

Clean Sport History

The Commission on Anti-Doping & Medication was founded in November 2008. It was set up in response to the high-profile doping cases from the 2008 Olympic Games and an appeal to the FEI President from a number of riders requesting greater clarity on doping and medication substances.

The Commission's mission was to continue the work initiated by the 2004 Doping and Medication Policy Taskforce and comprised of the following members:

Professor Arne Ljungqvist (Chair)	Vice-President of the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) and Chairman of the IOC Medical Commission
Christian Baillet	Owner Representative
Alex McLin	FEI CEO/Secretary General
Don Catlin	IOC Medical Commission Member
Timothy R. Ober	Team Veterinarian
Carl Bouckaert	Eventing Rider
Ken Lalo	Chair FEI Tribunal
Richard McLaren	Member of CAS
Sven Holmberg	1st Vice President and Chair Jumping Committee
John McEwen	Chair Veterinary Committee
Christophe Barbeau	Jumping Rider
Wayne Channon	Dressage Rider
Kristin Kloster Aasen	President Norwegian National Federation
Richard Johnson	FEI Director, Communications
Dr Harald Muller	FEI Director, Education & Standards

The Commission brought together representatives of every area of veterinary medicine, in addition to representatives of all the stakeholder sectors in horse sport and its governing bodies. Its objective was to establish the best possible system to prevent the use of methods or substances that influence the performance of a competition horse, while ensuring horse welfare at all times.

In order for the Commission to carry out its tasks, four focus groups were established with specific Terms of References. The Working Groups included members of the Commission as well as experts in the field representing different stakeholders.

- Laboratory Working Group: was asked to examine issues related to analysis of FEI samples and how these complied with FEI policy.
- Legal Working Group: was tasked with looking at the existing Anti-Doping and Medication Control Rules and how they might be amended, and the evidentiary issues.
- List Working Group: reviewed issues related to the Equine Prohibited Substances List and associated Therapeutic Use Exemption (TUE) matters, and how substances should generally be categorized.
- Communications & Education Working Group: was asked to establish a communications and education strategy to create an information platform for the Clean Sport Campaign.

In May 2009, the FEI set up an Ethics Panel as an independent commission to assess and investigate practices among members of the German equestrian team and its officials at the 2008 Olympic equestrian events in Hong Kong. Under the chairmanship of Britain's former Metropolitan Police Commissioner Lord Stevens, the Ethics Panel was renamed the Stevens Commission. The Commission members were David O'Connor (President of the United States Equestrian Federation), Ken Lalo (Chair FEI Tribunal) and John Roche, FEI Director of Jumping.

The Stevens Commission remit was subsequently broadened to include a wider overview of equestrian sport to dovetail with the work of the Ljungqvist Commission and provide the FEI with a complete spectrum of changes to be implemented in the fight against doping.

The recommendations from the Stevens Commission, which were published in September 2009, supported and supplemented the work of the Ljungqvist Commission. The work of the two Commissions was then aligned at a meeting in October 2009 to produce the Joint-Commission Recommendations, which received overwhelming support at the General Assembly in Copenhagen on 19 November 2009, setting out revolutionary changes designed to transform the face of equestrian sport.

The 2009 General Assembly vote of approval for the Progressive List, permitting the restricted use of a small number of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs), provoked considerable debate. Obviously this change in policy would affect equestrian sport at a number of levels and concerns were expressed in several different quarters. The FEI acknowledged that these concerns were all legitimate and that there was clearly a need for further debate on the issue.

The policy choice of whether the restricted use of NSAIDs should be permitted in competition was delayed until the 2010 FEI General Assembly (Taiwan), allowing for broader debate prior to the vote and a full review of the prohibited substances list, with all the relevant and necessary research. In the interim, the new FEI Anti-Doping and Controlled Medication Regulations (EADCMR), the Equine Prohibited Substances List sent to National Federations on 20 October 2009 and the new Veterinary Regulations came into effect on 5 April 2010.

The period before the 2010 General Assembly saw the successful delivery of all the measures required by the Clean Sport campaign and also saw the FEI Congress on NSAID Usage in the Equine Athlete, a platform for the science and philosophy behind NSAID usage and allowed the various parts of the debate to be discussed in equine sport. At the 2010 FEI General Assembly, National Federations voted to adopt the FEI List Group's proposal that insufficient scientific knowledge was available to permit the in-competition usage of NSAIDs at this time and that the FEI must have mechanisms in place to maintain the effect of substantive policy changes.