



FEI GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Istanbul (TUR), 8 November 2012

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FEI STATUTES AND GENERAL REGULATIONS

The General Assembly (GA) approved the proposed modifications to the FEI Statutes and General Regulations. The main changes, among other things, include:

Associate membership

With the changing landscape of the FEI and the growth of equestrian sport, it was important for the FEI to develop a system for bespoke and effective interaction with its key stakeholders. Individual Memorandums of Understanding with the Athletes' Clubs and other key stakeholder groups that better suit their needs are being put in place. The Associate Members do not lose any rights under this new system, they have gained increased rights, and will still be able to attend the GA.

Over the last several years, it has become increasingly apparent that the Associate Member concept is not working effectively as there were no clear criteria for becoming an FEI associate member nor were there established obligations for the FEI to deliver to its associate members. In addition, the Associate Members were so diverse and their needs so different from one another that it was not efficient to create rules and structures to apply to all Associate Members under one umbrella. Therefore the GA approved the Bureau's proposal to remove the associate membership category and replace it with what it considers to be a more constructive formula for interacting with its stakeholders through the direct election of Athletes, recognition of Continental Associations, and Memorandums of Understanding with the Athletes Clubs and other key stakeholder groups.

Athletes' representative per discipline

The athletes' representatives on the FEI Technical Committees will be elected via an online vote by the registered athletes in each discipline. This will ensure a much higher representation from the athletes. The elections will be done via the FEI athletes' registration system and specific procedural rules will be applicable. There is already an athlete on the FEI Executive Board, and by doing this the FEI has made the athletes part of its governance structure, mirroring the IOC Athletes' Commission.

Voting rights of Regional Group deputy chairs

In the absence of the Regional Group chairs, who are also Bureau members, deputy chairs will be eligible to vote at Bureau meetings since they will now be formally elected by the GA.

Series and events not affiliated to the FEI

The number of series per discipline and per category will be limited in order to have a well structured calendar, to avoid date clashes and to manage

athlete horse power properly to protect the welfare of the horse. As a related point, the number of competitions that count for a series will be limited in order to guarantee an open market and to avoid closed shops. Athletes and officials will no longer be permitted to participate in both sanctioned and unsanctioned events. If an athlete, horse or an FEI official participates in a non-sanctioned event, such person or horse will be prohibited from participating in any sanctioned events, both international and national, for a period of six months thereafter. An unsanctioned event is an event that is not on the FEI calendar and is not authorised by a National Federation.

FEI Code of Ethics

Further to the adoption of the IOC Code of Ethics at the 2011 FEI General Assembly, the current FEI Code of Ethics has been amended to harmonise it with the IOC Code of Ethics and other integrity concerns arising from recommendations by the Association of Summer Olympic International Federations (ASOIF). The amended FEI Code of Ethics will be added as an appendix to the FEI General Regulations so that it can apply to athletes, athletes support personnel, owners, organisers, officials, sponsors, FEI volunteers and staff.

Protective headgear

Further to the adoption of the new provision mandating the use of properly fastened protective headgear as of 1 January 2013, a sanction/penalty system has been decided. The Yellow Warning Card system already in place will be used for those athletes who do not comply. A Yellow Warning Card will be given if an athlete is reminded that he or she needs to wear protective headgear and the athlete fails or refuses to comply after such reminder.

APPROVAL OF ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

The GA approved a new system of annual subscriptions for the National Federations which is based on objective parameters, is transparent and easily adaptable. The new system, which does not result in a major profit for the FEI, will be gradually introduced over a three-year period (2013-2015).

ELECTIONS

Chairs of Regional Groups:

Chair of Regional Group I: Armagan Özgörkey (TUR) was elected for one year (2012-2013)

Chair of Regional Group IV: Mark Samuel (CAN), 2012-2016

Chair of Regional Group VIII: Nai Yue Ho (SIN), 2012-2016

Chair of Regional Group IX: Mary Binks (KEN) was re-elected for a second term in office (2012-2016)

Chairs of Technical Committees:

Chair of Endurance Committee: Brian Sheahan (AUS), 2012-2016

Chair of Audit and Compliance Committee: Brian Mangan (IRL) was re-elected for a period of four years (2012-2016)

Members of Technical Committees:

Audit and Compliance Committee: Attilo Costa (ARG), 2012-2014, and Jack Huang (TPE), 2012-2015.

Nominations Committee, Group IV: Naomi Roachford (BAR), 2012-2013

Regional Group Deputy Chairs:

The following Group Deputy Chairs were elected further to the nomination of the respective Group Chairs:

Group I – Manuel Bandeira de Mello (POR)

Group II – Ulf Helgstrand (DEN)

Group III – Oleksandr Onishchenko (UKR)

Group IV – Betty Wates (JAM)

Group V – Maria del Rosario Garcia de Martinez (COL)

Group VI – Gabriel Vidal Martinez (URU)

Group VII – Sami Alduhami (KSA)

Group VIII – Chris Hodson (NZL)

Group IX – Eric Bianchi (RSA)

FEI Solidarity Committee

The FEI President confirmed the members of the FEI Solidarity Committee:

Group I – Elisabeth Max-Theurer, President AUT NF

Group II – Jukka-Pekka Leskinen, President FIN NF

Group III – Sergey Maslov, President RUS NF

Group IV – John Ralston, President JAM NF

Group V – Cesar Camargo, President COL NF

Group VI – Gloria de Cuesta, President ECU NF

Group VII – HRH Princess Haya, FEI President (Chair)

Group VIII – Dr Pan Zhichen, President CHN NF

Group IX – Ibrahima Wade, President SEN NF

JUMPING

The GA accepted the Technical Committee Chairman's report which included, among other items, updates on:

- Clarifications on the **Invitation Rules for CSI events worldwide;**

- **2013 CSI/CSIO requirements for Europe and North America.** On the occasion of the full revision of the FEI Jumping Rules to be carried out in 2013, the requirements will be incorporated in the FEI Jumping Rules.
- **Water jump:** It was agreed to remove the requirement for the water jump in competitions in which Certificates of Capability for Championships and Games may be obtained, effective 1 January 2013.

The GA agreed to the proposal of the Jumping Committee to reduce the speed of competitions at the FEI European Jumping Championships 2013 and the Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games™ in Normandy in 2014 from 400 m/minute to 375 m/minute, due to the size of the arena.

The modifications to the FEI Jumping Rules, 24th edition, effective 1 January 2013, were approved and will be available on the FEI website on this [PAGE](#).

DRESSAGE

The GA approved the Technical Committee chairman's report which included updates on:

- The hugely successful **London 2012 Olympic Games**, in which a record number of 23 nations and 11 teams participated. The Committee started a review immediately after the end of the Games, both on the qualification procedure and the format for 2016. These two areas will be discussed at the FEI Sports Forum in 2013 and the finalised procedure will be put to the vote at the next General Assembly
- **Pan American Games:** The Committee, in cooperation with Regional Groups IV, V and VI, is working on ways to raise the competition level from Intermediate to Grand Prix. A test event will be organised in April 2013 in the USA with mixed teams consisting of Intermediate level athletes and a maximum of two Grand Prix level athletes, and a proposal based on the experiences of the event will be made to the General Assembly 2013.
- In 2013 all **FEI Dressage Judges** not fulfilling the criteria for status maintenance will be removed from the FEI Officials list.
- **Education:** Additional education initiatives will be taken in 2013 to meet the requests from numerous NF to improve the standard of officials at national level.

- The **judging system** introduced in 2011, the highlights of which are the use of half-marks and having seven judges officiating at top FEI events, will be evaluated in the coming months.
- **Tests:** A Freestyle test for the U25 category will be introduced from 1 January 2013. The Olympic Grand Prix Special Test will no longer be in use as of 1 January 2013.

The modifications to the FEI Rules for Dressage Events, 24th edition, were approved. The main change consists of the addition of a specific provision regarding elimination in the case of blood showing anywhere on the horse during competition. The new Art. 430.7.6, developed in close cooperation with the Veterinary Committee, is as follows:

“Bleeding: If the Judge at C suspects fresh blood anywhere on the horse during the test, he will stop the horse to check for blood. If the horse shows fresh blood, it will be eliminated. The elimination is final. If the Judge through examination clarifies that the horse has no fresh blood, the horse may resume and finish its test.

“If the horse is eliminated pursuant to the above, or if the horse is injured during the test and starts bleeding after finishing the test, it should be examined by an FEI Veterinarian prior to the next Competition to determine if it is fit to continue in the Event the following day(s). The decision of the FEI Veterinarian is not subject to appeal.”

PARA-EQUESTRIAN DRESSAGE

The modifications to the FEI Rules for Para-Equestrian Dressage Events, 3rd edition, effective 1 January 2013, were approved. They will be available on the FEI website on this [PAGE](#).

EVENTING

The FEI Rules for Eventing, 24th edition, effective 1 January 2013, were approved.

The Technical Committee chairman updated the GA on the Rules revision process which takes place every four years. A consultation process had been launched with the very active involvement of the National Federations, riders and officials involved in Eventing. The main subjects to be reviewed were competition formats, qualifications of athletes and horses, and athlete categorisation. Staggered implementation for several articles was approved in order to facilitate the work of the National Federations.

The Rules will be available on the FEI website on this [PAGE](#).

The Chairman's report contained further updates on:

- The **Eventing Risk Management Programme** with special emphasis on the rules directly related to risk management; frangible deformable structures; and the necessity for NF involvement in the further development of the programme.
- The success of the **global education programme** was emphasised and especially the increased number of courses for officials directly linked to the development of the risk management programme.

DRIVING

The modifications to the Rules for International Combined Driving Events, 10th edition, effective 1 January 2013, were approved. These are minor modifications ahead of the full review scheduled for 2014. The main changes relate to:

- Clarifying the number of additional drivers allowed at Championships for nations who have entered teams and for host nations;
- The method to calculate the team classification for Pony Championships;
- The removal of section D in the Marathon competition.

The Rules will be available on the FEI website on this [PAGE](#).

ENDURANCE

The FEI Rules Endurance for Endurance Events were completely reviewed in 2012 and the new 8th edition which will come into effect on 1 January 2013 for the next four years includes 14 major changes which reflect the ongoing development of the discipline.

The main changes concern:

- The **minimum number of vet gates** introduced at lower distance events and confirmation of a minimum distance for the final phase;
- Introduction of an **FEI appointed course designer for Championships**;
- **Field of play** now identified and the notion of **allowed access** defined;
- Further clarification on **minimum dress code**;
- **Novice qualification** now extended to include a free speed competition and a minimum of four other events;
- **Minimum rest periods for horses** extended to include national events and also the number of rest days amended to allow for weekend events on either a Saturday or Sunday;

- Creation of an **elite status for J/YR and senior athletes** allowing such elite athletes to 'fast track' certain parts of Championship qualification;
- **Invitations to CEIOs and Championships** now reduced to a maximum of five athletes and seven horses;
- At CEIOs and Championships, **results from all combinations from the same nation are available to that nation to establish the team score** (best three to count - only three medals to be awarded).
- **At CEI 1*, 2* and 3* events, athletes may present up to two horses at the first inspection** and declare their horse of choice immediately after the horse(s) passes the inspection;
- The **present voting system for lameness assessment has been extended** to include metabolic assessment that can result in the removal of a horse from the competition, failing to qualify for the next phase;
- **New 'Best Condition' rules** introduced to better reflect the degree and extent of assessment of each horse.
- **Changes to the number and star level of FEI officials at lower level event** to assist organisers with the costs of hosting an event.
- **FEI involvement when necessary regarding appointment of officials at CEIs** to ensure adequate rotation and address potential conflicts of interest.

The Rules will be available on the FEI website on this [PAGE](#).

VAULTING

The modifications to the FEI Rules for Vaulting Events, 8th edition, effective 1 January 2013, were approved. The following small change has been introduced for greater clarity:

- Scores will be rounded off to the third decimal place in final results.

The Rules will be available on the FEI website on this [PAGE](#).

REINING

One year after the fourth edition of the FEI Rules for Reining Events came into effect, some minor changes based on the feedback received were approved, effective 1 January 2013. The modifications include:

- **New scores required** to progress up through the star levels of competition;
- **Changes to the composition of ground juries;**
- **Clarification on working off ties** when a CRI is linked to a national competition.

The Rules will be available on the FEI website on this [PAGE](#).

VETERINARY MATTERS

The 13th edition of the FEI Veterinary Regulations effective 1 January 2013 was approved by the General Assembly.

The new edition is a comprehensive rewrite, conducted on the basis of experience and wide feedback received on the use of the current format of the Regulations. The result is a more user friendly and concise regulatory document. It clearly explains the roles and responsibilities of all those involved in FEI events in a veterinary context. The veterinary concepts, principles and terminology in these Regulations will be incorporated in the FEI Discipline Rules. The harmonisation with the Discipline Rules will continue throughout 2013 and will be completed by the end of the year. By 2014 the Veterinary Regulations will become the document which contains all veterinary matters related to the FEI disciplines.

The main concepts and changes are summarised below.

FEI veterinarians and other treating professionals: the roles of the two new categories of FEI veterinarians - official and treating - are clearly outlined. This follows the suggestions of the Ljungqvist Commission to ensure better professionalism and consistency.

The term **Veterinary Services Manager (VSM)** has been introduced for the existing lead event treating veterinarian as appointed by the Organising Committee of an FEI event. The VSM will ensure that the facilities and the standard of veterinary services at all FEI events are upheld in accordance with the Veterinary Regulations. The significant difference between the roles of the FEI Veterinary Delegate (OV) and the VSM has been emphasised. The OV's task is to officiate and provide feedback to the FEI on veterinary services and standards. The Veterinary Delegates cannot therefore be involved in the provision of veterinary services for an event.

Veterinary education: The veterinary roles at FEI events are now clearly split into two categories which are FEI Official Veterinarians (OVs) or Permitted Treating Veterinarians (PVs). The education requirements, qualification experiences and the new Codex for both PVs and OVs are described in detail. The entry level to both requires taking a short online examination. Both categories are issued with an FEI Veterinarian ID which must be presented at events.

A section dedicated to **biosecurity** has been added to the Veterinary Regulations underpinning the high degree of veterinary supervision at FEI events. In view of the increasing number of international equestrian events worldwide and also in order to facilitate the reduction of overly restrictive

movement procedures, further government confidence is required in the FEI's approach to protecting the health status of FEI horses. The new Regulations are intended to reduce the risk of infectious disease spread and to provide very simple management provisions for Organising Committees, their Veterinary Services Managers and Official Veterinarians in the case of a suspected, or actual, infectious disease situation during an event.

The new Veterinary Regulations also lay out more clearly the existing **vaccinations** requirements.

Limb sensitivity: following the experience gained and the feedback received during the consultation process, the Limb Sensitivity protocol been revised to include recording of all initial examinations as well as a clear re-examination procedure.

Veterinary Forms: The Equine Therapeutic Use Exemption Forms 1 and 2 and Medication Form 3, have been renamed Veterinary Forms 1, 2, and 3. The new Veterinary Form 4 introduces the opportunity for the self-declaration of substances according to the Equine Prohibited Substances List whereby a permitted treating veterinarian may self-authorise certain common support therapies for horses under their care. This form must be submitted to the Veterinary Delegate in advance of any treatments being given and is subject to stewards examinations.

The Medication Control Programme (MCP), which has traditionally only been associated with Regional Groups I and II, has been renamed **Equine Anti-Doping and Controlled Medication Programme** in view of the global roll out of prohibited substances testing.

The General Assembly was addressed by the Deputy Secretary General of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and former Chief Veterinary Officer of France, Dr Monique Eloit, who fully supported a closer working relationship between the FEI and the OIE.

YOUTH OLYMPIC GAMES 2014

The FEI Director Jumping reported to the GA that the 2014 Youth Olympic Games (YOG) would take place in Nanjing (CHN) from 16 to 28 August. The equestrian competitions would be from 16 August until 24 August. The YOG qualification system and rules had been placed on the FEI website on this [PAGE](#). There would be six universality places allocated by the IOC. A number of important issues, such as acquisition of horses and their training programme prior to the Games, would be addressed with the YOG Organising

Committee on the occasion of a Forum to be held in Lausanne (SUI) from 14 to 17 November 2012.

ANTI-DOPING RULES

The GA approved the proposed modifications to **the Equine Anti-Doping and Controlled Medication Regulations (EADCMRs)**, 1st edition, updates effective 1 January 2013. These modifications will affect the administrative procedure and set the presumptive sanction for Equine Controlled Medication violations at six (6) months.

The proposed modifications to the **Anti-Doping Rules for Human Athletes (ADRHA)**, concerning, among other things, results management (art. 7), and roles and responsibilities of organising committees (art 20.3), were also approved.

Both sets of rules will be available on the FEI website shortly.

ENDS