

FEI™ SPORTS FORUM

Endurance Rules Modifications

805 – Minimum Weights

Background

Current system of minimum weights does not take into account the fact that Athletes can lose body weight during the competition. Athletes that have completed 160km can get disqualified at the finish for water weight lost during that loop. Officials currently do not apply this rule in the same way around the world. Some are very strict and will DSQ an athlete for losing water weight, and some are more flexible and allow a certain margin.

Proposal

*805.3.5 For all Events, if the Athlete is found to lose up to 1kg of their starting weight, the Combination will be allowed to continue. If, during the same competition, the same Athlete is found to be underweight a second time, the Combination will then be Disqualified (DSQ – Underweight).

**Final wording to be confirmed.*

832 – Novice Qualifications

835 – Validity of CEI Star Level Qualification

Background

In order to alleviate the difficulties of Athletes living in countries where there are a few opportunities to qualify their Horses in CEN or CEI rides, we propose to extend the qualification period and its validity from two to three years.

Proposal

832.3 **Novice qualification procedure:** Horses and Athletes must have successfully completed (not necessarily as a Combination) two novice rides of 40-79 km (in one day) and two novice rides of 80-100 km each restricted to a speed of no more than 16 km/hour (calculated in accordance with Article 838.2). The required 80-100 km rides may be completed either as (i) two single-day events, or (ii) one single-day event and one multi-day event (for the multi-day event, 40-50km must be completed per day for two consecutive days at the same Competition). All qualifying novice rides must be completed within a ~~two-year~~ **three-year** period.

835.1 Each CEI star level qualification achieved will be valid:

835.1.2 for Horses, for ~~two~~ **three** years.

827 – Minimum Age Requirements For Horses

Background

Many of the Arabian horses which predominate in the sport of Endurance do not reach physical maturity by the age of 6. In order to protect younger horses from competing at excessive speed in CEI1*, we propose to change the minimum age requirements for Horses.

Proposal

To increase the minimum age requirement for Horses on the CEI1* from 6 to 7 years old.

This proposal will not impact any other level of competition.

837 – Consequences For Repeated FTQ And/Or DSO Designations With Average Speeds Exceeding 20 Km/Hour

Background

The average speed referred to in this article was derived from research which was done before the previous Endurance full rule revision (2019). It was calculated based on the **phase speed** and not **loop speed**. However, when applying this rule, it is applied to the combination's average loop speed.

Proposal

In order to correct this inconsistency, we propose to increase **the average loop speed trigger** from 20km/h to **21km/h**.

839 – Mandatory Out of Competition Periods

Background

We propose a revision of the Mandatory Out of Competition Periods (MOOCP) in order to ensure that there is no link between adverse outcomes for Horses and insufficient recovery periods between competitions.

843.2 – CEIOs and Championships

Background

In order to avoid the confusion that occurred at the FEI Endurance World Championship 2021 in Pisa (ITA), and in order to address comments that were sent in by National Federations about the definite entries allowed in a Championship, below is a proposal to reinforce the concept of reserve combinations.

Proposal

843.2 CEIOs and Championships:

The Competition Schedule and the official invitation sent to each National Federation participating in the Event must allow for each team to have ~~five~~ **seven** Athletes and seven Horses (which includes up to two reserve **Athletes/Horses/Combinations**), a non-riding Chef d'Equipe, and an FEI-registered Veterinarian as Team Veterinarian. Further details on teams are set out in the FEI General Regulations.

For the avoidance of doubt, a National Federation may enter less than seven Athletes that are qualified with more than one Horse as a Combination.

858 and Annex 4 – Rankings

Background

We propose to broaden the scope of the current ranking system to make it more competitive and to better reflect the achievements of all Athletes, Horses and Trainers.

Proposal

We propose to link Endurance Ranking points to:

- Number of starters and finishers;
- Best Condition Awards.

860 – Badges of Honour

Background

In order to reward a wider range of positive achievements of Horses and Athletes, we would like to expand the Badges of Honour system to recognize the following achievement, and in particular to award the longevity of a successful career together.

Proposal

- Recognition of Combinations that have had a long career together;
- Recognition of consecutive successful completions;
- Recognition for multiple Best Condition awards received by Athletes, Horses and Combinations;
- Recognition for Combinations who compete successfully on varied types of terrain (example: mountain, desert, forest).

864 – Athlete and Trainer Penalty Points

Background

There are many Trainers that train a large number of Horses which are active. This increases the likelihood of these trainers reaching the 100 point maximum (which triggers the two-month suspension).

Proposal

We are looking into different ways to address this point including a rewards system for successful completions in the Trainer ranking system.

865 – Warning Cards

Background

In order to address an issue faced by Officials in Endurance events in relation to bad behaviour, the Incorrect Behaviour Card was introduced into the Endurance Rules in 2017. Receiving an Incorrect Behaviour Card incurred 100 penalty points and therefore an immediate two-month suspension. Any suspension results in the loss of Elite Athlete status. We received a lot of feedback from Officials that they found the consequences of this card too harsh and were often reluctant to use it.

Proposal

There is a proposal to go back to the previous system and re-align with other disciplines by eliminating the Incorrect Behaviour Card and using the Yellow Warning Card system for incorrect behaviour again. The previous system being that if a Person Responsible (PR) receives two Yellow Warning Cards, this results in a two-month suspension.

Annex 7 – Examination After Third (Or Subsequent) FTQ-GA

Background

The current rule does not cover cases where a Horse who has three (or subsequent) FTQ-GA loses its CEI qualifications. This Horse should be able to resume participation in CEN rides in order to be able to regain its qualification for the CEIs after the mandatory out of competition period of 180 days is over. There are also cases where Horses want to train on shorter distances before resuming their CEI careers.

Proposal

Once the Horse has undergone the required Mandatory Out of Competition Period (MOOCP) of 180 days it may enter in CEN rides subject to normal veterinary control and subsequently enter a CEI ride. At that CEI ride, the Horse must undergo an Annex 7 inspection, and should the Horse successfully complete the ride, the flag from the Horse's profile on the FEI database will be removed.

Vet Gate Protocol

Background

In order to further safeguard the welfare of Horses in competition, the procedures for Veterinary Inspections are currently under review by a working group comprising of members of the Endurance Technical Committee and the Veterinary Committee.

FEI General Regulations – Appendix E – CIMs

803. Star Level of Events

Background

In order to address the hardships that some National Federations have reported as a result of removing the CEI2* from the CIM category, we propose to re-instate the CEI2* as a CIM provided that it comes within certain criteria that will be set out in the FEI Endurance Rules (subject to approval at the FEI General Assembly 2023).

We expect that the majority of current CEI2* will meet the criteria to be considered as a CIM.

FEI General Regulations – Appendix E – CIMs

803. Star Level of Events

Proposal

Current rule:

803.1.2 2*: Competitions between 120-139 km in one day, or between 70- 89 km per day over two days.

Concept for Proposed change:

803.1.2

A CEI 2* will be categorised as a CIM provided that it meets all of the following criteria:

- The **distance is between 120 – 126km**
- The **prize money is less than CHF 20,000** (including the value of prizes in kind)
- The **FEI Endurance Department** and the **FEI Veterinary Committee agree**, having regard to relevant factors such as (but not limited to) the expected number of **entries** (based on a review of past participation levels), **climate/expected** weather conditions, difficulty of the **track**

Penalties can be imposed where an OC/NF runs an Event as a CIM if it later emerges that the above referenced **criteria** were **not complied with** (for example if the prize money limit was exceeded).

2* Championships are not considered as CIMs regardless of the distance or the prize money.

2* Competitions can be held in **one day**, or between 70-89 km per **day over two days** with a minimum of three loops per day.

FEI General Regulations – Appendix E – CIMs

803. Star Level of Events

Impact on Endurance Rules – Annex 6

All Key Officials in a non CIM CEI2* will be appointed by the FEI in consultation with the OC (like the current CEI3*).

No change to appointment of Officials for CEI2*s that are CIMs.

FEI General Regulations – Appendix E – CIMs

803. Star Level of Events

Impact on Veterinary Regulations

Article 1008 Stables

III. Minimum Stabling Requirements for Horses during an Event

10. All Events must comply with the following stabling requirements except for Events held over 1 day in all Disciplines, and CCI1*-S, CCI2*-S, and CCI3*-S, CAI1*, CAI2* and CAI3* events (except for CAI3* World Cup Qualifiers) and CEI* and CEI2* **CIM** Events.

IV. Stable Security

13. Stable security as described below is required at all Events, with the following exceptions:

Dressage: CDI1*, CDI2*, CDICH, CDI-P, CDI-J, CDI-Y, CDI-YH and CDI3* outside Europe

Driving: CAI 1*, CAI 2* and CAI3*

Endurance: CEI1* and CEI2* **CIM Events**

(....)

Article 1033

Horse Inspections' Timings

Endurance: For CEI1* and CEI2* **CIM** Events: Within 24 hours before the start of the first loop

For **non CIM CEI 2*** CEI3* Events and above, including Championships: no less than 12 hours before and no longer than 24hrs before the start of the first loop

816.6 – Heart Rate Assessment

816.6.5

Background

In an effort to give immediate care to Horses who need it, we propose the addition of the below article which allows the member of the Veterinary Commission – after having identified a Horse in poor metabolic condition – to send the Horse immediately to the treatment clinic without further delay.

Proposal

816.6.5 If a Horse presents with a heart rate higher than the maximum allowed and in the opinion of a Veterinary Commission Member the condition of the Horse is such that it should proceed to the Treatment Veterinarians without further delay, no heart rate re-inspection will be permitted.

816.6 – Heart Rate Assessment

816.6.6

Background

In an effort to further strengthen the veterinary assessment for Horses who are having difficulty recovering after a loop, we propose to change the current rule so that all Horses who enter the vet gate with more than 10 minutes recovery time must pass a compulsory re-inspection before going out on the next loop.

Proposal

Current rule:

~~816.6.6 At the first Vet Gate after the halfway point on the course or at the third Vet Gate (whichever comes first), and at each subsequent Vet Gate, Horses that present at the Vetting Area with a heart rate greater than 68 bpm at the first presentation must pass a heart rate re-inspection and a compulsory re-inspection before being permitted to start the next Loop.~~

Proposed change:

816.6.6 From the second Vet Gate onwards, all Horses entering with more than 10 minutes recovery time must pass a compulsory re-inspection before being permitted to start the next Loop.

816.6 – Heart Rate Assessment

816.6.8

Background

We propose the introduction of a new Disqualification reason to penalize the late presentation of Horses to the Veterinary Commission. This proposal puts a label on an existing problem where the Horse is intentionally delayed in presenting to the Veterinary Commission which can impact Horse Welfare. This will generate 10 penalty points for Athletes/Trainers.

Proposal

816.6.7 8 Failure to comply with the time limits for presentation of the Horse to the Vetting Area will result in Disqualification **with Late Presentation**. In such circumstances, the Horse must still be submitted to a Horse Inspection, and so an additional designation for Failure to Qualify for veterinary (or other) reasons may also apply in addition to the Disqualification.

816.8 – Hold Time

816.8.1

Background

In order to allow adequate time for the Horse to rest, we agree to propose to increase the minimum Hold Time for loops between 20 and 29km from 20 to 30 minutes.

Proposal

816.8.1 There must be a Hold Time for the Horse at each Vet Gate (except the final Vet Gate after the finish) **of at least thirty minutes for distances of 20km to 29km loops**, and one minute per 1 km ~~of the Loop just~~ **completed for 30km loops and above**. (For example, following a 35 km Loop, there must be a minimum Hold Time of at least 35 minutes, **following a 21km loop, there must be a minimum Hold Time of at least 30 minutes**).

- **28 June 2023:** 1st Draft of the proposed Rules changes will be provided to the National Federations and Stakeholders
- **16 August 2023:** Deadline for feedback on any changes to the 1st Draft from the FEI
- **24 October 2023:** Final Draft of the proposed Rules changes will be provided to the National Federations and Stakeholders
- **20 November 2023:** Rules Session
- **21 November 2023:** Voting of Rules at the General Assembly

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Thank you!