



***SPORTS FORUM***

**BLOOD DURING  
COMPETITION**

30 April - 2 May 2012,  
Lausanne, Switzerland



## BLOOD DURING COMPETITION

- If a horse exhibits a sign that may indicate that it is no longer fit to compete during a competition then it is the responsibility of the Ground Jury to stop the horse from the competition. After an assessment made by the Veterinary Delegate and Ground Jury, if bleeding has stopped and the horse is fit to continue to compete, then it may be permitted to do so if this is possible within the structure and regulations of the discipline. If a restart is to be permitted then consideration will be needed within the discipline structure for the fairness of the sport.
- The welfare of the horse must be paramount in any decision taken.





**DISCUSSION**

# BLOOD DURING COMPETITION DISCIPLINE REGULATIONS

	<b>Jumping</b>	<b>Eventing</b>	<b>Dressage</b>	<b>Para Dressage</b>	<b>Vaulting</b>	<b>Reining</b>	<b>Driving</b>	<b>Endurance</b>
<b>Specific Rule?</b>	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Effectively	Effectively
<b>If yes – where?</b>	Article 242.3.1	Article 520			Article 730.2.4	Article 312.1/2	Article 924.6	Article 811

- Mandatory Disqualification
- Horses **bleeding** on the flank(s), in the mouth or nose or marks indicating excessive use of spurs or of the whip anywhere on the Horse (in minor cases of blood in the mouth, such as where a Horse appears to have bitten its tongue or lip, Officials may authorize the rinsing or wiping of the mouth and allow the rider Athlete to continue; any further evidence of blood in the mouth will result in Disqualification.

- Horses bleeding in the mouth, nose or limbs: Such may be abuse of horse and will be reviewed case by case. In minor cases of blood in the mouth, such as where a horse appears to have bitten its tongue or lip, or minor bleeding on limbs, after investigation the Ground Jury may authorize the athlete to continue.
- If not directly witnessed by the Ground Jury, the incident must be reported as soon as possible to the Ground Jury through the Secretary of the Organising Committee or Control Centre of the event as appropriate, supported where possible by a statement from one or more witnesses. The Ground Jury must decide if there is a case to be answered



- Horses bleeding on the flank(s), in the mouth or nose or marks indicating excessive use of the whip anywhere on the Horse (in minor cases of **blood** in the mouth, such as where a Horse appears to have bitten its tongue or lip – Officials may authorize the rinsing or wiping of the mouth and allow the Lunger to continue – any further evidence of blood in the mouth will result in disqualification.)

- Organising committees have the option of using a pre-check or a post-check or both. A pre-check system should not be used in a single judged Event. When a pre-check is used, it is strongly recommended that there be a designated area in close proximity to the pre-check Judge for the checked Horses to remain until they enter the arena. When a pre-check is used, the presence of **blood** or any other evidence that any act of abuse has occurred prior to the check will result in a no score. If illegal equipment is presented at the pre-check, the Athlete will not receive a no-score, if he is able to correct the problem without delaying the class. If a checked Horse leaves the field of vision of the pre-check Judge prior to showing, the pre-check Judge is to recheck the Horse before allowing it to enter the arena. In this system the first two Horses should be pre-checked eight-10 minutes before the class begins, with all remaining Horses checked when they are in-the-hole. It is suggested that the pre-check Judge, as soon as the first three Horses have been checked, develop the routine of checking each Horse as it becomes the in-the-hole Horse. This requires the Judge to keep track of only two Horses at any one time, the already examined on-deck and in-the hole Horses. In addition, this allows each Athlete time to regain composure and focus following the check, and it gives an Athlete time to correct an equipment problem should one occur. Before entering the arena each Horse will have a final walk around inspection. When a pre-check system is used, all officiating Judges, including the pre-check Judge, are compelled to call any acts of abuse to a Horse while in the arena. If the situation arises where a Chair Judge calls a no score, the Judge making the call should request that the Athlete present his Horse to the pre-check Judge for inspection. If a no score is called, the Athlete can accept or contest the call. If contested, the other Judge(s) shall be called as soon as is practical to examine.

- In the case of a pre-check of the equipment, the Horse that has finished his run will be examined for blood by the Equipment Judge when reentering the warm up arena. If the Equipment Judge detects any signs of **blood** on the Horse, he must call for a Steward to stay with the Horse. The Equipment Judge shall inform the President of the Ground Jury. Until the President of the Ground Jury has been able to check on the Horse, the Horse shall not be touched by anyone, until the President of the Ground Jury has come to a decision.

## Removing a Horse from Competition

- Each member of the Ground Jury has the right and duty to eliminate and Horse at any time, during Competition, which is evidently lame, injured or unfit to continue. No Appeal may be made against a decision taken under the terms of the Article.
- The Technical Delegate may stop a Competitor, if, in his opinion, the Horse is unfit to continue the Competition, a hold up time will be recorded, pending confirmation by a member of the Ground Jury. The Competitor may Retire at any time. Article 902.6.

- Any act or series of actions which, in the opinion of the Ground Jury can clearly be defined as cruelty or abuse shall be penalised by disqualification and as otherwise allowed under the GRs, and the individual concerned shall be reported to the FEI.

# BLOOD DURING COMPETITION

