

PROPOSALS FOR 2019 MODIFICATIONS TO THE FEI GENERAL REGULATIONS

1 November 2018

Dear Member Federations,

Please find below a summary of the proposed changes to the FEI General Regulations together with the corresponding explanations, the comments received as well as the reasoning for accepting or not accepting each comment.

Modifications to the text are indicated in red print.

Kindly note that modifications of a purely editorial nature and corrections to spelling and/or article numbers are not included in the summary below.

The proposed change will be submitted for voting at the FEI General Assembly 2018.

Note: This memo was updated on 1 November 2018 to reflect the comments received from the UAE NF on the proposed changes to Article 169 of the FEI General Regulations. The UAE NF's comments were sent by the deadline but were inadvertently omitted from the version of the memo that was published on 23 October 2018. No changes have been made to the proposed final wording.

Sincerely,



Mikael Rentsch

FEI Legal Director

1. FEI SAFEGUARDING POLICY AGAINST HARASSMENT AND ABUSE

Appendix I - FEI Safeguarding Policy Against Harassment and Abuse

Explanation for Proposed Change

Further to the Sports Forum session on Athletes welfare and in particular regarding harassment and abuse and the recently released IOC toolkit, please find in Annex the proposed FEI Safeguarding Policy Against Harassment and Abuse.

The forms of abuse defined in the Policy are (i) psychological abuse, (ii) physical abuse, (iii) sexual harassment, (iv) sexual abuse, and (v) neglect.

The FEI Safeguarding Policy Against Harassment and Abuse would be an Annex to the FEI General Regulations and apply to Athletes, Accredited Persons, FEI Representatives, Officials, Organisers, Person responsible and Support Personnel (Coaches, Trainers, Horse Owners, Stewards, Chef d'Equipe, Veterinarian, etc).

We have also included the proposed "FEI Incident Report Form" for your information.

Proposed Wording

Please see Appendix I.

Comments received

GER NF: Not as a Rule change, but as a "management" proposal: Reluctance to report an abuse is high. In addition to the measures laid out, GER NF proposes to name a person at the FEI where a victim can turn to by e-mail or by phone, also in an anonymous way for the first contact.

JPN NF: The scope of NFs' Jurisdiction and that of FEI's are not clear. Should NFs report to the FEI all harassment and /or sanction(s) cases that they deal with even if the accused person is not a "Covered Individual" of the FEI GR? If a NF deals with a case and imposes sanction on someone, will the NF's sanction be applied in the FEI level?

FEI feedback

The FEI already proposed to have the possibility to report to someone at the FEI HQ and in order to ensure that confidentiality and anonymity is respected, the FEI suggested to limit such reporting to members of the FEI Legal Department (where 3 persons will be named and act as the "Athlete Protection Team").

As to the reporting, there is a reciprocal duty to inform each other's about any harassment and abuse cases, even if the sanctioned person is not a "Covered Individual". The FEI will recognize an NF's sanction as per article 9 of the Policy.

Proposed Final Wording

Proposal stays as above.

2. CONSIDERATION OF NEW FEI DISCIPLINES

Article No. 100.5 – General Regulations and Sport Rules
Explanation for Proposed Change
<p>The current art. 100.5 of the GRs states that <i>“To be considered for proposal to the General Assembly as an added FEI Discipline and to be governed by these GRs, the activity in question must be practised by a minimum of thirty (30) NFs from at least four (4) geographical groups with a total participation of a minimum of ten thousand (10,000) Athletes.”</i></p> <p>We recommend to clarify that the Board shall first assess and consider if a new Discipline should be submitted to the FEI General Assembly.</p>
Proposed Wording
<p>“To be considered <u>by the Board</u> for proposal to the General Assembly as an added FEI Discipline and to be governed by these GRs, the activity in question must be practised by a minimum of thirty (30) NFs from at least four (4) geographical groups with a total participation of a minimum of ten thousand (10,000) Athletes.”</p>
Comments received
No comments received
FEI feedback
N/A
Proposed Final Wording
Proposal stays as above.

3. NUMBER OF CIOs (OUTSIDE EUROPE)

Article No. 103 - Official International Events (CIO)
Explanation for Proposed Change
<p>It is proposed to have the same approach worldwide as to the number of CIOs for Seniors, and that each NF may only organize one CIO for Seniors in any Discipline in any calendar year, unless otherwise decided by the Board. There should be no differentiation between the number of CIOs held in Europe and in the rest of the World. It is also proposed that the decision lies with the Board and not with the Secretary General in order to be consistent.</p>
Proposed Wording
<p>Art. 103: (...)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. In Europe, eEach NF may only organise one CIO for Seniors in any Discipline in any calendar year, unless otherwise decided by the Bureau <u>Board</u>. 3. For other age groups and for Seniors outside Europe, the number of CIOs must be specifically approved by the Secretary General <u>Board</u> on the recommendation of the relevant Technical Committee.

Comments received

CAN NF: Strongly opposes the proposed changes for the following reasons:

- Central America and South American countries often cannot hold CIOs due to the high organizing costs and traveling horses and rely on Canada and USA to host these events
- This change will severely limit athletes competing outside of Europe, as the accessibility of Nations Cups would decrease
- The criteria of how the Board would make a fair and transparent decision for when exceptions are made needs to be presented,

MEX NF: Don't agree with this modification. In America, there are few opportunities to compete at a CIO. Geographically, we are in great disadvantage.

From Mexico to Canada, it takes, at least, a week to get to any Competition. If a Team from Mexico or any country south of USA is lucky enough to get an invitation to a CSIO in Europe and the NF invited doesn't have Athletes in Europe, USA or Canada, the Team must forfeit the invitation because of animal health regulations. Mexico has to do a 40-day quarantine in the USA before traveling to Europe. The few times that developing countries have the chance to compete at a Nations Cup are in the five CSIOs organized every year in North America, if the NF is invited. The good way to prepare nations to compete at Championships and Games is with Team Competitions. MEX NF believes that having two CSIOs in Canada or in USA does not affect anyone and Athletes get more preparation throughout the year. The Nations Cup is the top FEI product so we should be encouraging NFs to organize more, not less.

USA NF: Strongly opposes this proposal and the current wording should remain. Whilst the principal of a global set of Rules is understood this cannot always be the case (as recently demonstrated in Jumping):

- The justification for the change states "no differentiation" – the reality is that there are significant differences. For example the U.S. budget to compete in the MEX and CAN legs of the FEI Longines Nations Cup North & Central American League this year was close to \$200k (1 horse per athlete). This is different from Europe.
- Many of the Central and South American Countries cannot hold CIOs due to cost and also (more importantly) the restrictions around travelling horses. In Jumping many of these Countries rely on the CIOs organized in the USA and CAN.
- The FEI Family continue to talk about Nations Cups being the most important property the FEI has but this change will greatly reduce the ability of athletes outside Europe to compete in Nations Cup. It is suggested that the FEI should be encouraging more CIOs not making the approvals process for the status quo more complex.

FEI feedback

The Bureau decided to withdraw the proposal to limit the number of CIOs for Seniors in any Discipline in any calendar year to one per NF worldwide. Therefore, such provision will only apply in Europe. However, the Bureau decided that a Task Force/Working Group should be created with representatives of all the relevant stakeholders so that the matter can be further assessed and discussed in 2019 onwards.

Proposed Final Wording

Art. 103:

(...)

3. In Europe, each NF may only organise one CIO for Seniors in any Discipline in any calendar year, unless otherwise decided by the ~~Bureau~~ **Board**.
4. For other age groups and for Seniors outside Europe, the number of CIOs must be specifically approved by the ~~Secretary-General~~ **Board** on the recommendation of the relevant Technical Committee.

5. UNDER 25 CATEGORY

Article No. 107 –Competitions & Appendix A - Definitions
Explanation for Proposed Change
To include and define the U25 Category in the GRs.
Proposed Wording
<p>Article 107 -Competitions</p> <p>1. Separate Competitions for the following standard categories of Athletes may be included in the schedules for all Events unless stated otherwise in the Sport Rules:</p> <p>1.1. Seniors</p> <p><u>1.2 U25</u></p> <p>1.23. Young Riders</p> <p>1.34. Juniors</p> <p>1.45. Pony Riders</p> <p>1.56. Children</p> <p>Definitions:</p> <p><u>U25: Athletes may compete in the U25 category from the beginning of the calendar year in which they reach the age of sixteen (16) until the end of the calendar year in which they reach the age of twenty five (25).</u></p>
Comments received
No comments received.
FEI feedback
N/A
Proposed Final Wording
Proposal stays as above.

6. DOGS AT FEI EVENTS

Article No. 109 – Organisation of Events
Explanation for Proposed Change
There is currently no provision in the FEI Rules about dogs at FEI Events and some Disciplines have references to it in the Schedule. It is proposed to clarify that dogs must be leashed at FEI Events as otherwise it can be dangerous for the horses/riders if there are loose dogs running.
Proposed Wording
<u>13. If allowed at the Event, all dogs must be leashed and affixed to a human or stationary object. Violation of this rule will incur a fine of CHF 100 per offence and, in case of a repeated offence at the Event, may lead to exclusion from the Venue.</u>

Comments received

GBR NF: This will be open to misinterpretation and difficult to impose, especially at events where there are non-FEI competitions taking place and members of the general public on site. Suggest an option for FEI Officials to deal with the situation.

FEI feedback

The FEI suggested text was meant to leave it open and that either FEI Officials and/or the Organiser as appropriate can impose such fine. We do not the potential difficulties to misinterpret the provision and to impose it.

Proposed Final Wording

Proposal stays as above.

7. SPORT NATIONALITY FOR MINORS

Article No. 119 – Sport Nationality Status of Athletes

Explanation for Proposed Change

Further to the request from the URU NF, it is proposed to seek the National Federations' views on the current art. 119.6.2 which says a Minor Athlete may compete for his country of residence for any International Competition for Children, Pony Riders, Juniors, Young Riders and for any Senior CIM. However, the Minor Athlete is not entitled to compete in a CIO (team competition) or any FEI Championships for his country of residence. See Art. 119.6.2: *"A Minor Athlete may compete for his country of residence in the following Events, and regardless of the country where the Event is organised: CIs for Children, Pony Riders, Junior Riders and Young Riders (**which excludes CIOs and Championships**), and senior CIMs as defined in Appendix E, GRs. In such circumstances, the Athlete will be compelled to inform his "own NF" as well as the FEI."*

We are suggesting to allow such Minor Athletes to also compete in CIOs and Championships provided that both his own NF (from his/her country of nationality) and host NF (from his/her country of residency) agree.

As a knock-on effect, we will clarify that the requirements of the paragraph 2.2.2 apply to team competitions at CIOs for Seniors.

Proposed Wording

(...)

2.2.2 The following additional requirements prior to participation in FEI Championships (except FEI Championships for Young Horses), and team competitions at CIOs for Seniors.

(...)

6.2. A Minor Athlete may compete for his country of residence in the following Events, and regardless of the country where the Event is organised: CIs for Children, Pony Riders, Junior Riders and Young Riders (**which excludes CIOs and Championships unless his own NF and host NF agree otherwise**), and senior CIMs as defined in Appendix E, GRs. In such circumstances, the Athlete will be compelled to inform his "own NF" as well as the FEI."

Comments received

CAN NF: Clarity on the rationale of this proposal requested and feel that this may lead to unfortunate circumstances for the athlete if one NF agrees but the other does not. This would be especially difficult in a country where there is already a large amount of competition within the region for a place in the CIO or Championships.

A more effective solution would be to promote teams created from differing nations within a Region that could not field a whole team alone.

USA NF: The reasoning for this proposal is not fully explained. The U.S. would not be in favour of supporting this revision as it will place NFs in a difficult situation if some NFs say yes and some say no. The U.S. would not want a U.S. athlete to miss out on a CIO or Championships in favour of a non U.S. athlete. If the intent behind this proposal is to give athletes an opportunity to compete on Teams from Nations who struggle to field a whole Team then it is suggested the FEI should relax the Rules and promote Teams made up from different Nations.

FEI feedback

The FEI's suggestion was mainly to allow developing NFs with small pool of athletes to compete at CIOs and Championships and to support Minor Athletes who reside in a foreign country to not be disadvantaged to participate at such Competitions (especially as they are allowed to compete at any other International Competitions).

As per all FEI Events, the final selection of athletes rest with the NF and NFs may have their own selection procedure/rules.

The FEI's view is that if both NFs agree to allow such Athletes to compete, there is no objective reason to prevent such athletes to compete.

Proposed Final Wording

Proposal stays as above.

8. NAME OF HORSE'S BREEDER ON THE START LIST

Article No. 121 –Declaration of starters

Explanation for Proposed Change

The Jumping Committee received a proposal that Organisers of FEI events in all disciplines must include the name of the horse's breeder on all the start lists and we therefore suggest to add the below provision in the Rules.

Proposed Wording

4. The start list must include the following information: Name and nationality of Athlete, name, studbook, gender, colour and year of birth of Horse, name of breeder of Horse.

Comments received

CAN NF: Supports the proposed rule changes in principle. However, clarification is needed in regards to the consequence if a breeder's name has not been provided or is unknown.

GBR NF: Agree this information should be in programmes and on scoreboards, but not all start lists. This will increase the amount of paper used and therefore not environmentally friendly.

GER NF: How about data protection requirements and technical implementation of this request? If breeder is added, also add owner.

MEX NF: Additional wording should include that the Person Responsible/Athlete should also be the one responsible for sending the information to their NFs and NFs should be responsible of uploading the information to the FEI Database. MEX NF doesn't think that OCs should be responsible for not to date data.

NED NF: It goes too far to oblige NFs to also keep up breeder administrations. NED NF suggests to remove the "name of breeder of Horse" from article 121.

SWE NF: Supports the proposal but important not to forget the Horse Owners. The Horse Owners has fallen out from the proposed text.

USA NF: This Article is supported in principle and where practicable but may be difficult to implement for some disciplines and cause unnecessary additional work for NFs and OCs. Endurance specifically have requested that this Article not apply to Endurance Events. Maybe this should be moved to Discipline specific Rules?

FEI feedback

The FEI recommends to keep the addition of the horse' breeder on the start list and to add also the owner of the horse. The FEI suggests to keep the same wording for all Disciplines in order to be consistent and therefore to keep it in the GRs. As to the potential increase of paper used and therefore not environmentally friendly, such additional information should not drastically increase the amount of paper, and many Organisers already provide the start lists on their website or through an app. If a start list is on an app for example, it does not need to contain all the information as it would not be practical and we will therefore clarify that it only applies to the official start list.

Only available data will need to be provided, and therefore the OCs will not be held responsible if an information is missing. The FEI will rely on the data provided by the various stakeholders in the FEI database, and the FEI is working on ensuring that any data collected meets the relevant data legislations requirements (in particular GDPR).

Proposed Final Wording

4. The official start list must include the following information: Name and nationality of Athlete, name, studbook (if available), gender, colour and year of birth of Horse, name of breeder of Horse (if available), name of owner of the Horse.

9. ADVERTISING ON ATHLETES AND HORSES AND PROMOTION

Article No. 135 – Advertising on Athletes and Horses and Promotion

Explanation for Proposed Change

The size of logos to be the total area surface in cm² rather than specific by height and width, especially as most of the shape of many logos are not square anyway but have different shapes.

Proposal:

To check with each Technical Committee/Disciplines if it would be acceptable for each item mentioned in art. 135 of the GRs and/or the relevant items in the Disciplines Rules.

Proposed Wording

To be updated after the consultation mentioned above and to be included in the Final Draft.

Comments received

No comments received.

FEI feedback

As some Disciplines were not in favour of removing the specific dimensions as this would leave the possibility open for all sorts of shapes which would take away from the “classic look”, the various sizes with height and width will remain at this stage. However, such reference will be removed for the non-sponsor manufacturer, as per the below.

Proposed Final Wording

2.1. Identification of a Non-Sponsor Manufacturer

2.1.1. While present in the Competition area and during the prize-giving ceremonies names or logos identifying a non-sponsoring manufacturer of the clothing, equipment and/or vehicles (including but not limited to carriages) may appear only once per item of clothing, equipment and/or vehicle and solely on a surface area not exceeding:

- (i) three square centimeters (3 cm²) ~~(maximum on centimeters –1 cm– high, maximum three centimeters –3 cm– wide)~~ for clothing and equipment except for the harnesses during the Driving Events;

10. EXTENSION OF PROTECTION OF ATHLETES PROVISIONS TO GROOMS IN DRIVING

Article 140 – Protection of Athletes

Explanation for Proposed Change

See also Point 15 below, whereby a new category of "*Participating Support Personnel*" will be added to the definitions section to clarify the status of the grooms in the discipline of Driving. As the grooms may sustain injuries by falling from the carriage, it is important that the medical safeguards set out in the General Regulations also apply to them.

The Driving Rules will also be updated to incorporate this change.

Proposed Wording

Article 140: Protection of Athletes and Participating Support Personnel

1. While riding on the show grounds the use of a properly fastened Protective Headgear will be mandatory. In the Competition arena venue and adjacent warm-up areas, as well as riding from one to the other and from the stables for the purposes of competing, the Protective Headgear requirements are governed by the applicable Sport Rules. Failure to wear such Protective Headgear where and when required (either as per the requirement(s) of these General Regulations or as per the requirement(s) of the relevant Sport Rules) after being notified to do so by an Official, shall result in a Yellow Warning Card, being issued to the Athlete or Participating Support Personnel (as applicable) unless exceptional circumstances apply. The use of cameras on Athletes or Participating Support Personnel (as applicable) or equipment (such as on Protective Headgear, head covering or carriage) shall not be permitted, unless otherwise specifically agreed by the FEI. An Athlete's or Participating Support Personnel's decision to wear a camera while competing shall always be voluntary and at ~~the Athlete's~~their own risk.

2. The Ground Jury after consultation with the responsible medical officer may at any time exclude from further participation in a Competition or an entire Event any Athlete or Participating Support Personnel who is unfit to continue by reason of a serious or potentially serious injury, impairment, or health condition.

Comments received

European Equestrian Federation (EEF): Opposed to this proposal due to concerns related to additional cost and additional workload for NFs. Too bureaucratic.

GER NF: Does not support the proposed introduction regarding grooms being FEI registered as support personnel (see Driving Rules proposal). The whole matter is too bureaucratic and is going to involve additional costs.

NED NF: Cannot agree with this addition as it raises concerns related to additional costs workload for NFs which do not equal the more protected status of Participating Support Personnel under this article.

SWE NF: Doesn't support this proposal due to additional costs for Athletes and workload for NFs. It's too bureaucratic.

FEI feedback

The FEI will not request an FEI registration of the Participating Support Personnel. Instead, the online injury reporting system will be slightly modified in order to enable the reporting of injuries sustained by the Participating Support Personnel by connecting them to the Driver. For example, if the groom of Driver A from NF X falls off the carriage sustaining a concussion, the reporting FEI Official will open an online injury form under the name of the Driver A and enter the information that it is the groom who got injured. This will trigger an automatic notification to Driver's A NF, with a copy to the FEI to enable the NF to do the follow up with the help of the Driver A and the FEI if needed. It is therefore not an issue if the groom's name is not known to the reporting Official as the Driver will provide such information to the NF/FEI.

There is therefore no additional administrative/bureaucratic work, except the necessary follow up in case of an injury.

Proposed Final Wording

Proposal stays as above.

9. INELIGIBILITY AND SUSPENSION DEFINITIONS

Article No. 169 –Penalties

Explanation for Proposed Change

It is proposed to amend the wording to have the flexibility to prevent a person who is serving an ineligibility period or a provisional suspension from attending events, even as a spectator. There are certain venues/disciplines where spectators may have access to/get close to the Field of Play and the FEI wants to be able to prevent certain suspended persons having such access. This would not apply to all suspensions but only where specifically stated in the Notification Letter (in the case of Provisional Suspensions) or requested by the FEI or in its submission to the FEI Tribunal and, then confirmed by the FEI Tribunal in its final decision. This is also matching the proposed changes to the EADCMRs.

Proposed Wording

"During the period of a Provisional or Final Suspension the person, Horse or body suspended may take no part in Competitions or Events as an Athlete, Horse or Official or in the organisation of, any Event under the jurisdiction of the FEI or any Event under the jurisdiction of an NF in accordance with Statutes Article 41, or be present at an Event ~~(other than as a spectator)~~ that is under the jurisdiction of the FEI or any National Federation. If so specified in the relevant Notification/Decision, the person may be barred temporarily or for a specific period of time from participating in or attending, in any capacity, including as a spectator, any Competition or Event that is authorised or organised by the FEI or any National Federation.

Comments received

CAN NF: Supports the proposed change and requests clarification on the process of suspension. CAN NF feels the NF and athlete should be notified immediately of the suspension. CAN NF also suggests a feature in the database to assist with monitoring the suspensions.

LBA NF: Do not agree and seek to keep the current rule.

MEX NF: This modification should be revised as some countries might have a regulation where you can't ban the presence of a person as spectator in public places. Some FEI Events take place in public places where we can restrict access to Grandstands, Stables, FOP, Training areas, but we can't restrict access to general public areas.

USA NF: It is requested that more clarification / guidance be given around how the decision will be made whether someone is banned from Showgrounds entirely or not.

UAE NF: We refuse the changes and suggest that they revert to the 2017 rules due to the following reasons :

- Whereas the existent rule does not deny the suspended person responsible attending the event as a spectator, and the amendment was set to prohibit the attendance of person responsible as a spectator, such amendment was misplaced, as the allocated venue for the Endurance Competition is very huge including the Vet Gate, the cooling area, the trail and the inspection point. It would be difficult for the officials to follow up and control the persons, unlike the show jumping sport, for example, where the Event venue is closed and facilitates the follow up of the process.

- Furthermore, it is unfair to prevent the person responsible attending the sports he loves during the suspension term.

FEI feedback

First of all, any suspension imposed by the FEI is specified in the FEI database and the person is "blocked" in the IT system during the suspension.

It is proposed that such suspension, including as a spectator, would only apply in specific cases depending on the circumstances. For example, a person sanctioned for sexual harassment further to the proposed new Safeguarding Policy Against Harassment and Abuse is likely to be subject to such suspension. In addition, an Endurance Trainer should also be barred from attending in any capacity an Endurance Event as there is no clear distinction between the field of play and the areas for the spectators. We want to avoid that such suspended Endurance Trainer being in contact with the riders during the competition for example. We understand and acknowledge that there will be challenges for the FEI Officials and/or the FEI to follow up and control the person who is ineligible, even as a spectator, given the Endurance particularities regarding the "venue", but it is necessary to have at least a rule allowing the FEI/FEI Officials to remove such person if caught. Furthermore, if a suspended person who has been barred from attending an Event is found in the venue, that would be considered as a violation of their suspension/Ineligibility period and additional sanctions may be imposed.

Proposed Final Wording

Proposal stays as above.

10. TWO YELLOW WARNING CARDS

Article No. 169 –Penalties

Explanation for Proposed Change

Further to the proposed changes to the Eventing Rules, where it is suggested to have a 4 month automatic suspension in case that the Person Responsible receives more than one Yellow Warning Card within one year, we propose to apply such 4 month suspension across all Disciplines.

Please note also that an update would need to be made to this Article depending on the outcome of the Eventing Proposal to allow a Yellow Warning Card to be issued by the FEI Headquarters.

Proposed Wording

7.2 Should the same Person Responsible receive one (1) or more Yellow Warning Card(s) at the same or any other International Event within one year of the delivery of the first Yellow Warning Card, the Person Responsible shall be automatically suspended for a period of ~~two~~four (24) months after official notification from the FEI Secretary General.

Comments received

European Equestrian Federation (EEF): No EEF position at this stage on whether it should be added that the two yellow warning cards must be for the same offence (like in the Eventing Rules), as there is no agreement reached among the NFs.

GBR NF: Is this for the same offence or any yellow card?

Suggest liaison with PR's NF regarding start date of suspension to avoid the suspension running during off season. For example, if a GBR rider received a second yellow card at an event in October (Le Lion, Pau etc.), an immediate suspension would have no effect on the Athlete as the season then closes.

Similarly if a dressage athlete is found to have a tight noseband before and after the test, does this count as one offence or two?

GER NF: The wording can be misunderstood. Should be more precise: If PR receives more than 1 Warning Card within 12 months/365 days, shall be suspended for 4 months instead of 2.

Consensus must be reached whether suspension shall follow Warning Cards for the same offence (like in Eventing Rules Art. 527) or offences of various kind; suspension after the second or rather after the third Warning Card?

IRL NF: Agree with the EFF observation with regard to Article 140 and oppose the proposal.

LBA NF: Do not agree and seek to keep the current rule.

FEI feedback

The FEI recommends to go back to the initial 2 months automatic suspension for a second Yellow Warning Card within one year of the delivery of the first Yellow Warning Card. The Bureau suggested that the Eventing Committee should review its whole Yellow Warning Card /Sanctions system next year, and in particular during the FEI Sports Forum as the FEI Legal System will also be reviewed.

Proposed Final Wording

7.2 Should the same Person Responsible receive one (1) or more Yellow Warning Card(s) at the same or any other International Event within one year of the delivery of the first Yellow Warning Card, the Person Responsible shall be automatically suspended for a period of two (2) months after official notification from the FEI Secretary General.

11. PROTECTIVE HEADGEAR

Appendix A –Definitions

Explanation for Proposed Change

To harmonize the definition of Protective Headgear as some Disciplines have a different definition and/or references to International Standards that are accepted. It is proposed that the definition in the GRs refers to the applicable International Standards accepted by the FEI, but in a separate document as published on the FEI website (as International Standards may be removed or added, we need some flexibility to update the document as necessary and not wait until the next FEI General Assembly).

Proposed Wording

Protective Headgear: Appropriate helmet or Headgear that is in compliance with the applicable international testing standards ([please refer to the list of the applicable international testing standards published on the FEI website](#)).

Comments received

IRL NF: Appendix A – Definitions / Protection Headgear. The IRL NF note that back protectors are not defined in the GRs and are a key piece of protective equipment. The IRL NF suggest that a definition is included.

FEI feedback

As this is a new proposal and as there is no other references to back protectors in the General Regulations, the FEI suggests that such definition and use be regulated in the Discipline Rules where appropriate. We will inform each Technical Committee and ask them to review this item as part of the Rules revision process for next year.

Proposed Final Wording

Proposal stays as above.

12. APPENDIX C – CERTIFICATE OF CAPABILITY

Appendix C - Certificate of Capability
Explanation for Proposed Change
In addition to the NF President, we propose to allow for the Secretary General to sign the certificate of capability as well.
Proposed Wording
(...) Date: Name and Signature of the President <u>or Secretary General</u> of the NF (name in capital letters) Seal of the NF
Comments received
No comments received.
FEI feedback
N/A.
Proposed Final Wording
Proposal stays as above.

13. APPENDIX E – CIMS

Appendix E –CIMS
Explanation for Proposed Change
To update the list of CIMS further to the reclassification of the Eventing competitions.

Proposed Wording

EVENTING

~~CCI1* ECI1*CCI2*-L or S &
ECI2*CCI3*-L or S, ECI1*
& ECI2*C~~

~~CCIP1-L or S* & CCIP2*,-L or S,
ECIJ1*, ECIJ1*CCIJ1*-L or S,
ECIY2*, ECIY2*CCIY2*-L or S,
ECIYH1*, ECIYH1*CCIYH1*-L or
S, ECIYH2*, ECIYH2*CCIYH2*-L
or S, ECI2* U25, CCI2*
U25CCIU252*-L or S~~

Comments received

No comments received.

FEI feedback

N/A.

Proposed Final Wording

Proposal stays as above.

14. Donations/Pay Cards - Officials
Appendix H – FEI Officials' Code of Conduct
Explanation for Proposed Change

During a Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) proceeding, the FEI learned that some FEI Officials were willing to make "donations" (on top of paying for their own travel expenses) to Organising Committees in exchange for being appointed to the FEI Event.

We therefore suggest to mention in the FEI Officials' Code of Conduct that any such financial contributions/donations are not acceptable.

Proposed Wording

I will maintain a neutral, independent and fair position towards Athletes, Owners, Trainers, Grooms, Organisers, other Officials and stakeholders. Financial and/or personal interests will never influence my officiating duties and I will spare no effort to avoid any such perception. I agree not to make any financial contributions, donations in cash or in-kind or otherwise to an Organiser in exchange for being appointed as an Official to the Event.

Comments received

No comments received.

FEI feedback

Further to questions received from various persons regarding the status of travel expenses being paid by the Official, it is suggested to clarify that an Official is entitled to pay for his own travel/accommodation expenses.

Proposed Final Wording

I will maintain a neutral, independent and fair position towards Athletes, Owners, Trainers, Grooms, Organisers, other Officials and stakeholders. Financial and/or personal interests will never influence my officiating duties and I will spare no effort to avoid any such perception. I agree not to make any financial contributions, donations in cash or in-kind or otherwise to an Organiser in exchange for being appointed as an Official to the Event. For the avoidance of any doubt, the direct payment of travel expenses and/or accommodation expenses by an FEI Official is acceptable.

15. Grooms in Driving
Definition – Participating Support Personnel
Explanation for Proposed Change

Further to the proposed changes in the Driving Rules regarding the grooms in case of a fall, it is suggested to add a clarification that the grooms in Driving will be considered as «Participating Support Personnel».

Proposed Wording

Participating Support Personnel: shall mean a groom who takes part in an FEI Competition, such as in Driving.

Comments received

No comments received.

FEI feedback

N/A.

Proposed Final Wording

Proposal stays as above.

Appendix I – FEI Safeguarding Policy Against Harassment and Abuse

Consistent with the objectives and principles of the FEI, the welfare of the equestrian community, especially minors, is of paramount concern. When any member of equestrian community, such as Athlete, Support Personnel, Coach, Trainer, Groom, Official, volunteer or staff member - is subjected to or engages in abuse or misconduct, it undermines the mission of FEI and is inconsistent with the best interests of equestrian sport. All forms of harassment and abuse are prohibited and will not be tolerated by the FEI.

The FEI is committed to promoting a safe environment for its members, Athletes, Support Personnel, Coaches, Trainers, Grooms, Officials, volunteers and staff in all equestrian Disciplines. The FEI has developed and adopted this Policy to set forth the efforts it will undertake to promote a safe equestrian environment, both independently and in partnership with other necessary parties, including National Federations, parents (or legal guardians), Athletes, and the equestrian community.

ARTICLE 1 - Definitions and Application

1.1 Definitions

1.1.1 Harassment and Abuse

Harassment and abuse can be expressed in five forms which may occur in combination or in isolation. These include i) psychological abuse, ii) physical abuse, iii) sexual harassment, iv) sexual abuse, and v) neglect.

These forms of abuse are defined as:

- (i) **Psychological abuse** — means any unwelcome act including confinement, isolation, verbal assault, humiliation, intimidation, infantilisation, or any other treatment which may diminish the sense of identity, dignity, and self-worth.
- (ii) **Physical abuse** — means any deliberate and unwelcome act – such as for example punching, beating, kicking, biting and burning – that causes physical trauma or injury. Such act can also consist of forced or inappropriate physical activity (e.g., age- or physique- inappropriate training loads; when injured or in pain), forced alcohol consumption, or forced doping practices.
- (iii) **Sexual harassment** — any unwanted and unwelcome conduct of a sexual nature, whether verbal, non-verbal or physical. Sexual harassment can take the form of sexual abuse.
- (iv) **Sexual abuse** — any conduct of a sexual nature, whether non-contact, contact or penetrative, where consent is coerced/manipulated or is not or cannot be given.
- (v) **Neglect** — within the meaning of this Policy means the failure of a coach or another person with a duty of care towards the Covered Individual to provide a minimum level of care to the Covered Individual, which is causing harm, allowing harm to be caused, or creating an imminent danger of harm.

Harassment and abuse can be based on any grounds including race, religion, colour, creed, ethnic origin, physical attributes, gender, sexual orientation, age disability, socio-economic status and athletic ability. It can include a one-off incident or a series of incidents. It may be in-person or online.

Harassment and abuse often result from an abuse of authority, meaning the improper use of a position of influence, power or authority by an individual against another person.

1.1.2. Covered Individual means any person in one or more of the following categories at the time of the alleged misconduct:

- a. **Athlete** as defined in Appendix A of the GRs;
- b. **Accredited Persons** at an FEI Event and/or FEI Meeting
- c. **FEI Representatives**, such as FEI Bureau Members, Members of a Technical or Standing Committee or Sub-Committee thereof, other members of a body or group designated by any of the former to act on behalf of or advise the FEI (including but not limited to working groups and task forces), and FEI employees;
- d. **Officials** as defined in Appendix A of the GRs;
- e. **Organiser** as defined in Appendix A of the GRs;
- f. **Person Responsible** as defined in Article 118 of the GRs;
- g. **Support Personnel** means any Coach, Trainer, Athlete, Horse Owner, Groom, Steward, Chef d'Equipe, team staff, Official, Veterinarian, medical, or paramedical personnel or any other person assisting in any fashion a Person Responsible participating in or preparing for an FEI Event.

1.2 Application

1.2.1. This Policy shall apply to all Covered Individuals.

1.2.2. It shall be the personal responsibility of every Covered Individual to make himself or herself aware of this Policy including, without limitation, what conduct constitutes a violation of this Policy and to comply with those requirements. Covered Individuals should also be aware that conduct prohibited under this Policy may also constitute a criminal offence and/or a breach of other applicable laws and regulations including other regulations of FEI or any other Sports Organisations. Covered Individuals must comply with all applicable laws and regulations at all times.

ARTICLE 2 - Violations

The following conduct constitutes a violation of this Policy:

2.1 Psychological Abuse;

2.2 Physical Abuse;

2.3 Sexual Harassment;

2.4 Sexual Abuse;

2.5 Neglect;

2.6 Complicity, i.e. assisting, encouraging, aiding, abetting, conspiring, covering up or any other type of intentional complicity involving a violation of this Policy:

2.7 Retaliation as defined in 3.1

2.8 Failure to cooperate

(i) Failing to cooperate with any investigation carried out by, or on behalf of, the FEI in relation to a possible breach of this Policy, including, without limitation, failing to provide accurately, completely and without undue delay any information and/or documentation and/or access or assistance requested by the FEI as part of such investigation.

(ii) Obstructing or delaying any investigation that may be carried out by, or on behalf of, the FEI in relation to a possible violation of this Policy, including without limitation concealing, tampering with or destroying any documentation or other information that may be relevant to the investigation.

ARTICLE 3 – Retaliation, Reporting, and Confidentiality

Covered Individuals should report to the FEI, at the first available opportunity, full details of any incident, fact or matter that comes to their attention or of which they are aware that could amount to a violation of this Policy.

The FEI will report any behaviour, which in the reasonable opinion of the FEI, amounts to potentially criminal behaviour to the appropriate legal authorities.

3.1 Retaliation

Retaliation is any adverse action taken by a Covered Individual against a person participating in any investigation or proceedings initiated by the FEI pursuant to this Policy. Retaliation by a Covered Individual against a person for making an allegation, supporting a reporting party, or providing information relevant to an allegation is a serious violation of this Policy.

3.2 Reporting Harassment and Abuse at any time, including at FEI Events

For reporting any Harassment or Abuse, the FEI and/or the ECIU will take a report in the way that is most comfortable for the person initiating the report including an anonymous, in-person, verbal, or written report. Regardless of the method of reporting, it is helpful to the FEI and/or the ECIU to get the following information: (1) the name of the complainant(s); (2) the type of misconduct alleged; (3) the name(s) of the alleged victim(s); and (4) the name(s) of the individual(s) alleged to have committed the misconduct.

Individuals may complete an Incident Report Form. Information on this form will include:

1. The name(s) of the complainant(s);
2. The type of misconduct alleged (including psychological abuse, physical abuse, sexual harassment, sexual abuse, and neglect);
3. The name(s) of the alleged victim(s);
4. The name(s) of the individual(s) alleged to have committed the misconduct;
5. The approximate date(s) and location(s) where the misconduct was committed;
6. The names of other individuals who might have information regarding the alleged misconduct; and
7. A summary statement of the reasons to believe that misconduct has occurred.

The FEI will withhold the complainant's name upon request, to the extent permitted by law. A copy of the FEI Incident Report Form can be found at www.inside.fei.org.

3.3. Confidentiality

To the extent permitted by law, and as appropriate, the FEI and/or the ECIU will handle any report it receives confidentially and discretely and will not make public the names of the complainant(s), potential victim(s), or accused person(s); however, the FEI may disclose such names on a limited basis when conducting an investigation, or reporting to the ECIU, or the relevant bodies or when required to do so under applicable law.

3.4. Anonymous Reporting

The FEI recognises it can be difficult to report an allegation of misconduct and strives to remove as many barriers to reporting as possible. Anonymous reports may be made without the formality of completing an Incident Report Form:

1. by completing the FEI Incident Report Form without including their name;
2. by expressing concerns of misconduct to the FEI and/or the ECIU; or
3. by expressing concerns in writing or verbally to one of the following individuals on the Athlete Protection Team:
 - a. FEI Legal Director
 - b. FEI Deputy Legal Director
 - c. Legal Counsel

Please be aware that anonymous reporting may make it difficult to investigate or properly address allegations.

ARTICLE 4 – FEI Investigation, Notification

Following the receipt of an allegation of a misconduct, the FEI may consider the circumstances in which it will notify other Athletes and/or the parents (or legal guardians) of Athletes with whom the accused individual may have had contact. At the FEI's discretion, and as appropriate or required by law, the FEI may notify relevant persons, i.e., competition managers, staff members, contractors, volunteers, parents (or legal guardians), and/or Athletes of any such allegation that (a) law enforcement authorities are actively investigating; or (b) that the FEI and/or the ECIU is investigating. Advising others of an allegation may lead to additional reports of harassment or abuse and other misconduct.

ARTICLE 5 – Opening a Disciplinary Procedure

Following an investigation by the FEI and/or the ECIU pursuant to this Policy, the FEI shall evaluate all the evidence and shall decide whether or not to open a disciplinary procedure by referring the matter to the FEI Tribunal.

Any case referred to the FEI Tribunal pursuant to this Policy will be dealt with according to the procedures set out in the Internal Regulations of the FEI Tribunal, in particular, Section B (*Specific procedures in Claims proceedings before the FEI Tribunal*). Where appropriate, the FEI may wait until the outcome of any related criminal or civil proceedings is known before deciding whether or not to refer a case to the FEI Tribunal.

ARTICLE 6 – Jurisdiction & Appeal

- 6.1. The FEI Tribunal shall have jurisdiction to decide on alleged breaches of this Policy in the first instance according to the process set out in Chapter VIII of the GRs (The Legal System). The FEI Tribunal may, either on its own initiative or upon the application of one or all of the parties concerned, stay the proceedings before the FEI Tribunal pending the outcome of any related criminal or civil proceedings.
- 6.2. An Appeal may be lodged against a Decision of the FEI Tribunal in accordance with Article 165 (Appeals) of the GRs.

ARTICLE 7 – Provisional Measures

- 7.1. The FEI may impose provisional measures, including a provisional suspension, on the Covered Individual. Where a provisional measure is imposed, a Covered Individual shall be entitled to apply to the FEI Tribunal for relief against such provisional measures, including the lifting of a provisional suspension.
- 7.2. Where a provisional measure is imposed, this shall be taken into consideration in the determination of any sanction which may ultimately be imposed.

ARTICLE 8 – Sanctions

- 8.1. Where it is determined that a violation has been committed, the FEI Tribunal shall impose an appropriate sanction upon the Covered Individual from the range of permissible sanctions set out in Article 169 (Penalties) of the GRs, including a lifetime ban.
- 8.2. When determining the appropriate sanctions applicable, the FEI Tribunal shall take into consideration all aggravating and mitigating circumstances and shall detail the effect of such circumstances on the final sanction in the written decision.
- 8.3. The FEI shall be entitled to prevent any person (regardless of whether they are a Covered Individual or not) convicted of a criminal offence which would constitute a violation of this

Policy from participating in any meetings or activities surrounding any Competition or Event, including as a spectator.

ARTICLE 9 – Mutual Recognition

- 9.1. Subject to the right of appeal, any decision taken by the FEI pursuant to this Policy must be recognised and respected by all National Federations.
- 9.2. Where the FEI is informed that a Covered Individual has been:
- (i) convicted of a criminal offence which would constitute a violation of this Policy; or
 - (ii) held by his/her National Federation or any other competent sports governing body to which he/she is subject, to have committed a violation which would constitute a violation under this Safeguarding Policy, the FEI shall recognise the applicable conviction/decision imposed.

Where appropriate, the FEI reserves the right to open a separate Disciplinary Procedure against the Covered Individual in relation to his/her FEI related activities.

ARTICLE 10 –Duty to inform

National Federations shall promptly inform the FEI of any allegations (where possible) and/or sanction(s) imposed on any person under their jurisdiction relating to any harassment and/or abuse case(s).

The FEI shall promptly inform the National Federations of any allegations (where possible) and/or sanction(s) imposed on any person under their jurisdiction relating to any harassment and/or abuse case(s).

Date: / /

FEI INCIDENT REPORTING FORM

Please fill out the information below to the best of your knowledge. Out of respect for the importance of this issue and to encourage honest and effective reporting, knowingly making a false or vindictive report will not be tolerated and may be a violation of the FEI's Rules & Regulations.

PERSON BEING REPORTED		
Name: (First)		(Last)
FEI #(if applicable):	Gender:	Age (or approx):
Discipline (if applicable):		
Position this individual holds or held: <input type="checkbox"/> Coach <input type="checkbox"/> FEI Official <input type="checkbox"/> Trainer <input type="checkbox"/> Athlete <input type="checkbox"/> FEI Staff <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____		
ALLEGED OFFENCE INFORMATION		
Type of offence (check all that apply): <input type="checkbox"/> Psychological Abuse <input type="checkbox"/> Physical Abuse <input type="checkbox"/> Sexual Harassment <input type="checkbox"/> Sexual Abuse <input type="checkbox"/> Neglect <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____		
Location Incident(s) Occurred:		
Date(s) of Alleged Offences:		
Description of Alleged Offences:		
VICTIM OR VICTIMS' INFORMATION		
Name: (First)		(Last)
FEI #(if applicable):	Gender:	Age (or approx):
Discipline (if applicable):		
Additional Information:		
INDIVIDUAL(S) WHO MAY HAVE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION		
Name: (First)		(Last)
FEI #(if applicable):	Email:	Phone:
Discipline (if applicable):		
Relationship to Parties Involved:		
Brief explanation of the additional information (if known):		

Date: / /

FEI INCIDENT REPORTING FORM

REPORT SUBMITTED BY

Name: (First) _____ (Last) _____

Are you an FEI member? Yes No

FEI # (if applicable): _____ Email: _____ Phone: _____

Did you witness the alleged offence(s)?: Yes No

Relationship to victim:

- Self Parent/Guardian Other family relation Friend/Acquaintance Coach/Volunteer Prefer not to say
 Other _____

Signature: _____

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Any other information that you feel would be helpful to an investigation of the alleged offence you have reported:

CONTACT DETAILS OF OTHER ORGANISATION(S), AUTHORITY(IES), COURT(S), AND/OR POLICE (IF APPLICABLE)

If any other organisation(s), authorities, court(s), and/or the police have been informed of the allegations, please provide us with any relevant details: