

## **Session 4: Rules and Regulations**

**FEI Legal Director Mikael Rentsch** began the final session of the day by thanking the stakeholders for their cooperation in reducing the overall number of rule proposals submitted as part of the 2024 rule revisions process.

Overall, the number of rule proposals submitted has been reduced by 30% as a result of the stakeholders applying the Rule Revision criteria more strictly.

He then took participants through key proposed changes to the FEI General Regulations, covering topics such as the process for submitting horse abuse reports, when FEI Headquarters can impose a provisional suspension, harmonising the table of sanctions to achieve more proportionality, and clarifying that field of play matters are not subject to protest.

The discussions expanded to the Equine Anti-Doping and Controlled Medication Regulations (EADCMRs) which are undergoing a full revision, with a focus on out-of-competition testing and the related processes and sanctions. A proposal to introduce hair and saliva testing as additional methods for monitoring compliance was also put forward to delegates for discussion.

The FEI confirmed that out-of-competition testing will solely concern banned substances, but not the controlled medications. To fund this initiative, the FEI plans to slightly reduce the number of in-competition tests to ensure out-of-competition testing can be part of the equine anti-doping programme without any increase in anti-doping fees. Once all procedures are in place, the FEI will provide clear guidance on the obligations and expectations for out-of-competition testing.

The initial phase of testing will most likely involve less than one hundred horses, starting with the Endurance discipline only. During the discussion, the FEI confirmed that they would liaise directly with horse owners, registered trainers and/or athletes to confirm their horse's whereabouts for out-of-competition testing and will keep National Federations informed throughout the process.

**FEI Veterinary Director Göran Akerström** then took the floor to discuss proposed changes to the Veterinary Regulations including articles relating to treatments with non-oral medication and therapies, examination on arrival, presentation of horses, refusal to measure, and injury and disease surveillance.

During the discussion, the need for consistency in examination-on-arrival procedures was highlighted. The rules are now being revised to ensure a uniform approach, improving safety and clarity.

In Driving, there are several options for examination on arrival, including examining horses in a quieter environment. This approach would allow time to observe any unexpected abnormalities identified during the initial examination, ensuring a more thorough and reflective process for both horse welfare and competition safety.

Additionally, the importance of gathering data around horse fatalities was discussed. Using a developed template, the FEI aims to refine data collection and establish a model to better analyse and address these incidents.

## **Session 4: Rules and Regulations Summary**

It was also confirmed that there will be no separate vote on the General Regulations, Equine Anti-Doping and Controlled Medication Regulations, the Veterinary Regulations, and any of the Discipline Rules at the FEI General Assembly on Wednesday, 13 November.