

Dear National Federations,

The FEI has undertaken a review of the Protocol for Thermography and Clinical Examination (Hypersensitivity of legs) which appears at Annex XI of the Veterinary Regulations (the "Annex XI Protocol"). As a result of that review, and in an effort to further strengthen the Annex XI Protocol, the FEI issued the following mandatory guidelines to the Annex XI Protocol to be applied by the Veterinary Commissions appointed for FEI Events. Please be advised that the guidelines below apply **only** to the Annex XI Protocol and do not apply to any other rule or protocol whatsoever, including, but not limited to, Annex X of the Veterinary Regulations entitled "Bandage Control During FEI Events."

The new guidelines and disqualification form can be found at hypersensitivity in Equestrian Sport are:

- (i) all Horses that are tested pursuant to the Annex XI Protocol will continue to undergo a thermography examination as one part of the evaluation process for hypersensitivity,
- (ii) no Horse may be retroactively eliminated from a Competition pursuant to the Annex XI Protocol,
- (iii) the Person Responsible or his or her designee will be presented with a written form if his or her horse is disqualified for hypersensitivity that expressly describes the examination process and the rights of the Person Responsible under the circumstances; and
- (iv) if any Horse is disqualified pursuant to the Protocol more than twelve (12) hours prior to a Competition, the Person Responsible or his or her designee will be advised that a written request to the Ground Jury may be submitted within 30 minutes of being notified that the Horse is disqualified, for the Horse to be re-examined pursuant to the Protocol. Such request must be granted and the Horse will be re-examined prior to the next Competition at a time determined by the Ground Jury on the day of the Competition. If upon re-examination it is not clear and obvious that the Horse is unfit to compete due to signs of hypersensitivity, the Horse shall be allowed to compete in that next Competition. However, the Horse remains eligible for examination under the Annex XI Protocol throughout the entire Event. This specific written request opportunity may only be exercised one (1) time during any Event for the same horse.

Yours sincerely,

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Director of Veterinary Department



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