

## 2018 REINING RULES –proposed modifications

### Introduction

Please find below the Reining Committee's proposals for changes and clarifications to the Reining. The below document includes the feedback received and the Committee detailed proposal for approval of the General Assembly.

*The rationale of the Reining Committee for proposing the change is indicated in italics and purple.*

Summarized feed-back from NFs and Stakeholders are included under each proposal.

**Reining Committee's answers further to NFs feedbacks are at the bottom of the last comment – when applicable.**

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## 2018 Reining Rules Revision – 5th Edition, Modifications suggested for implementation in January 2018

### Art. 301.5.1/2 FEI World Equestrian Games and Continental/World Championships

5.1. The following Competition formula shall be used for FEI World Equestrian Games and Continental/World Championships:

~~Day Competition~~ 1 Team/Individual Competition Team Medals.

Athletes placed first to fifteen (15) qualify directly for the Individual Final, to include ties at fifteen's place.

~~Day Competition~~ 2 Second Qualifying Competition (no prize-money).

Open to Athletes placed sixteenth (16) to thirty-fifth (35) in the Team/Individual Competition.

The highest place eligible for the second qualifying competition is thirty fifth (35) place, including ties for thirty fifth (35).

~~Day 3–Rest day~~

~~Day Competition~~ 3 Individual Final – Individual Medals

Open to the fifteen (15) best Athletes as above and five best Athletes from the Second Qualifying Competition including the ties for the fifth place in the second qualifying competition.

~~A rest day must be scheduled, preferably between competition 2 and competition 3.~~

5.2. The Second Qualifying Competition and the rest day are optional for Continental and World Championships, excluding World Equestrian Games.

5-2-5.3. In case no second Qualifying Competition is scheduled, the Individual Final shall be open to the best twenty (20) Athletes from Competition 1 including the ties for the 20th place.

**NED NF**

Art. 301.5.1 describes the competition format for championships, also stating: "A rest day must be scheduled, preferably between competition 2 and competition 3." Art. 301.5.2 states "The Second Qualifying Competition and the rest day are optional for Continental and World Championships, excluding World Equestrian Games."

In our opinion art. 301.5.1 is in contradiction with art. 301.5.2 when it comes to the rest day. We suggest to harmonize these two articles in favor of horse welfare and oblige a rest day for all championships.

Also, we encourage a second qualifying competition. In our opinion, limiting the number of competitors for the Individual Final to 15, is not in favor of the globalization of equestrian. Allowing five more competitors in the Individual Final, leads probably to more represented nations.

**IRL NF**

Seems sensible and appropriate with multiple reining competitions at the same show, inclusion Adult, Junior, Young rider and Para Reining, horses can be shared and still have adequate rest days.

**REINING Committee**

*- Rest day(s) to remain optional for World/Continental CHs. OCs of Championships may not always have the possibility to add days and bear the additional costs of stabling, stewarding.*

*- If no second qualifying competition/Consolation, the 20 best Athletes qualify for the Final. The total number of places offered in the last competition should always be 20.*

**Art. 305 Fast track procedure**

No changes proposed for 2018 by RC/HQ

1. NFs may fast track Athletes to a star level provided the Athletes have never started in a CRI before.
2. Each request for fast track must be accompanied by a report of records and must be approved by the FEI.

**NED NF**

We are working really hard to involve as much good reining riders as possible in the FEI reining circuit. Last season we had a rider who decided to quit the FEI circuit while she would still have been part of it when she was enabled to start CRI3\*. She wasn't allowed to do so because she had started in a CRI1\* once before.

In our opinion, the FEI's policy should be to make the FEI circuit accessible for all equestrian athletes that would like to be part of it and that have the level to be part of it. Oblige high level athletes to compete at lower level CRI's means that you will lose them. We were told to address this issue during the Rules Revision process and suggest to remove the obligation for Athletes to have never started in a CRI before.

**REINING Committee**

*No change for 2018 (WEG qualification already under way); to be further discussed for 2019 at the 2018 in-person meeting.*

**Art. 313.1 Conditions of participation**

1. Each Horse may only start ~~in one Competition per \*Level, per day, and~~ in a maximum of two separate ~~Ce~~competitions per day.

**IRL NF**

Seems sensible and appropriate with multiple reining competitions at the same show, inclusion Adult, Junior, Young rider and Para Reining, horses can be shared and still have adequate rest days.

**REINING Committee**

*Agreed*

**Art. 313.8 Conditions of participation**

~~7-8. All Horses entered in FEI Reining Events must be registered as Horses with the FEI. Ponies are not allowed.~~

**IRL NF**

We do not agree with this recommendation. Over 50% of reining equines at international level are less than 148cm high. Today Horses and Ponies compete at no disadvantage or advantage in reining.

FEI definition of a pony according to the 2018 Veterinary Regulations: Article 1082 Regulatory Height

1. Ponies' regulatory height at the withers must not exceed 148.0cm without shoes
2. Ponies being measured at FEI Events are given a height allowance; their height at the withers must not exceed 150.0cm without shoes or 151.0cm with shoes.

Within Reining (NRHA AQHA APHA, FEI) there is no height ruling, any equine can compete, whether it is 138 cm or 168 cm or any other height.

The proposed rule calls for all Horses to be registered as horses. An FEI passport has an indication of height as part of the animal description. Therefore today animals under 148cm are registered as horses. This ruling opens the door to a minimum height for a horse in reining. The IRL NF believe is not practical or necessary.

Under this proposed amendment theoretically a Reiner equine could be subject to measurement. If a formal measurement were recorded of 148cm/151cm or under this equine would be excluded from the sport.

Reining equines are bred to carry adult men and women, their physical and mental ability and agility defines their competition level not their height.

We see no benefit to the sport through this rule change, we consider that setting a minimum height limit will exclude many world class Reiners from the FEI sport.

The above response is made in conjunction with our recognised affiliate the Irish Quarter Horse Association, IQHA. The IRL NF recommendation is that Article 313.8 amendment be rejected.

**REINING Committee**

*All participating Horses must be registered as Horses with the FEI and there is no measuring at CRIs or Reining Championships/Games.*

**Art. 314.1 Age of Horses**

1. To be qualified, Horses must be at least seven years old. Mares must not compete after their fourth month of pregnancy Mares with foal at foot cannot be entered. See also Veterinary Regulations.
2. The age of Horses is counted from 1<sup>st</sup> January of the year of birth.

**Athletes**

add "The age of Horses is counted from 1st January of the year of birth " for clarity

**REINING Committee**

*HQ/RC proposes to add sentence as suggested, for clarity (added above)*

**Art. 321.3.1 Equipment**

3. General

**3.1** Only equipment allowed in Competitions (except for electronic equipment, see 321.3.2) is permitted in warm-up and exercise areas. Spot checks will take place during warm up and exercise sessions, either upon entry or exit to/from the specific areas or, if felt necessary, during a warm up session. These checks can be made by the FEI Stewards officiating at the Event. Should there be a doubt or disagreement, only the President of the Ground Jury can determine if a bit is permitted or not.

**3.1.1** The use of leather nosebands is permitted in practice and warm-up arenas prior to competition and must comply with the guidelines on type and fitting instructions.

**ITA NF**

In order to be in compliance and have standardization within the FEI remit the Reiners would like to make the following proposals for rule change to be submitted to FEI.

In practice and warm areas prior to competition to allow the use of simple Caveson style leather nosebands. Nose part to be minimum of one cm, must be adjustable and fitted to an acceptable tightness.

In the practice warm area to allow to carry and use a riding whip, in the same manner as all the other ridden disciplines. This is the recognized and traditional method to encourage impulsion and cadence, as practised by all other FEI riders.

Both the above practices to be used in accordance with all other FEI equestrian disciplines, and recognized as the normal and usual forms of training and preparation. To bring a standardization to all FEI warm up areas.

We, the signed FEI/NRHA Reiners below, favor and agree to these changes and appreciate the time of FEI to consider these points.

**REINING Committee**

*Agreed to add the following Rules: Nosebands to be permitted in the warm-up arena; must comply with guidelines on type and fitting instructions. (added above as 3.1.1)*

**Art. 325-332 Judging**

**ITA NF**

In general, we have no objections to the recommendations of the Reining Committee regarding the rule changes for 2018.

We would only question the fact that some of the sections regarding judging have not been updated with the new NRHA rules for 2018, is this deliberate or an oversight?

**REINING Committee**

*FEI Reining rules are amended with the objective to be in line with the NRHA rules concerning Judging.*

**Art. 330.5 Penalty of five points**

The following will result in a penalty of five points:

1. Spurring in front of cinch;
2. Use of either hand to instil fear or praise;
3. Holding saddle with either hand;
4. Blatant disobedience including kicking, biting, bucking, rearing and striking.
5. **The act of a horse dropping to its knees or hocks will result in a 5-point penalty.**

**Reining Committee own proposal**

The act of a horse dropping to its knees or hocks will result in a 5-point penalty.

**REINING Committee**

*Proposal has been added as above.*