

RULES SESSIONS

Lausanne (SUI), 21 November 2020

FEI debates proposed Rules amendments online with National Federations

A total of 70 of the 109 National Federations registered for the FEI Online General Assembly 2020 joined the two Rules Sessions covering Anti-Doping (Equine and Human) and other Rules conducted digitally today. Also participating in the online Sessions were the Asian Equestrian Federation (AEF) and the International Eventing Officials Club (IEOC), both of which have Memorandums of Understanding with the FEI.

The opening Session on the proposed modifications to the FEI Anti-Doping Rules for Human Athletes (ADRHAs) and the FEI Equine Anti-Doping and Controlled Medication Regulations (EADCMR) was led by FEI Legal Director Mikael Rentsch and Deputy Legal Director Aine Power from FEI Headquarters in Lausanne (SUI).

The second Session on proposed amendments to the FEI General Regulations, Discipline specific rules and Veterinary Regulations, was moderated by the FEI Legal Director, alongside other FEI Directors. The Technical Committee Chairs were also available via videoconference. Delegates had the opportunity to ask questions during both Sessions.

Session 1: Anti-Doping Rules (Equine & Human)

A number of changes have been proposed to both sets of Anti-Doping Rules. As a signatory to the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) Code, the FEI is obliged to revise its Rules for both Equine and Human Athletes to align with the new Code, which comes into effect on 1 January 2021.

Particular attention was given during the Session to the rule changes that will require operational measures by National Federations, including a requirement to update their rules to mirror key provisions of the EADCMR and ADRHA 2021.

The National Federations must also play a key role in ensuring that all Athletes and Support Personnel who are members of the FEI understand that they and their horses are all subject to the FEI Anti-Doping Rules.

The FEI will take the lead on implementing Education Programmes to ensure that all National Federations are in compliance with the Code and International Standards and to ensure their enforcement.

National Federations will also be required to conduct education programmes in cooperation with their National Anti-Doping Organisations (NADOs) for their international and non-international level athletes, as well as athlete support personnel.

With the changes to the EADCMRs and ADRHA, National Federations now have a duty to report potential violations to the FEI, and Persons Responsible, Support Personnel as well as Organising Committees must be compliant with the Rules and cooperate with any investigations.

Anti-Doping Rules for Human Athletes

The FEI Legal Director highlighted the new rules on Substances of Abuse, those that are frequently abused in society outside of sport such as cocaine and THC. If an athlete can establish that the use of such substances occurred out-of-competition and was unrelated to sport performance, the period of ineligibility is reduced to a flat three months with no argument over No Significant Fault/Negligence. An athlete would have the opportunity of further reducing the period of ineligibility to one month by completing a rehabilitation programme.

Equine Anti-Doping Rules

Following requests from National Federations for the equine anti-doping system to be more flexible when contamination is suspected, the FEI has proposed to expand the concept of Atypical Findings (ATF) in the new EADCMRs. ATFs will be dealt with according to a specific ATF policy, which was approved by the FEI Board in October 2020. Decisions on ATFs will be taken by an ATF Panel, which will have an independent chairperson to be appointed by the FEI Board.

Session 2: Other Rules

The FEI Discipline, Veterinary and Education & Officials Directors, as well as the Technical Committee Chairs, were available to answer questions throughout the second Session. Specific clarifications were provided to delegates on the proposed Rules modifications to the FEI General Regulations, the Eventing Rules and Driving, and both Endurance and Driving generated questions.

It was clarified that Annex D of the FEI Eventing Rules (Medical Services) would be slightly modified prior to publication of the Rules for ease of reading, with newly introduced requirements identified as notes rather than footnotes. The content however will not be changed.

Delegates from the National Federations of Germany, France and the USA expressed concern about the proposed amendments to the invitation process for team Driving Events (CAIOs) where National Federations are invited according to the previous World Championships team results. They felt that it would not be realistic to apply this Rule change in 2021 as there was no Driving World Championship held in 2020 and the number of nations that could compete would be restricted.

This point will be included in the full Rules revision next year and will also be raised with the FEI Board as a potential Emergency Board Resolution if needed.

All proposed amendments to the FEI General Regulations, FEI Discipline Rules and Veterinary Regulations will be voted on at the FEI Online General Assembly on 23 November 2020 and updated [here](#) in due course. Delegates will also elect candidates for a number of key positions.

The FEI Online General Assembly commences at 12:00 CET and will be available to watch on livestream [here](#).