

ANNEX Pt 15.1

17 November 2021, Antwerp (BEL)

PROPOSALS FOR RULES CHANGES OF INTERNAL REGULATIONS OF THE FEI

20 October 2021

Dear National Federations,

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

During the Rules Revision Process few comments had been received from GER and IRL NFs and from the International Dressage Riders Club by the 30 August 2021 deadline to the following articles:

- 4.4.2 and 4.4.5: Role of Technical Chairs; and
- 6.9.4: Athlete's Committee Election.

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

[A.1. Rules Proposals received from NFs/MOU Stakeholders by 1 March 2021](#)

[A.2. Rules Proposals put forward by the FEI](#)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'F. Lima', written over a light blue grid background.

Francisco P. Lima,

Director Governance & Institutional Affairs

A.1. Rules Proposals received from NFs/MOU Stakeholders by 1 March 2021

Rules Proposal Submitted By
Jumping Owners Club
Article No.–Article Name
Article 6.5.2. <i>"Each Discipline Committee shall be composed of the Chair and five (5) other members with proven knowledge and experience (such as but not limited to Officials, Athletes, Organisers, Chefs d'Equipe, trainers, owners, grooms) in the relevant Discipline. An Athlete representative must be a member of each Discipline Committee, although the Athlete representative may not serve as Chair or Deputy Chair during his/her term in this capacity."</i>
Explanation for Proposed Change
To get a permanent representation in the Jumping Committee for the Owners, similar to the Athletes representative.
Proposed Wording
None
FEI Feedback
<p>The only stakeholder with a permanent sit on Technical Committees are the Athletes Representatives elected by their peers, as per the IOC Guidelines for the creation of International Federations' Athletes Committee. The FEI recognises the stakeholders via MOUs. Stakeholders shall have the right to put forward candidates for open positions on Technical Committees with their endorsement of their relevant National Federations.</p> <p>Based on the above the FEI Board does not agree with the proposal made by the Jumping Owners Club.</p>
FEI Proposed Wording (if applicable)
N/A
Comments received by 30 August 2021
None

Rules Proposal Submitted By

International Jumping Riders Club

Article No.–Article Name

Article 6.9.4 – Athletes Committee Election

Explanation for Proposed Change

To streamline the election of the Athletes Committee representative by their peers.

Proposed Wording

1. Criteria for Candidate Selection

The IJRC proposes that the Athlete representative must:

- Be a trustworthy figure chosen according to selective, objective criteria;
- Have the ability to represent a particular field;
- Be capable of understanding and representing an international perspective within an international federation;
- Have represented his or her country in team during Olympic Games or, alternatively, in the World or European Championships, or in 5 CSIO 5* events (that fulfil the technical FEI requirement 1.60m), in the eight years preceding the elections;
- Not have been found guilty of any doping offences;
- Be at least 25 years old.

2. Voting Rights

As this is an international environment, we suggest the following criteria:

- The athlete must have represented his or her country in the Olympic Games in the eight years preceding the elections, or, alternatively, in the World or European Championships, or in 5 CSIO 5* events. (These competitions have technical characteristics established and guaranteed by the FEI.)

Alternatively, they must be among the first 500 on the Longines FEI Ranking List.

FEI Feedback

The FEI, after having analysed the IOC guidelines for the creation of an IF Athletes Committee, having received the feedback from all relevant Technical Committees, and aiming to have an harmonised approach across all Disciplines proposed the wording below.

FEI Proposed Wording (if applicable)

“One Athlete shall be elected for each Discipline to serve as the Athlete representative on that Discipline’s Technical Committee and to ultimately together form the Athletes Committee. These Athlete representatives shall be elected via an online vote by their peers. ~~which will be open for eight weeks and will finish at the end of the FEI World Equestrian Games™.~~

~~In order to be~~ The persons entitled to vote and eligible as Candidate, Athletes must:

- ~~Have represented his/her country in a team or individual competition at the Olympic Games or Paralympic Games or Continental Games or World Championships for Seniors or Continental Championships for Seniors in any of the eight (8) years preceding the date of the elections(including for the avoidance of doubt in the year of the election);shall be the Athletes who have either competed in one of the last two senior FEI World Championships, Olympic Games or Paralympic Games in the respective Discipline. In order to be eligible to vote, the Athletes must be at least 18 years old at the time of the vote; and~~
- ~~Be 18 years of age at the time of the vote; and~~
- ~~Have not committed any violation of the FEI EADCMR or the FEI ADRHA within the previous 10 years. A violation for which the Athlete has established No Fault or Negligence shall not be considered a prior violation for purposes of this criteria. An elected Athlete representative shall immediately be removed from the Athlete's Committee if he/she commits a violation of the FEI EADCMR or the FEI ADRHA during his/her Term (a violation for which the Athlete has established No Fault or Negligence shall not be considered a violation).~~

~~To be eligible as a candidate, Athletes must satisfy the following criteria: (i) be at least 18 years of age at the time of the vote; (ii) have either competed in one of the last two senior FEI World Championships, Olympic Games or Paralympic Games in the Discipline for which they are seeking election; and (iii) have a clean anti-doping record with respect to both the EADCMRs and the ADRHAs as of April 2010 when the new anti-doping system came into effect.~~

The FEI Headquarters shall establish and communicate as relevant the procedure for the election for the Athletes' representatives on the Discipline Committees.

~~In the event an Athlete Representative is unable to complete a Term, the Board will appoint a replacement until the next elections, in consultation with the official athlete organisation for the Discipline recognised by the FEI. In the absence of an official athlete organisation for the Discipline, the Board will appoint a replacement until the next elections."~~

Comments received by 30 August 2021

GER NF

The wording proposed by the FEI includes that those entitled to vote or to be elected "have not committed any violation of the FEI EADCMR or the FEI ADRHA within the previous 10 years".

- 1- We suggest to differentiate between the active right to vote and the passive right to be elected. This is also done in criminal procedures. No Athlete who is allowed to participate in the sport should be prevented from casting a vote.
- 2- Secondly, we consider a ban of ten years for an Athlete who has gone through a fast track procedure where "fault or negligence" is not even identified as too long.
- 3- Finally, will an Athlete be previously suspended from the duties as Athletes' Representative during a pending trial or will he/she only be removed after the FEI Tribunal decision?

IRL NF

- 1- IRL NF note that it should be the Athletes Committee that appoint a replacement in the event that an Athlete Representative is unable to complete a term.

- 2- IRL NF also consider excluding an athlete because of 1 Medication offence a bit harsh but have no proposed alternative wording.

INTERNATIONAL DRESSAGE RIDERS CLUB (IDRC)

The IDRC is the legitimate worldwide professional body for dressage riders. The riders and horses are the combination that make up the sport and therefore the core and heart of the sport.

Thus, the riders and their horses play a very decisive role, because without them, this sport would not exist.

This central importance should also be reflected in the relationship between the FEI and the legitimate professional organizations. Therefore, the IDRC consider it necessary to put the current basis of cooperation on a new footing.

From our point of view, it is incomprehensible that the representative in the respective committees is not delegated by the legitimized professional associations.

In order to be able to guarantee a trusting, fast and effective communication and coordination of the content of the topics, it is necessary that the riders representative in the DC is appointed by the IDRC.

The current situation leads to the conclusion that the IDRC formally has no influence on the position of the riders representative in the Dressage Committee.

The IDRC represents the interests of the riders, but cannot influence the voting behavior of the riders representative. Furthermore, due to this formal legal separation, the flow of information is currently severely restricted.

FEI feedback

GER NF

- 1- Comment taken into account and proposed wording modified accordingly;
- 2- Comment taken into account and proposed wording modified accordingly;
- 3- The Athlete Representative would be suspended of his/her functions when a violation is confirmed by the FEI Tribunal, or in case of a fast track when the Athlete accepts it.

IRL NF

- 1- As Athletes Representatives are elected by their peers by Discipline, it is proposed to keep the replacement formula;
- 2- Already taking into account as part of the GER NF comment.

IDRC

The FEI follows the IOC Guidelines for the creation of an Athletes Committee according to which the Athletes are to be elected by their peers. IDRC has the right to submit a candidate and to campaign for it so to get elected by the whole athletes community.

Proposed Final Wording to be voted at the FEI General Assembly 2021

"One Athlete shall be elected for each Discipline to serve as the Athlete representative on that Discipline's Technical Committee and to ultimately together form the Athletes

~~Committee. These Athlete representatives shall be elected via an online vote by their peers, which will be open for eight weeks and will finish at the end of the FEI World Equestrian Games™.~~

~~In order to be The persons entitled to vote Athletes must:~~

- ~~- Have represented his/her country in a team or individual competition at the Olympic Games or Paralympic Games or Continental Games or World Championships for Seniors or Continental Championships for Seniors in any of the eight (8) years preceding the date of the elections(including for the avoidance of doubt in the year of the election); shall be the Athletes who have either competed in one of the last two senior FEI World Championships, Olympic Games or Paralympic Games in the respective Discipline. In order to be eligible to vote, the Athletes must be at least 18 years old at the time of the vote; and~~
- ~~- Be 18 years of age at the time of the vote; and~~

~~In order to be eligible as Candidate. Athletes must:~~

- ~~- Have represented his/her country in a team or individual competition at the Olympic Games or Paralympic Games or Continental Games or World Championships for Seniors or Continental Championships for Seniors in any of the eight (8) years preceding the date of the elections(including for the avoidance of doubt in the year of the election); and~~
- ~~- Be 18 years of age at the time of the vote; and~~
- ~~- Have not committed any violation of:~~
 - ~~• The FEI Equine Anti-Doping Rules or the FEI Anti-Doping Rules for Human Athletes within the previous 10 years*~~
 - ~~• The FEI Equine Controlled Medication Rules within the previous 4 years*:~~

~~*A violation for which the Athlete has established No Fault or Negligence shall not be considered a prior violation for purposes of this criteria. An elected Athlete representative shall immediately be removed from the Athlete's Committee if he/she commits a violation of the FEI EADCMR or the FEI ADRHA during his/her Term (a violation for which the Athlete has established No Fault or Negligence shall not be considered a violation).~~

~~To be eligible as a candidate, Athletes must satisfy the following criteria: (i) be at least 18 years of age at the time of the vote; (ii) have either competed in one of the last two senior FEI World Championships, Olympic Games or Paralympic Games in the Discipline for which they are seeking election; and (iii) have a clean anti-doping record with respect to both the EADCMRs and the ADRHAs as of April 2010 when the new anti-doping system came into effect.~~

~~The FEI Headquarters shall establish and communicate as relevant the procedure for the election for the Athletes' representatives on the Discipline Committees.~~

~~In the event an Athlete Representative is unable to complete a Term, the Board will appoint a replacement until the next elections, in consultation with the official athlete organisation for the Discipline recognised by the FEI. In the absence of an official athlete organisation for the Discipline, the Board will appoint a replacement until the next elections."~~

A.2 Rules Proposals put forward by the FEI

Article No.–Article Name
Relevant Articles
Explanation for Proposed Change
Due to latest discussions with the National Reining Horse Association (NRHA) and subject to the General Assembly approving the removal of Reining as FEI Discipline the Internal Regulations would need to be adapted accordingly.
Proposed Wording
N/A
Comments received by 30 August 2021
None

Article No.–Article Name
Article 4.4.2 – Role of the Technical Chairs
Explanation for Proposed Change
To align the text with the modifications approved in the General Regulations in 2020.
Proposed Wording
<i>“To maintain continuous contact with the Department Director for their Discipline at Headquarters, and through them with the FEI Commercial, <u>Education & Officials</u> and FEI Solidarity Departments;”</i>
Comments received by 30 August 2021
GER NF
In addition, contact should be kept to the Communications Department.
FEI feedback
Contact is extended to all FEI Headquarters, always through the Department Director.
Proposed Final Wording to be voted at the FEI General Assembly 2021
<i>“To maintain continuous contact with the Department Director for their Discipline at Headquarters, and through them with the FEI <u>Headquarters</u>;”</i>

Article No.–Article Name

Article 4.4.5 – Role of the Technical Chair

Explanation for Proposed Change

To align the text with the modifications approved in the General Regulations in 2020.

Proposed Wording

"To be aware of all FEI activities (Sport, FEI Solidarity, Legal, Veterinary, Education & Officials, etc.) in order to help their Discipline to further develop;"

Comments received by 30 August 2021
GER NF

In addition, contact should be kept to the Communications Department.

FEI feedback

Contact is extended to all FEI Headquarters, through the Department Director.

Proposed Final Wording to be voted at the FEI General Assembly 2021

"To maintain continuous contact with the Department Director for their Discipline at Headquarters, and through them with the FEI Headquarters,"

Article No.–Article Name

Article 5.2.1 – Department Directors for Technical Disciplines (Internal Organisation of the Headquarters)

Explanation for Proposed Change

To align the text with the modifications approved in the General Regulations in 2020.

Proposed Wording

"ii. Management of international Events in their respective Discipline(s) and appointment of Officials as per the FEI Rules and Regulations;"

"iii. Development of their respective Discipline(s) and appoint the Course Director General; and,"

"iv. ~~Appointment, education, The Education System, the Course Calendar and the monitoring of Officials.~~ promotion, demotion, suspension and removal of FEI Officials."

Comments received by 30 August 2021

None

Article No.–Article Name

Article 6.4 – Veterinary Committee

Explanation for Proposed Change

To align the text with the modifications approved in the General Regulations in 2020.

Proposed Wording

“The appointment, monitoring, Education System ~~–education–monitoring,–demotion,–suspension–and–removal~~ of Veterinarians as per the FEI Rules and Regulations”;

Comments received by 30 August 2021

None

Article No.–Article Name

Article 6.5.1 – Technical Committees for Dressage, Jumping, Eventing, Driving, Endurance, Vaulting, Reining, Para- Equestrian (“Discipline Committees”)

Explanation for Proposed Change

To align the text with the modifications approved in the General Regulations in 2020.

Proposed Wording

“The recommendation of appointment, the Education System, ~~monitoring,–demotion,–suspension,–and–removal~~ of Officials and other relevant representatives of the FEI, such as the Course Director General, ~~–including–status–of–Judges,–Stewards,–Technical Delegates,–and–Course–Designers~~ as per the FEI Rules and Regulations; and”

Comments received by 30 August 2021

None