

PROPOSAL REGARDING PERIODICAL RULES REVISION

Lausanne, 8 July 2019

Dear Member Federations,
Dear Stakeholders,

As you are aware, in April 2018 the FEI Board approved the FEI Rules Revision Policy (available on the FEI website here: <https://inside.fei.org/fei/about-fei/fei-general-assembly/rules-revision-process>). The Rules Revision Policy was welcomed by National Federations and it has worked well since its implementation on 1 January 2019.

The Rules Revision Policy, which is based on Articles 4 and 5 of Annex I of the FEI Statutes, aims to offer further clarity on the rules revision process in order to ensure transparent and robust procedures that meet the highest standards of good governance.

When creating this Policy the FEI took into account not only of the past experiences and discussions around the rules revision process but also the feedback received from National Federations and Stakeholders.

The Policy, which runs on an annual basis, consists of seven different phases. Each phase defines the different actions that can/will be taken by each relevant party.

As per this Policy, National Federations and Stakeholders (with whom the FEI has signed a Memorandum of Understanding) have the opportunity to propose rules modification to the FEI every year by 1 March.

The FEI has a total of 17 set of rules, namely:

1. Statutes
2. Internal Regulations
3. General Regulations
4. Veterinary Regulations
5. Equine Anti-Doping
6. Human Anti-Doping
7. Olympic Regulations
8. Olympic Qualification Rules
9. Jumping
10. Dressage
11. Para Dressage
12. Eventing
13. Endurance
14. Driving
15. Para Driving
16. Vaulting
17. Reining

Just in 2019 alone, for the above mentioned 17 set of FEI Rules, a total of 139 rules change proposals were received by 1 March 2019 from National Federations and Stakeholders, namely:

- Jumping: 47
- Eventing: 35
- Driving: 21
- Dressage: 19
- Veterinary: 6
- Para Dressage: 4
- General Regulations: 4
- Reining: 2
- Vaulting: 1
- Para Driving: 0
- Statutes: 0
- Internal Regulations: 0
- Equine Anti-Doping: 0
- Human Anti-Doping: 0
- Endurance : N/A

To this number, we should add the number of proposals that the FEI Board, FEI Headquarters and FEI Technical Committees can make later on the year, during the Rules revision Process.

As a consequence of the above, it is usual that the FEI, National Federations and Stakeholders must deal with over 250 rules revision proposal on an annual basis.

Although the current system does provide for a dynamic annual review process, it also presents a number of challenges, as set out below:

- The amount of administrative work that FEI staff, National Federations and Stakeholders must do on an annual basis is massive;
- FEI Technical Committees are often overworked. As a consequence, on many occasions Technical Committees must schedule an additional half a day or entire day to work, conference calls and emails on the rules changes proposals. This is not only time consuming but also is costly, from a financial perspective;
- Annual rules changes make rules difficult to follow for Officials, Athletes, National Federations, Stakeholders, media and the general public;
- On many occasions changes to the rules are made because of a one off incident ;
- The volume of General Assembly annexes is increasing every year and it is a challenge for National Federations to have reviewed all the proposed rules changes for the General Assembly.

As a consequence of the above, the FEI Board, during its in-person meeting in June 2019 at the FEI Headquarters in Lausanne (SUI), unanimously agreed with a proposal made by the FEI Headquarters to **make full rules review ("Full Rules Review") every 4 years.**

Full Rules Review shall be understood as a Technical Committee exercise to update the relevant Rules by, for example, changing or amending an existing Rule or introducing a new Rule.

In between this quadrennial cycle, the following would be allowed for all FEI Set of Rules:

- Urgent repairs, i.e., changes in the Rules that cannot await because of its impact on the welfare of the Horses or the safety of the Athletes;
- Correction of inconsistencies, manifest errors, contradictions, etc.

With this proposal in mind, the FEI Headquarters will suggest to the FEI Board, for its approval, a timeline whereby the revision of the 17 FEI Set of Rules (as defined above) will be staggered in time.

You shall note that this proposal does not make the general FEI Rules Revisions Policy void. Consequently, National Federations and Stakeholders will keep the right to make rules proposal every 1 March. However, after having been evaluated by the FEI, either a proposal is considered to be an urgent repair or a correction of an inconsistency, error, contradiction, etc., in which case it will be made that year, or the proposal will be kept for the year in which the concerned FEI Set of Rules will undergo a Full Rules Review.

We would appreciate any comments you may have on these proposed rule changes by 30 August 2019. Thank you for sending your comments to Francisco P. Lima at Francisco.lima@fei.org directly.

Sincerely,

Francisco P. Lima
FEI Director of Governance & Institutional Affairs