

LIMB SENSITIVITY PROTOCOL

2013 Veterinary Regulations, Article 1034

The Limb Sensitivity article in the 13th edition of the Veterinary Regulations has been further reviewed following the experience gained and the observations made using the previous Hypersensitivity Protocol (12th edition) and as a result of the feedback received during the consultation period throughout 2012.

Article 1034 now begins by clearly stating the Principle of Limb Sensitivity with regards to both hypo- and hyper-sensitised limbs, the Examination is then clearly described, including the Initial and Final Examinations, the Disqualification process and the possibility (where applicable) for Re-Examination.

Limb Sensitivity Examinations will be recorded during the "Initial Examination" – the first examination performed on the Horse during each competition day. The recorded evidence can then be presented by the "Examining Veterinarians" to the Ground Jury and (Foreign) Veterinary Delegate, plus a member of the Appeal Committee if present, during a "Final Examination" in the case of a horse having abnormal limb sensitivity. The PR of any Horse observed by the Examining Veterinarians to have abnormal limb sensitivity will be offered the opportunity to Withdraw. In the case that the opportunity to Withdraw is refused an automatic Final Examination will occur. Any obvious manipulation of a limb that could constitute a Horse abuse case would be referred to the FEI Legal Department and dealt with accordingly as an abuse case.

With the objective of having clear communications during the "Final Examination", the PR or their representative will have the opportunity to present any information they wish to the Ground Jury and (Foreign) Veterinary Delegate, in turn the Ground Jury and (Foreign) Veterinary Delegate will also be permitted to ask the Person Responsible questions. As per the previous article, if the Ground Jury and (Foreign) Veterinary Delegate confirm the findings of the Examining Veterinarians the Horse will be Disqualified. The possibility for a Re-Examination the next day remains possible for Competitions when the format of the class permits.

To enable the Examination for Limb Sensitivity to continue right up until the time the Horse starts, and in-between rounds if required, the provision for retroactive Disqualification is now possible. The only situation when a Horse may be retroactively Disqualified is when the Examination took place within the sixty minutes following the horse finishing a round.

The full article on Limb Sensitivity can be found in Article 1034 of the 2013 Veterinary Regulations (13th edition).