Introduction

The FEI Olympic Update aims to provide you with essential information relating to the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

REGISTRATION OF HORSE OWNERSHIP FOR THE OLYMPIC GAMES

Further to the publication of the FEI Regulations for Equestrian Events at the Olympic Games, 23rd Edition, effective for the 2012 London Olympic Games (available here), we would like to remind you of the important provisions relating to the registration of horse ownership for the Olympic Games. Article 606.2.2 requires that all Horses entered for the Equestrian Events at the Olympic Games must have been registered with the FEI as property of owners of the same nationality as the Athletes who are riding them by 31 December 2011. Horses with multinational ownership must also be registered with the FEI by 31 December 2011 as being owned by the nation for which the Horse will compete during the Olympic Games.

It is the responsibility of National Federations (NFs) to ensure that Horses which do not meet these ownership requirements are not entered for the Equestrian Events at the Olympic Games. We therefore urge you to remind your Athletes of this very important regulation and the requirements so that all deadlines are met.

In addition to the provisions mentioned above, you should be familiar with the following General Regulations that also apply:

Article 139 - Owners and Lessees of Horses
1. NFs must keep a register of the Owners and lessees of Horses with official passports. Changes of Owners and records of leasing agreements must be entered in the FEI and/or national passport and authenticated by the stamp and signature of an NF official.

2. The nationality of a Horse is that of its Owner or of the Lessee, where a lease is current, or of the country in which the company owning or leasing it is registered. A company may, however, own a Horse in partnership with an individual.

3. When one or more Horses belong to a partnership of Owners of different nationalities, the Owners must declare to the FEI, before making the first entry, the nationality under which the Horse or Horses will compete and that nationality must be entered in the FEI and/or national passport. The Horses must retain that nationality until the partnership is dissolved or the Horses are sold. Any consequent change of nationality must be reported to the FEI.

4. Horses entered for the Olympic Games must be the property of Owners of the same nationality as the Athlete by 31st December of the year preceding the Games (see Olympic Regulations).

5. Athletes may take part in all Events except Olympic Games with Horses belonging to Owners of a different nationality (see also Article 118 - Person Responsible).

Should you have any questions on the above, please do not hesitate to contact Mikael Rentsch at the FEI Legal Department.

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**CAS STRIKES DOWN IOC RULE 45**

Last Thursday (6 October), the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) issued its decision rendering the IOC’s Rule 45, which provided that any Athlete suspended for a period of more than 6 months for an anti-doping rule violation would be ineligible for the next Olympic Games, invalid and unenforceable. Therefore, any Athletes that were previously prevented by Rule 45 from participating in the Olympic Games are no longer ineligible because of Rule 45. Of course, all other sporting qualifications for the Olympic Games still apply.