will be taken. Before implementation of these rules this should be described, how is the increased risk defined?

Proposed Wording

Addition of the aforementioned grounds for taking these measures

USA NF:
Comment & Rationale

We strongly suggest that language is added to require consultation with the host NF and/or local authorities before testing of non-clinical horses is undertaken. There is a wide range of NF experience in the prevention of infectious disease and knowledge of the local environment by local equine health experts can prove to be very valuable.

Proposed Wording

FEI to determine

FEI Feedback

Thank you for your feedback, a small change has been made to the proposed text to account for coordination with other organisations.

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

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

- a) where the FEI, in coordination with local health authorities, determines there may be an increased risk of an infectious disease being introduced into an Event venue;
or
- b) that have been diagnosed with an infectious disease or have been in-contact with horse that has been diagnosed with an infectious disease.

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

Proposal from (National Federation, Stakeholder or FEI)

FEI

Article Number – Article Name

Article 1029 – Examination on Arrival

Explanation for Proposed Change

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

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

Proposed Wording on 26 June 2024

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

- a) verify the identity of each Horse from its Passport, using the diagram, description and, when present, the microchip number;
- b) check that the Horse has been vaccinated against equine influenza in accordance with Article 1003, using either the FEI HorseApp and/or its Passport;
- c) verify whether all details relating to the Horses’ identification, vaccination record and other health requirements are correctly recorded in the Passport;
- d) ensure an FEI Equine Health Self-Certification form has been completed in the FEI HorseApp for each Horse entering the FEI Stables Area and that the Horse’s rectal temperature has been recorded in the FEI HorseApp twice daily for 3 days prior to the Horse’s arrival at the Event. Other methods of evaluating the Horse’s body temperature must be FEI approved;
- e) ensure that the Horses do not have any clinical signs of infectious disease. The Horse’s rectal temperature must be taken and recorded in the FEI HorseApp. Other methods of evaluating the Horse’s body temperature must be FEI approved. The veterinarian ~~should~~ may include a clinical examination to assess the heart⁷. The Horse’s respiratory rate, and the checking of any other clinical parameters may also be carried out;
- f) palpate the limbs and/or body only when there is a concern of a suspected injury or illness sustained during travel; and
- g) register the Horse’s arrival at the Event using the FEI HorseApp.

Comments Received by 21 August 2024

GBR NF:Comment & Rationale

We do not agree with the examination of the heart because this is a very complex area, and opinions will vary. Expertise is required to assess the effect of the many abnormalities found on auscultation of the heart and most are of no consequence. There are many far more likely clinical areas that could be added to the examination, but there are very few fatalities or welfare risks to the horse due to cardiac issues.

Proposed wording

None

GER NF:Comment & Rationale

We do not agree that it should be the Vet's duty to examine the horse's heart at the check on Arrival. It will be difficult to do and we do not see the value of it.

Proposed Wording

None

NED NF:Comment & Rationale

We do not agree. Heart-examination with auscultation at the examination on arrival will be not only very unpractical but will also put the veterinarian that needs to do the examination in a difficult situation. The time is often very limited, the area of the examination not suitable for a proper examination, not a quiet, peaceful room without extra sounds. The opposite is true lots of noise, no proper room, or even outside in the wind. Horses are excited from transport, that also may show up in the examination with flow murmurs and sinus arrhythmias showing up.

And what is acceptable? Guidelines must be put down first, which conditions need back up from a cardiac specialist and what paperwork from cardiac specialist examinations like ECG and Heart-ultrasonography should be available and how recent this should be.

Riders and grooms, stewards and show organisers will make even more pressure on the veterinarians doing the examination that is already a problem when working on a show.

Proposed Wording

No alteration of the current wording. The veterinarian may include a clinical examination to assess the heart.

USA NF:Comment & Rationale

In the explanation for the proposed change, it states that the rationale to add assessing the heart is to ensure that there are no "abnormalities". We believe that this intent is important to include in the language to make it clear that horses that have known and documented murmurs, etc will be permitted to compete.

There is concern with adding an additional examination to the arrival exam, including assessing the heart. Along with adding time to the arrival exam it will pose safety concern as the exams are often held in parking areas or areas that are not the safest of spaces.

Proposed Wording

e) ...The veterinarian should ~~may~~ include a clinical examination to assess the heart. **The Horse's** respiratory rate, and the checking of any other clinical parameters **may also be carried out to identify abnormalities that are atypical for that specific Horse.**

FEI Feedback

Thank you for your feedback. A change has been made to the proposed text to ensure any concerning abnormalities that would previously have been identified in the halt prior to cross country and marathon can be considered before the horse competes duration of high intensity work.

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

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

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

Proposal from (National Federation, Stakeholder or FEI)

FEI

Article Number – Article Name

Article 1031 – Passport Irregularities

Explanation for Proposed Change

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

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

Proposed Wording on 26 June 2024

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

Comments Received by 21 August 2024

No comments received

FEI Feedback

N/A

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

As proposed on 26 June 2024

Proposal from (National Federation, Stakeholder or FEI)

FEI

Article Number – Article Name

Article 1033 – Horse Inspection Timings

Explanation for Proposed Change

Correction of inconsistencies, manifest errors, contradictions, etc

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

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

Proposed Wording on 26 June 2024

<u>DISCIPLINE</u>	<u>FIRST HORSE INSPECTION</u>	<u>ADDITIONAL</u>

Dressage and Para-Equestrian Dressage	Within 24 hours of the start of the first competition*	<p>Second Horse Inspection: takes place at Championships and Games, within 24 hours of the start of the last competition</p> <p><u>Veterinary Examination:</u> <u>In the event of a fall of the Horse and/or Athlete in Para-Dressage Events, the VD must examine the Horse for fitness to continue in the Event.</u></p>
Driving	Within 24 hours of the start of first competition	<p>In Harness Horse Inspection: prior to the start of section A/Controlled Warm-Up of the marathon.</p> <p>In Harness Examination: between 10-15 minutes after the Athlete has entered the Cool Down area.</p> <p>In Harness inspection before Cones: before the Cones test where it does not take place on the same day as Dressage</p>
Endurance	For CEI1* and CEI2* CIM Events: Within 24 hours before the start of the first loop. For non-CIM CEI2* and CEI3* Events and above, including Championships: no less than 12 hours before and no longer than 24hrs before the start of the first loop	<p>Vet Gate Inspection: at the end of each phase</p> <p>Final Horse Inspection: at the end of the competition.</p>
Eventing (CCI-L)	Within 24 hours of the start of first competition	<p>Veterinary examination: after Cross country</p> <p>Second Horse Inspection: takes place on the same day as the Jumping Test, before the start of the Jumping Test</p>
Eventing (CCI-S)	The First Horse Inspection is optional however where organised, takes place within 24 hours of the first competition	<p>Second Horse Inspection: must take place where the Jumping Test is the last test, on the same day as the Jumping Test, before the start of the Jumping Test.</p>

Jumping	Within 24 hours of the start of first competition	Second Horse Inspection: before the start of the final Competition at FEI World Cup™ Finals, World, Continental Championships and Olympic Games.
Vaulting	Within 24 hours of the start of first competition or official training, whichever is the earliest	None

Comments Received by 21 August 2024

NED NF:

Comment & Rationale

We do not quite understand this, why an examination in the event of a fall of a rider, and the addition is made not in the vaulting, but in dressage and para-equestrian dressage.

Proposed Wording

Depending on the outcome of the clarification

USA NF:

Comment & Rationale

The Veterinary Examination additional language is listed under Dressage and Para-Equestrian Dressage however the Explanation states it is for Vaulting.

Proposed Wording

None

FEI Feedback

The FEI confirms that the change is applicable to Para-Dressage, rather than Vaulting.

Considering the variety of events that can occur in the lead up to a fall of an athlete and the compensating aids that may be in use, it is felt that the re-examination of the horse is a responsible step to take to ensure the horse is fit to continue.

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

As proposed on 26 June 2024

Proposal from (National Federation, Stakeholder or FEI)

FEI

Article Number – Article Name

Article 1035 – Presentation of Horses

Explanation for Proposed Change

Urgent repair

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

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

Proposed Wording on 26 June 2024

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

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

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

Comments Received by 21 August 2024

USA NF:

Comment & Rationale

We do not support the addition of prohibiting ear hoods at Horse Inspections. We suggest that ear hoods could be permitted if requested by the athlete to the President of the Ground Jury. The ear hood could be required to be removed and the ears checked if necessary.

Proposed Wording

FEI to determine

FEI Feedback

The FEI believes that ear hoods could conceal the horse's identification or other items that are prohibited in competition. The wearing of ear hoods also prevents examination of the whole horse and it would not be possible to determine if the horse has clipped auricles. There is no capacity within the current Horse Inspection process for the hood to be removed for individual horses.

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

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

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

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

Proposal from (National Federation, Stakeholder or FEI)

FEI

Article Number – Article Name

Article 1036 – Horse Inspection Procedure

Explanation for Proposed Change

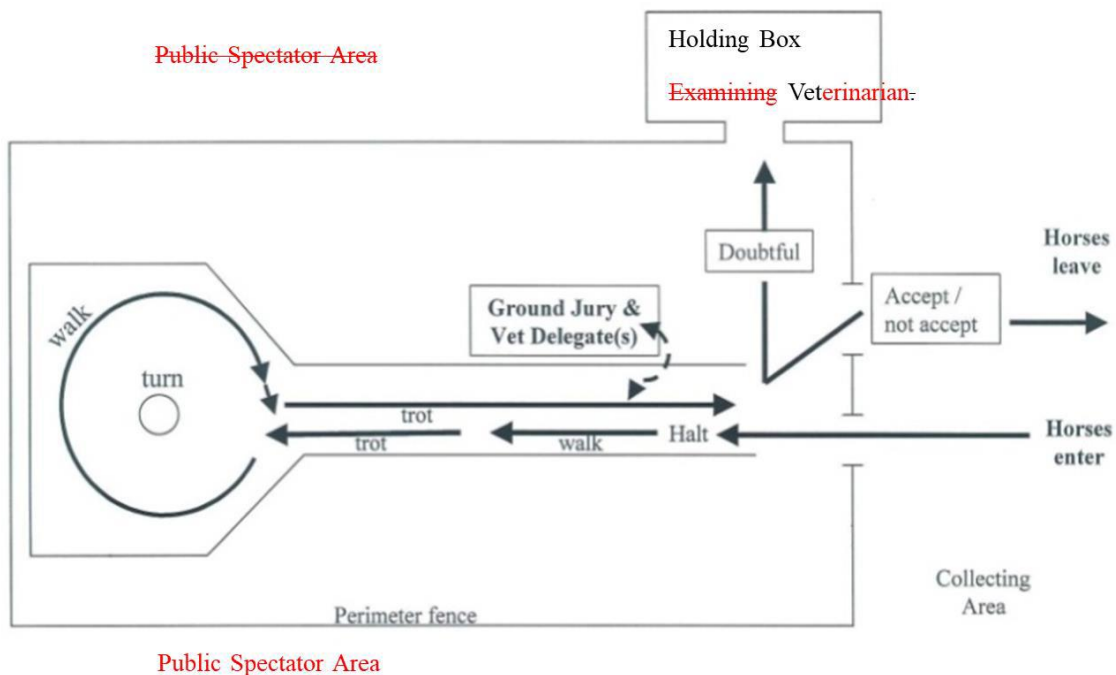
Correction of inconsistencies, manifest errors, contradictions, etc

The FEI proposes the following corrections to figure 1:

the term 'Examining Veterinarian' is incorrectly used and should be replaced with the 'Holding Box Veterinarian'.

the location of the public spectator area is moved to comply with Article 1011.2e)

Proposed Wording on 26 June 2024



Comments Received by 21 August 2024

No comments received

FEI Feedback

N/A

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

As proposed on 26 June 2024

Proposal from (National Federation, Stakeholder or FEI)

FEI

Article Number – Article Name

Article 1045 – Examination of Horses

Explanation for Proposed Change

Urgent repair

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

Proposed Wording on 26 June 2024

1. Any part of the Horses’ ~~legsbod~~body, boots, bandages and/or other tack may be examined by Stewards and/or OVs at any time during the Period of the Event.

...

5. The Examination should check for:

- a) any abnormality or sensitivity of the Horse’s ~~legsbod~~body;
- b) any irregularity in the shape, size or weight of the boots or bandages;
- c) any irregularity in other tack material;
- d) the presence of foreign or prohibited materials or substances; and
- e) the presence of blood on any part of the Horse’s ~~body-legs, flanks or mouth~~.

6. The Examination involves:

- a) examination of any part of the Horses’ ~~legsbod~~body, boots and other tack before the boots are applied. This Examination takes place prior to the Horses entering the warm up area where possible;
- b) examining the Horses’ legs after removing all boots, bandages and other items attached to the Horses’ legs. This Examination takes place where the Horse exits the arena;
- c) examination of any part of the Horse’s ~~limbs and~~body;
- d) the weighing of boots using scales may be carried out;
- e) the possibility of other tack being subject to inspection; and
- f) the Steward contacting the Veterinary Delegate, who, in turn, must notify the Ground Jury, should the presence of blood be identified.

Comments Received by 21 August 2024

No comments received

FEI Feedback

N/A

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

As proposed on 26 June 2024

Proposal from (National Federation, Stakeholder or FEI)

FEI

Article Number – Article Name

1066 - Sampling

Explanation for Proposed Change

Urgent repair

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

Proposed Wording on 26 June 2024

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

Comments Received by 21 August 2024

GBR NF

Comment & Rationale

While we understand that this gives the same rights that the VD has, but as there is no Ground Jury who decides who is tested if this is targeted? Measuring vets should have testing included as part of their training and education. However, measuring events are limited in number and therefore we would recommend having a testing vet at each event.

Proposed Wording

None

NED NF:

Comment & Rationale

We think this should not be changed, an experienced testing veterinarian should carry out the testing as there is a great risk for mistakes in following the proper procedure, with possible substantial consequences if anything goes wrong.

Proposed Wording

No alteration of the current wording.

FEI Feedback

The FEI endeavours to appoint Testing Veterinarians to each Pony Measuring Session to support the smooth running of the Sessions. The proposed change allows Measuring Veterinarians to take EADCM samples from horses where it is not possible to appoint a Testing Veterinarian.

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

As proposed on 26 June 2024.

Proposal from (National Federation, Stakeholder or FEI)

FEI

Article Number – Article Name

Article 1067 – Selection of Horses

Explanation for Proposed Change

Urgent repair

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

Proposed Wording on 26 June 2024

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

a) **Obligatory sampling:**

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

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

b) **Targeted sampling:**

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

c) Random and/or results-based sampling:

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

Comments Received by 21 August 2024

GBR NF

Comment & Rationale

While we understand that this gives the same rights that the VD has, but as there is no Ground Jury who decides who is tested if this is targeted? Measuring vets should have testing included as part of their training and education. However, measuring events are limited in number and therefore we would recommend having a testing vet at each event.

Proposed Wording

None

USA NF:

Comment & Rationale

This is a practical approach, but it will be essential Measuring Veterinarians and Examining Veterinarians are properly educated on the sampling procedures.

Proposed Wording

None

FEI Feedback

Thank you for your feedback. Measuring and Examining Veterinarians are Official Veterinarians who have undergone the same education in EADCM sample collection as Veterinary Delegates. The FEI is confident in their ability to take EADCM samples correctly.

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

As proposed on 26 June 2024.

Proposal from (National Federation, Stakeholder or FEI)

FEI

Article Number – Article Name

Article 1075 – Injury and Disease Surveillance

Explanation for Proposed Change

Urgent Repairs

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

Proposed Wording on 26 June 2024

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

Comments Received by 21 August 2024

NED NF:

Comment & Rationale

We agree with the idea of not taking blood in unsuitable places. However, should a blood lactate test be necessary, this would no longer be useful when the horse is already back in its own stable, as these tests have to be taken within a very short time after the finish.

Proposed Wording

Taking into account the exception for blood lactate testing.

FEI Feedback

Thank you for your feedback. The FEI believes that blood should not be taken on the Field of Play, for any reason to support of the welfare of the horse during the cooling down period. Furthermore, this would prevent negative public perception of equestrian sports.

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

Blood samples taken from Horses to support clinical diagnoses/routine health checks/export testing must be carried out in the Treatment Boxes.

Proposal from (National Federation, Stakeholder or FEI)

FEI

Article Number – Article Name

Article 1081 – Pony Measuring at FEI Measuring Sessions

Explanation for Proposed Change

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

Changes are proposed to the following paragraphs:

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

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

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

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

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

Proposed Wording on 26 June 2024

1. Pony Measuring is administered by the FEI Veterinary Department which determines and maintains a calendar of FEI Measuring Sessions in conjunction with NFs, appoints the Measuring Veterinarians and provides FEI approved Measuring Equipment. Ponies are administered by the NF under which they are registered (the Pony's NF).
- ...
3. Pony Measuring Sessions are announced via a measuring calendar published on the FEI website. The Pony's NF is responsible for registering the Pony at the selected Measuring Session.
- ...
9. An FEI Testing Veterinarian may be appointed to take EADCM samples. In the absence of the Testing Veterinarian, EADCM samples may be taken by the appointed Measuring Veterinarian(s).
10. Horses attending Pony Measurements are subject to testing under the EADCM Regulations. For the purpose of the application of the EADCM Regulations to a Horse attending a Pony Measurement, a Horse shall be considered as being "In-Competition" from the time of its arrival at the Pony Measurement Station until its departure from the Pony Measurement Station following completion of the Pony Measurement process (including all related paperwork) and EADCM testing (where applicable) (the "Pony Measurement Period"). The pony must therefore be fit to compete and vaccinated in accordance with Article 1003. In addition to the consequences foreseen for violation of the EAD Rules and/or the ECM Rules under the EADCM Regulations, a violation of the EAD Rules and/or ECM Rules in connection with a test taken at a Pony Measurement may, at the discretion of the FEI, lead to the invalidation of the results of the relevant Pony Measurement.
- ...
12. The Pony's NFs must ensure that any Ponies having Measured Out at an FEI Measuring Sessions are not entered in any FEI Pony Events.

Comments Received by 21 August 2024

GBR NF

Comment & Rationale

With respect to point 9, we would recommend that the FEI appoints a Testing Vet to measuring sessions rather than use measuring vets. Measuring sessions are tight on time often with the maximum number of ponies permitted to keep the day cost effective and taking them out for 30-45 minutes would be unreasonable. We would strongly oppose measuring vets being used for testing except in exceptional circumstances.

Proposed Wording

None

NED NF:

Comment & Rationale

Paragraphs 1 and 3: We do not agree with this change, and do not see an explanation for the urgent repair. The owners of the ponies are sometimes not connected with the NF as a rider is. They can now make their own choice, timing and arrangement for the measuring

session they want to attend. This would only cause an additional step and administrative burden for the NF concerned.

Paragraph 9: As in our comment with article 1066, a EADCM sample should only be taken by a trained testing veterinarian.

Proposed Wording

Paragraphs 1 and 3: no change in the current wording.

Paragraph 9: no change in the current wording.

FEI Feedback

Thank you for your feedback. The FEI aims to appoint Testing Veterinarians to all Pony Measuring Sessions where possible and appreciates concerns regarding the logistics of carry out two roles simultaneously. A change in the proposed wording has been made to clarify that Testing Technicians may support the Measuring Veterinarian in such circumstances.

The changes proposed to paragraph 1 have been made to align with the other NF responsibilities regarding the management of FEI registered horses.

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

1. Pony Measuring is administered by the FEI Veterinary Department which determines and maintains a calendar of FEI Measuring Sessions in conjunction with NFs, appoints the Measuring Veterinarians and provides FEI approved Measuring Equipment. Ponies are administered by the NF under which they are registered (the Pony's NF).
...
3. Pony Measuring Sessions are announced via a measuring calendar published on the FEI website. The Pony's NF is responsible for registering the Pony at the selected Measuring Session.
...
9. An FEI Testing Veterinarian may be appointed to take EADCM samples. In the absence of the Testing Veterinarian, EADCM samples may be taken by the appointed Measuring Veterinarian(s) who may be assisted by a Testing Technician.
10. Horses attending Pony Measurements are subject to testing under the EADCM Regulations. For the purpose of the application of the EADCM Regulations to a Horse attending a Pony Measurement, a Horse shall be considered as being "In-Competition" from the time of its arrival at the Pony Measurement Station until its departure from the Pony Measurement Station following completion of the Pony Measurement process (including all related paperwork) and EADCM testing (where applicable) (the "Pony Measurement Period"). The pony must therefore be fit to compete and vaccinated in accordance with Article 1003. In addition to the consequences foreseen for violation of the EAD Rules and/or the ECM Rules under the EADCM Regulations, a violation of the EAD Rules and/or ECM Rules in connection with a test taken at a Pony Measurement may, at the discretion of the FEI, lead to the invalidation of the results of the relevant Pony Measurement.
...
12. The Pony's NFs must ensure that any Ponies having Measured Out at an FEI Measuring Sessions are not entered in any FEI Pony Events.

Proposal from (National Federation, Stakeholder or FEI)

FEI

Article Number – Article Name

1083 – Pony Measuring Procedure

Explanation for Proposed Change

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

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

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

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

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

Proposed Wording on 26 June 2024

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

Comments Received by 21 August 2024

GBR NF

Comment & Rationale

Measured out ponies should only be allowed one appeal measurement, rather than three attempts in the hope of leniency or special and unacceptable preparation. Fairness and welfare issues must be considered.

Proposed Wording

None

FEI Feedback

Thank you for your feedback. A change has been made to the proposed rule to allow only two remeasurements, instead of three. Multiple measurements incur substantial travel for ponies and in view of our experience of the system, is not in the interests of the ponies' welfare.

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

8. If a Pony measures in without shoes and its height does not exceed 140cm (or with shoes and its height does not exceed 141cm) and it is between 6 and 8 years, it will receive an FEI Lifetime Measuring Certificate. If a Pony measures less than 108cm and is between 6 and 8 years, it will receive an FEI Interim Measuring Certificate
9. The Pony's NFs must ensure that the pony is not entered in an FEI pony Competition once the FEI Interim Measuring Certificate has expired.
10. If a Pony measures out the Pony's NF is notified and it is blocked from entering in any FEI Pony Competition; and registered as a horse if required. It can be re-measured ~~once the same year at another Measuring Session, and once a year in the two following consecutive years.~~ In total it may be measured 24 times in 3 consecutive years.
- ...
13. The FEI Veterinary Department will notify the respective NF of any Ponies having Measured Out. It is the responsibility of the Pony's NF to ensure that Ponies having Measured Out are not entered in any future FEI Pony Events until they have obtained an FEI Interim or Lifetime Measuring Certificate.

Proposal from (National Federation, Stakeholder or FEI)

FEI

Article Number – Article Name

1084 – Refusal to Measure

Explanation for Proposed Change

Urgent repair

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

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

Proposed Wording on 26 June 2024

2. The Measuring Veterinarians must refuse to measure a Pony in the event of any of the following:
 - a) there is doubt or evidence that the Pony's withers, or any part in that anatomical region, may have been interfered with so as to artificially lower the Pony's height and there is no possibility to take radiographs on site during the measuring session; or
 - b) the Pony is sweating or breathing abnormally due to too intense exercise; or
 - c) the Pony has sore feet; or

- d) the Pony is lame; or
- e) the Pony is in poor condition; or
- f) the Pony shows signs of being sedated, in such cases the pony should always be sampled for EADCM; ~~or-~~
- ~~g) the Pony is shod with shoes that are unsuitable for Competition.~~

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

Comments Received by 21 August 2024

GBR NF

Comment & Rationale

2. The Measuring Veterinarians must refuse to measure a Pony in the event of any of the following:

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

~~g) the Pony is shod with shoes that are unsuitable for Competition.~~

3. In the event of the Measuring Veterinarians refusing to measure a Pony, the Pony'

Proposed Wording

We would like the FEI to amend 1083 paragraph 2g from "the pony is shod with shoes that are unsuitable for competition" to "~~the pony is shod with shoes which are a minimum of 50mm at both heels and toe of the shoe.~~"

The reason for this is that the proposed wording leaves it for each vet to decide what is and isn't suitable – we would prefer to not use subjective terms within the regulations and define the minimum thickness of shoe that is acceptable.

GER NF:

Comment & Rationale

For point 2. g), we find it difficult to assess what kind of shoes for a Pony are unsuitable for competition. We propose to delete this sentence because it leaves too much room for different points of view. Shall it be a minimum thickness? Then the tall ponies who already have a certificate would have an advantage.

For point 3, how shall an NF ensure that the pony is fit to compete? This is the duty of the owner.

Proposed Wording

~~g) the Pony is shod with shoes that are unsuitable for Competition.~~

~~2. [...] The Pony's NF must ensure that the Pony is fit to compete in order to re-present at another Measuring Session. [...]~~

NED NF:

Comment & Rationale

As in our comment with article 1081, we do not agree with this change. The owners of the ponies are sometimes not connected with the NF as riders are. We as the NF cannot ensure that a pony is fit to compete. Of course we fully agree that ponies should be fit to compete when being measured.

Proposed Wording

The Person Responsible for the Pony must ensure that the pony is fit to compete in order to re-present at another Measuring session.

FEI Feedback

The FEI appreciates your feedback and has made changes to the proposal concerning the suitability of horseshoes at Pony Measuring Sessions.

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

2. The Measuring Veterinarians must refuse to measure a Pony in the event of any of the following:
 - a) there is doubt or evidence that the Pony’s withers, or any part in that anatomical region, may have been interfered with so as to artificially lower the Pony’s height and there is no possibility to take radiographs on site during the measuring session; or
 - b) the Pony is sweating or breathing abnormally due to too intense exercise; or
 - c) the Pony has sore feet; or
 - d) the Pony is lame; or
 - e) the Pony is in poor condition; or
 - f) the Pony shows signs of being sedated, in such cases the pony should always be sampled for EADCM; ~~or~~
 - g) the Pony is wearing shoes that are less than 5mm in height and are not fit for Competition.

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

Proposal from (National Federation, Stakeholder or FEI)

FEI

Article Number – Article Name

1089 – Equine Fatalities

Explanation for Proposed Change

Urgent repair

Further to the FEI’s work in increasing welfare standards and that of the Equine Ethics and Wellbeing Commission, the FEI proposes that the post mortem reports from FEI horses that died or were euthanased from injury or disease following participation in national events, are shared with the FEI. The pooling of information will contribute to the better

understanding of the causes of accidents, injuries and disease, potentially allowing further safety measure to be applied to events.

Proposed Wording on 26 June 2024

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

Comments Received by 21 August 2024

GBR NF

Comment & Rationale

We would request that the FEI establishes a formal review system to consider factors related to fatalities; for example, a full site examination is required by GJ/TC/VD in the event of a fall. Steward forms to include detail on the specific issues required for reporting purposes.

Proposed Wording

None

USA NF:

Comment & Rationale

The explanation and the wording for this proposed addition do not match. The explanation details the information would be required from FEI horses, but the Proposed Wording does not specify FEI registered horses. In the interest of pooling information and mitigating risks of fatalities, the sharing of FEI fatalities would be appreciated by the NF's.

Proposed Wording

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

FEI Feedback

Thank you for your feedback. The FEI is currently working on a review system as suggested by the GBR NF. The purpose of including data from all competition horses is to ensure enough data is generated to enhance our understanding of fatalities.

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

As proposed on 26 June 2024

Proposal from (National Federation, Stakeholder or FEI)

FEI

Article Number – Article Name

1110 – Members or Presidents of the Endurance Veterinary Commission

Explanation for Proposed Change
Urgent repair

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

Proposed Wording on 26 June 2024

[The President and all other Members of the Endurance Veterinary Commission must attend the pre-ride Veterinary Briefing](#)

Comments Received by 21 August 2024

No comments received

FEI Feedback

N/A

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

As proposed on 26 June 2024

Proposal from (National Federation, Stakeholder or FEI)

FEI

Article Number – Article Name

1111 - Members or Presidents of the Endurance Veterinary Treating Commission

Explanation for Proposed Change
Urgent repair

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

Proposed Wording on 26 June 2024

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

Comments Received by 21 August 2024

No comments received

FEI Feedback

N/A

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

As proposed on 26 June 2024

Proposal from (National Federation, Stakeholder or FEI)

FEI

Article Number – Article Name

Annex VI – Sanctions in case of FEI Veterinary Regulation Violations

Explanation for Proposed Change

Correction of inconsistencies, manifest errors, contradictions, etc

The FEI proposes that:

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

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

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

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

Proposed Wording on 26 June 2024

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

Comments Received by 21 August 2024

GBR NF

Comment & Rationale

We would have concerns about the implementation of this without correct and clear guidance. Whilst we support the idea, technology has to be working correctly. Equally, vaccinations will involve more third parties (e.g. owners) and could pose logistical problems. This will create additional work for the vaccinating vet and is likely to increase costs.

Proposed Wording

None

FEI Feedback

The FEI wishes to clarify that the sanction will come into effect on 1 January 2026. This would allow 11 months for the community to become familiar with the vaccination module of the FEI HorseApp. A small change to the wording of the proposed sanction has been made to support this clarification.

Further to proposed changes made to Article 1061, changes have been made to Sanction 31 to ensure alignment.

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

<u>21</u>	<u>1002</u>	<u>Failure to record equine influenza vaccination details in the FEI HorseApp (Applicable as of 1 January 2026 provided the vaccination module is universally available and functioning by 1 February 2025.)</u>	<u>CHF100 each time the Horse is presented</u>
<u>XX</u>	<u>1035.XX</u>	<u>Failure to comply with the Horse Inspection presentation requirements regarding the wearing of hoof boots.</u>	<u>Horse not accepted to compete</u>

31	1055, 1059, <u>1061</u>	Any Person administering a treatment with substances listed on the EPSL <u>or the injection or infusion of vitamins and/or minerals during the Period of the Event,</u> without prior authorisation from the VC/VD with the exception of emergencies as stated in Art. 1059.	Person administering the treatment fined CHF1000, the Horse is to be Disqualified and the incident reported to the FEI Veterinary Department
35	1082	Any Pony receiving Farriery outside of the Designated Shoeing Area and/or without the necessary prior authorisation from the GJ and VD	Disqualification

Proposal from (National Federation, Stakeholder or FEI)

FEI

Article Number – Article Name

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

Explanation for Proposed Change

Urgent Repair

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

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

Proposed Wording on 26 June 2024

<u>60</u>	<u>1110 & 1111</u>	<u>Failure to attend pre-ride Veterinary Briefing in the absence of extenuating circumstances</u>	<u>Warning, Removal from the FEI Veterinarians' List or Suspension for up to a period of 1 year depending on the circumstances</u>
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Comments Received by 21 August 2024

No comments received

FEI Feedback

N/A

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

As proposed on 26 June 2024

Proposal from (National Federation, Stakeholder or FEI)

FEI

Article Number – Article Name

Annex IX – FEI Veterinarians Required for FEI Events

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

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

Proposed Wording on 26 June 2024

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

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

	President of Veterinary Commission	Level 3 OV	1	OC, subject to FEI approval
	Member of Veterinary Commission	Level 3 OV	Minimum 1	OC subject to FEI approval
	Veterinary Services Manager	Level 1 OV	1	OC, subject to FEI approval
Young Horse Championships Non-senior World Championships Non-senior Continental Championships and Games Non-senior Regional Games/Championships	Foreign Veterinary Delegate	Level 3 OV	1	FEI Headquarters
	President of Veterinary Commission	Level 3 OV	1	OC, subject to FEI approval
	Member of Veterinary Commission	Level 3 OV	Minimum 1	OC, subject to FEI approval
	Veterinary Services Manager	Level 1 OV	1	OC, subject to FEI approval
FEI Jumping Nations Cup Final FEI World Cup™ Finals Senior Continental Championships Senior Continental Games Senior Regional Games/Championships	Foreign Veterinary Delegate	Level 4 OV**	1	FEI Headquarters
	President of Veterinary Commission	Level 3 OV	1	OC, subject to FEI approval
	Member of Veterinary Commission	Level 3 OV	Minimum 1	OC, subject to FEI approval
	Veterinary Services Manager	Level 1 OV	1	OC, subject to FEI approval
Discipline: Endurance				
FEI Events	FEI Veterinarians	Minimum Level	Number	Appointment
CEI1*, CEI2* CIM & Regional Championships (see notes 5, 6 & 7)	President Veterinary Commission	Level 3 EOVS	1	OC, subject to FEI approval
	Members Veterinary Commission	Level 2 EOVS	2 up to 39 entries + 1 per 20 additional entries	OC, subject to FEI approval

	President Treating Veterinary Commission	Level 3 EVTO	1	OC, subject to FEI approval
	Members Treating Veterinary Commission	PTV	1 per 50 additional entries	OC, subject to FEI approval
	Veterinary Services Manager	Level 2 EVTO	1	OC, subject to FEI approval
Non-CIM CEI2* (see notes 5, 6 & 7)	Foreign Veterinary Delegate	Level 3 EOV	1	FEI Headquarters
	President Veterinary Commission	Level 3 EOV	1	FEI Headquarters
	Members Veterinary Commission	Level 2 EOV	1 up to 39 entries + 1 per 20 additional entries ¹	OC, subject to FEI approval
	President Veterinary Treating Commission	Level 3 EVTO	1	FEI Headquarters
	Members Veterinary Treating Commission	PTV	1 up to 59 entries + 1 per 30 additional entries	OC, subject to FEI approval
	Veterinary Services Manager	Level 2 EVTO	1	OC, subject to FEI approval
Comments Received by 21 August 2024				
No comments received				
FEI Feedback				

N/A

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

As proposed on 26 June 2024

Proposal from (National Federation, Stakeholder or FEI)

FEI

Article Number – Article Name

Annex XI – Glossary

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

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

Proposed Wording on 26 June 2024
ANNEX XI GLOSSARY
Infusion

Intravenous administration of more than 100ml of a substance.

Measuring Area

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

Measuring In

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

Measuring Out

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

Second Measurement

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

Comments Received by 21 August 2024

No comments received

FEI Feedback

N/A

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

As proposed on 26 June 2024

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

Proposal from (National Federation, Stakeholder or FEI)

ITA

Article Number – Article Name

Article 1008 - Stables

Explanation for Proposed Change

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Proposed Wording on 26 June 2024

No proposed wording was published.

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

Comments Received by 21 August 2024

GER NF:

Comment & Rationale

First of all, we do want that tall Horses can be accommodated in boxes that are big enough.

Likewise, we do understand that the implementation causes trouble for OCs with permanent stables and for companies who rent stable tents and boxes because the whole layout of the stable tents needs to be adjusted for larger boxes. If double boxes can be used, at least the size of the aisle is not affected and no new construction required. However, we should not underestimate that it means for OCs that either more space is needed to accommodate the same number of Horses (which is not possible at several locations) or that fewer entries can be accepted by an OC whose available space for stable tents is limited. One of our few Vaulting Event OCs has already communicated to us that they will cancel the CVI from their programme due to limited space.

Therefore, we understand the request for a transition period brought forward by the Italian NF. Not all Vaulting Horses are tall and as long as a Horse spends little time in the box and has no problem with laying down, it should be considered that it is not compulsory to have only the large boxes. We suggest to open up the discussion again.

Proposed Wording

None

USA NF:

Comment & Rationale

We agree with concerns raised in this submission from the ITA NF and we fully support the commitment of the FEI to the welfare of the horse in equestrian sports at all levels and all disciplines. We would like to suggest alternate proposed wording which would support Vaulting organizers and our horses (see below).

It would also be helpful if the equine veterinary research regarding stall size could be shared so NFs could examine their own national rules.

Proposed Wording

CVIs with a duration of three (3) days or fewer are exempt from the rule.

FEI Feedback

Thank you for your feedback. The FEI believes that some horses require larger boxes at events. A long-term goal regarding stable sizes is currently being looked into and a long transition period would be applied to any subsequent rule change.

Proposal from (National Federation, Stakeholder or FEI)

Grooms Consultative Group

Article Number – Article Name

1008.6.j - Stables

Explanation for Proposed Change

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

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

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

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

Proposed Wording on 26 June 2024

No proposed wording was published.

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

Comments Received by 21 August 2024

GER NF:

Comment & Rationale

We agree to the Grooms' proposal. If it cannot be changed in the rules now, at least the timetable should be checked when approving the draft schedule and the OC's attention should be directed to improving.

Proposed Wording

None

FEI Feedback

The FEI thanks you for your feedback and your comments will be directed to the Sports Departments.

Proposal from (National Federation, Stakeholder or FEI)

EEF

Article Number – Article Name

Article 1039 - Morning Re-Inspection

Explanation for Proposed Change

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

1. It would be welcomed by all stakeholders as this rule change would not only make riders, owners and trainers more happy, but also the organisers and the officials who also dislike nothing more than telling a rider that he has not passed.
2. The 1st Horse Inspection will not change at all as everyone will still want to pass at their first chance. We will still have the good appearances in Eventing, but it's

important that we move on with increasing costs for everyone and to be more modern.

3. It would be more fair to the competitors to have a second chance (including the possibility of taking an MCP control). Same as in other disciplines the horse could be stiff from the transport or a horse is suddenly uneven without a reason. There are immense costs for riders and owners around participation in competitions, especially the long format and it is long time prepared, and it is only good to give this chance to all those involved with the horse. It should be the same process for all three Olympic disciplines.
4. As Eventing Inspection Panels now and again are in a situation of doubt about passing or not passing a horse/pony at the HI it would give everyone a chance to have an extra opportunity to have another good look of the horse in question at a proper HI. As it is today it is often agreed to "keep an extra eye" on the specific horse during warm up for and during the dressage test. This causes at times a little uncertainty of "who is doing what and when" among the officials involved and responsible which is not ideal re. welfare of the horses.

Proposed Wording on 26 June 2024

No proposed wording was published.

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

Comments Received by 21 August 2024

No comments received

FEI Feedback

N/A

Proposal from (National Federation, Stakeholder or FEI)

EEF - Vet Working Group

Article Number – Article Name

Eventing Rules 2024 542.3 Second Horse Inspection

Explanation for Proposed Change

Follows the change mentioned above

Proposed Wording on 26 June 2024

No proposed wording was published.

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

Comments Received by 21 August 2024

No comments received

FEI Feedback

N/A

Proposal from (National Federation, Stakeholder or FEI)

SWE NF

Article Number – Article Name

Article 1057 – Treatments before and during FEI Events

Explanation for Proposed Change

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Proposed Wording on 26 June 2024

No proposed wording was published.

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

Comments Received by 21 August 2024

GBR NF

Comment & Rationale

Preventing any medication on the day of event will cause issues for those receiving ongoing treatment, for example Regumate or anti-ulcer medication, at multi-day competitions. We would therefore oppose a blanket ban, while supporting close regulation and further guidance on what treatments are permitted.

Proposed Wording

None

SWE NF

Comment & Rationale

Same comments and rationales as under Art. 1054 above.

Proposed Wording

8. The use of **altrenogest** is only allowed in mares and the use of gastric ulcer medication, **omeprazole** is permitted before FEI events, but **these medications are restricted during FEI events – and not allowed on the Competition Day.**

USA NF

Comment & Rationale

The USA NF is not in support of the SWE NF proposal to this change. The USA NF is supportive of the FEI position that antibiotics should not be withheld if necessary..

Proposed Wording

None

FEI Feedback

Thank you for your feedback. Following recent comments from the Treating Veterinarian community, the FEI proposes changes to the use of certain injectable medication at events.

Proposal from (National Federation, Stakeholder or FEI)

FEI

Article Number – Article Name

Article 1062 – Non-Restricted Supportive Therapies

Explanation for Proposed Change

Urgent repair

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

Proposed Wording on 26 June 2024

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

Comments Received by 21 August 2024

AUS NF:

Comment & Rationale

Icing has known therapeutic benefits, is well tolerated and safe. There is little scientific evidence to support the proposed change of limiting icing to 20 minutes. Multiple equine studies have shown that icing is safe and not associated with the induction of skin or nerve damage as can occur in people. Humans respond differently and are more likely to have adverse side effects. Horses show no adverse effects in environments when feet immersed continuously in snow. Pollitt et al Equine Vet Journal 2004 showed that prolonged continuous application of ice and water to horses’ distal limbs for 48 hours was well tolerated without any deleterious side effects or gross pathology. This study documented that horses didn’t undergo the same cold nociception as occurs in humans, and there was no cold induced skin injury or any clinical signs attributable to cold induced pain. Petrov et al 2003 documented that an hour in ice was not detrimental to tenocytes. Limiting icing to 20 minutes may also be too short a time to lower the limb temperature sufficiently to be beneficial depending on the ice boots used. Further, Quam et al Canadian Vet Journal 2021 found that although cryotherapy induced a transient analgesia in an induced lameness model, this effect was extremely short lived with an improvement but not resolution of lameness only evident for up to 10-15 minutes following icing for 1 hour. Icing is safe, cheap and effective. The decision for how long to ice for should be able to be made by the PR and their own veterinary team.

Proposed Wording

Remove: Ice may be applied to Horses for up to 20 minutes, after which a break of at least 40 minutes must be observed.

GBR NF

Comment & Rationale

We agree with this, but we may need exemption for the cooling of the hot horse post exercise.

Proposed Wording

None

USA NF:

Comment & Rationale

It would be appropriate to provide the research that documents this issue. If the concern is for horses that could be hyposensitive due to excessive cooling, then a time frame in relation to the hyposensitivity exam should be explored. However, there is little research to show this is potentially detrimental to the horse.

Proposed Wording

None

FEI Feedback

Thank you for your feedback. The FEI has decided to withdraw the proposed inclusion to the rules based on the need for further evidence.

Proposal from (National Federation, Stakeholder or FEI)

FRA NF

Article Number – Article Name

Annex IX
FEI World Cup Finals

Explanation for Proposed Change

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

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

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

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

Proposed Wording on 26 June 2024

No proposed wording was published.

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

Comments Received by 21 August 2024

No comments received

FEI Feedback

N/A

Proposal from (National Federation, Stakeholder or FEI)

FRA NF

Article Number – Article Name

Annex IX
Young Horse Championships (Driving)

Explanation for Proposed Change

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

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

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

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

Proposed Wording on 26 June 2024

No proposed wording was published.

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

Comments Received by 21 August 2024

No comments received

FEI Feedback

N/A

Proposal from (National Federation, Stakeholder or FEI)

GER NF

Article Number – Article Name

None

Explanation for Proposed Change

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

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

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

Currently the FEI stipulates that this form of data is to be collected in the remits of a research application. National and European laws on performing animal research not only

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

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

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

to, as this is a standard site of intravenous access in the field of equine veterinary medicine. It does not only allow for enough blood (ca. 0.5-1ml) to be collected in a timely manner but also considers the safety of the horse and of all personnel involved (rider, Permitted Treating Veterinarian, grooms etc.). Although blood parameters of interest, such as lactate, have undergone changes when sampling venous blood. These are negligible or known and can be accounted for.

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

Proposed Wording on 26 June 2024

No proposed wording was published.

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

Comments Received by 21 August 2024

No comments received

FEI Feedback

N/A