

## PROPOSALS FOR 2020 RULES CHANGES GENERAL REGULATIONS

Dear National Federations,

As explained at this year's FEI Sports Forum, a full review of the FEI Legal System (Chapter VIII of the FEI General Regulations) was carried out this year and this entire chapter has been revised.

The key changes were presented at the FEI Sports Forum and the presentation by the FEI Legal Department can be accessed here: <https://inside.fei.org/fei/fei-sports-forum-2019-session-3>. A summary of the main changes is also included on page 9 of this Memo.

Please consult the enclosed draft FEI General Regulations to see the revised Chapter VIII (FEI Legal System). Due to the fact that this chapter was entirely restructured and re-written it is easier to review without mark-up. A mark-up version is available upon request.<sup>1</sup>

Please find below a summary of the other proposed changes to the FEI General Regulations together with the corresponding explanations.

We would appreciate any comments you may have on these proposed rule changes by 30 August 2019. Thank you for sending your comments to me directly at [mikael.rentsch@fei.org](mailto:mikael.rentsch@fei.org).

Sincerely,



Mikael Rentsch  
FEI Legal Director

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<sup>1</sup> Please note that due to the numerous changes and reordering, a full review of all cross references and numbering will be carried out prior to the circulation of the proposed final draft on 22 October 2019.

**Section A: Proposals from FEI Board and FEI Headquarters (hereinafter "FEI")**
**Article No. 101 – General Regulations and Sports Rules**
**Explanation for Proposed Change**
**Proposal from FEI**

The FEI proposes to introduce a new rule in order to ensure equal treatment of Athletes across all disciplines at multi-disciplinary FEI Championships. In the past, some Organisers have provided accommodation free of charge for some Athletes from particular disciplines but not for others.

**Proposed Wording**

**100.1** The General Regulations (GRs) are established so that individual Athletes and teams of Athletes from different National Federations (NFs) may compete against each other under fair and equal conditions with the welfare of Horse as paramount. At multi-disciplinary FEI World and/or Continental Championships, the Organiser must provide similar benefits and conditions to all participating Horses and Athletes, for example in relation to transport, accommodation, meals etc.

**Article No. 102 - International Events (CIs)**
**Explanation for Proposed Change**
**Proposal from FEI**

Further to the conclusions of the Jumping Round Table (held on 4-5 June), it is proposed to make the following change to the FEI General Regulations:

- Clarification that at CIs, team competitions consisting of teams that represent a nation or country are not permitted. Other team competitions are allowed.

**Proposed Wording**

102.2 CIs are primarily for individual Athletes. However, Competitions for ~~national or otherwise named~~ teams not representing a nation or country of not more than four (4) members may be organised, but they may never be described as "Nations' Cups".

**Article No. 103 – Official International Events (CIO)**
**Explanation for Proposed Change**
**Proposal from FEI**

Further to the conclusions of the Jumping Round Table (held on 4-5 June), it is proposed to confirm that only the FEI is permitted to allocate the "O" status to a CI. This does not mean

that the role of NFs in deciding this is entirely removed. NFs will still be able to decide which OCs they will put forward to the FEI as a proposed CIO. It will then be for the FEI to decide whether to award the "O" status or not. As a CIO stands for Official International Event, it is logical that the FEI, as the international governing body, should be the entity to decide which events at which official team competitions amongst nations/countries are held.

### Proposed Wording

1. An Official International Event (CIO) is an Event to which NFs are invited to send selected representative individuals and teams, and must be organised under the FEI Statutes, GRs and Sport Rules.
2. Only the FEI may allocate "Official", "O" and "CIO" status to an Event.
3. CIOs must include the official Competition for individuals and teams according to the Sport Rules of the relevant Discipline.
4. In Europe, each NF may only organise one CIO for Seniors in any Discipline in any calendar year, unless otherwise decided by the Board.
5. For other age groups and for Seniors outside Europe, the number of CIOs must be specifically approved by the Board on the recommendation of the relevant Technical Committee.
6. A NF shall not be allowed to host or to organise a CIO outside of its territory.
7. Only CIOs, Games and Championships may organise a Competition for teams representing nations/countries.

### Article No. 108 – Titles of Competitions

#### Explanation for Proposed Change

##### Proposal from FEI

The Jumping Round Table (held on 4-5 June) concluded that there was a lot of confusion within the equestrian community regarding the use of the term "Nations Cup" but confirmed that there was strong support for the Longines FEI Jumping Nations Cup series both among NFs, OCs and Athletes.

Therefore it is proposed to clarify the situation by confirming that the use of the term "Nation" or "Nations" in the title of a Competition may only be used with the approval of the FEI Board.

Furthermore, only specific competitions/Events that are a part of an FEI Nations Cup Series may be described as "Nations Cups". Other team competitions for Nations must be described as "Official Team Competition".

#### Proposed Wording

1. At CIMs (see Appendix E), the title of Competitions may not include the name of any country or International region.  
At other CIs, the name of the respective nation or country may, with Approval of the relevant NF, be used for the title of one (1) Competition.  
At CIOs, the same provision applies to one (1) Competition in each Discipline.
2. The name "World" or names of continents, regions or other groups of nations or countries including the use of the word "Nation" or "Nations" as title of Competitions, Cups or any other classifications may only be used with Approval of the Board.

3. The use of other names given to an Event or to a number of linked Events (FEI-named Series and/or Series) as defined in Appendix A taking place under the jurisdiction of one (1) or more than one (1) NF requires the Approval of the Board.

4. Only specific Events and Competitions designated by the FEI and that are part of an FEI Nations Cup Series may be described and/or named "Nations Cups".

5. Events and Team Competitions for Nations held during CIOs that are not part of an FEI Nations Cup Series may not be described and/or carry the name, or a name similar to, "Nations Cup". They must be described and/or named "Official Team Competition".

## Article No. 112 – Official Calendar

### Explanation for Proposed Change

#### Proposal from FEI

As communicated in the NF Liaison Office News of 23 January 2019, the Belgian Competition Authority (BCA) issued a decision on 21 December 2018 confirming that the BCA had agreed to drop any charges against the FEI arising from the various complaints that had been lodged against the FEI in 2015 (kindly note that the complaint filed by Ms Lisa Nooren is a separate matter and is therefore outside the scope of this decision).

Therefore, the following changes to the process for reviewing Late Date Applications/modification requests are part of the commitments given by the FEI to the BCA to adjust the FEI's Rules and Regulations (see also below FEI's commitments to amend the Unsanctioned Events Rules).

### Proposed Wording

112.7 For Late Date Application and/or modification for higher level Events as defined in the relevant Rules and received after the deadline, only a NF and/or OC of another higher level event that may be deemed to be affected by the acceptance of such Late Date Application and/or modification ~~shall~~ may be provided the opportunity to give ~~its opinion and if objecting to the late addition or change of dates must explain the reasons for the objection relevant information to the Secretary General~~. After an evaluation of the information received (if any) and the reasons for an objection Late Date Application or modification request (as the case may be), the Secretary General ~~shall have the right to~~ may accept or reject the ~~Late Date Application addition or change~~ modification. ~~Any such Decision by the Secretary General shall be duly motivated.~~

## Article No. 113 – Registration and Eligibility of Athletes and Horses

### Explanation for Proposed Change

#### Proposal from FEI

Following the Belgian Competition Authority's decision of 21 December 2018, the FEI has committed to make the following changes to the FEI's Unsanctioned Events Rules.

### Proposed Wording

1. All Athletes and Horses must be registered with the FEI, and their own NF, or where appropriate with their host NF, before they can be entered and permitted to take part in an International Event, unless otherwise specified by the Sport Rules. (See also Article 119- Sport Nationality Status of Athletes and Chapter V Horses).
2. NFs are responsible for registering all Athletes and Horses and shall ensure that such Athletes have the appropriate corresponding sport nationality pursuant to Article 119. NFs are also responsible for unregistering any Athlete and/or Horse that are not competing anymore for any reason.
3. Any Athlete and/or any Horse not registered with the FEI and/or not fulfilling an eligibility requirement shall be automatically disqualified, unless compelling circumstances warrant otherwise.
4. An Athlete and/or Horse, even if registered with the FEI, is not eligible to participate in an International Event or National Event (and so may not be invited by an OC to such Event or entered by an NF in such Event) if that Athlete and/or Horse has participated, in the six (6) months prior to the first day of the International Event or National Event in question, in an Unsanctioned Event.
5. For purposes of Article 113.4, an 'Unsanctioned Event' is an event and/or a competition that is neither published in the official Calendar nor authorised by an NF and/or a National Event authorised or organised by a NF that is suspended by the FEI. Please also refer to the Appendix J for the rationale for the Unsanctioned Event Provisions.
- ~~6. An Athlete, Chef d'Equipe, Owner, or NF may challenge the application of Article 113.4, or seek a waiver thereof in exceptional circumstances, by application to the Secretary General. A denial of that application may be appealed to the FEI Tribunal, such appeal to be heard on the papers without a live hearing unless the FEI Tribunal orders otherwise.~~
- ~~6. The FEI may only apply Article 113.4, if the FEI has either (i) informed the Athletes and Owners, via the NF(s) with whom the Athlete/Horse is registered/administered by, of the competition(s) or event(s) that are considered as Unsanctioned Event(s) and/or (ii) published the list of such Unsanctioned Event(s) on FEI website so that Athletes, Chefs d'Equipe, Owners, or NFs are on notice, such notification/publication to occur no later than seven (7) days prior to the relevant competition(s) or event(s).~~
- ~~7. Where it is then alleged by the FEI that a person participated in an Unsanctioned Event, the FEI shall notify the relevant person(s) of the alleged participation in an Unsanctioned Event and shall give such person(s) an opportunity to be heard in either written or oral form.~~
- ~~8. Any Decision of the FEI Secretary General to apply Article 113.4 may be appealed to the FEI Tribunal in accordance with Article 162.5 of the FEI General Regulations and the Internal Regulations of the FEI Tribunal.~~
- ~~9. Instead of applying the sanctions provided for in Article 113.4 the FEI may issue~~
  - ~~\_\_\_\_\_ (i) a "no fault" finding where:~~
    - ~~\_\_\_\_\_ (a) the Athlete and/or Horse participated in an event that would clearly have been sanctioned by the FEI or the NF but for administrative error by the organiser of the Unsanctioned Event; or~~
    - ~~\_\_\_\_\_ (b) exceptional circumstances exist ; or~~
    - ~~\_\_\_\_\_ (ii) a "Warning" in circumstances where the Athlete or Owner was reasonably aware that the event was not sanctioned (and there is no suggestion of an administrative error by the organiser) but has demonstrated that the event otherwise adhered to the objectives of the FEI as stated in the Appendix J.~~

## Article No. 156 – Status and Liability of Officials

### Explanation for Proposed Change

#### Proposal from FEI

Following the Belgian Competition Authority's decision of 21 December 2018, the FEI has committed to make the following changes to the FEI's Unsanctioned Events Rules. These changes correspond to the changes made in Article 113.

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6. An Official is not eligible to participate in an International Event or National Event (and so may not be invited or nominated to participate in such event) if he has participated, in the six (6) months prior to the first day of the International Event or National Event in question, in an Unsanctioned Event.

7. For purposes of Article 155.7, an 'Unsanctioned Event' is an event and/or a competition that is neither published in the official Calendar nor authorised by an NF and/or a National Event authorised or organised by a NF that is suspended by the FEI. Please also refer to the Appendix J for the rationale for the Unsanctioned Event Provisions.

8. The FEI may only apply Article 155.7, if the FEI has either (i) informed the Officials and their respective NFs of the competition(s) or event(s) that are considered as Unsanctioned Event(s) and/or (ii) published on FEI website the list of such Unsanctioned Event(s) so that Officials and their respective NFs are on notice such notification/publication to occur no later than seven (7) days prior to the relevant competition(s) or event(s).

9. Where it is then alleged by the FEI that an Official has participated in an Unsanctioned Event the FEI shall notify the relevant Official of the alleged participation in an Unsanctioned Event and shall give such Official an opportunity to be heard in either written or oral form.

10. Any Decision of the FEI Secretary General to apply Article 155.7 may be appealed to the FEI Tribunal in accordance with Article 165.2 of the FEI General Regulations and the Internal Regulations of the FEI Tribunal.

11. Instead of applying the sanctions provided for in Article 155.7 the FEI may issue:  
(i) a "no fault" finding where:

(a) the Official participated in an event that would clearly have been sanctioned by the FEI or the NF but for administrative error by the organiser of the Unsanctioned Event; or

(b) exceptional circumstances exist ; or

(ii) a "Warning" in circumstances where the Official was reasonably aware that the event was not sanctioned (and there is no suggestion of an administrative error by the organiser) but has demonstrated that the event otherwise adhered to the objectives of the FEI as stated in the Appendix J.

~~9. An Official or his National Federation may challenge the application of this Article 156.9, or seek a waiver thereof in exceptional circumstances, by application to the Secretary General. A denial of that application may be appealed to the FEI Tribunal, such appeal to be heard on the papers without a live hearing unless the FEI Tribunal orders otherwise.~~

## Article No. 125 – Ceremonies

### Explanation for Proposed Change

#### Proposal from FEI

Under the current FEI General Regulations, it is mandatory for Athletes to remain mounted during prize-givings. The amendment proposed below allows the discipline rules to allow deviations from this, for example, on safety grounds.

### Proposed Wording

125.3 Unless the relevant Sports Rules provide otherwise, Aall Athletes invited to be present at a Prize-giving ceremony must remain mounted on the Horses on which they have competed, or on their carriages. If a podium is used for the ceremony (as for the Olympic Games), the prize winners may be asked to dismount. The Ground Jury should have the ability to approve a substitution in the interest of either safety or horse welfare

## Article No. 140 – Protection of Athletes and Participating Support Personnel

### Explanation for Proposed Change

#### Proposal from FEI in consultation with the FEI Medical Committee

Under the current FEI General Regulations, the respective Sports Rules determine whether or not wearing Protective Headgear is mandatory in the Competition arena, warm up areas and to/from the stables.

It is proposed to make the wearing of Protective Headgear mandatory while riding at all times in the show grounds. This will not apply to the discipline of Vaulting as the Vaulters are not considered to be "riding" the horses.

The exception allowing the removal of Protective Headgear permitting Athletes to remove their Headgear during prize-giving, national anthem etc. has been maintained even though it is the wish of the FEI Medical Committee that this practice be discontinued.

This proposal had the unanimous support of the FEI Board.

### Proposed Wording

1. While riding and, for Driving Athletes and Grooms, while in or around a carriage when it is attached to Horses, anywhere on the show grounds the use of a properly fastened Protective Headgear ~~will~~is be mandatory. The applicable Sports Rules may provide for an exception to this rule permitting Athletes to remove their Headgear while accepting prizes, during the playing of the National anthem and any other ceremonial protocol. In the Competition arena venue and adjacent warm-up areas, as well as riding from one to the other and from the stables for the purposes of competing, the Protective Headgear requirements are governed by the applicable Sport Rules. Failure to wear such Protective Headgear where and when required ~~(either as per the requirement(s) of these General Regulations or as per the requirement(s) of the relevant Sport Rules) after being notified to do so by an Official,~~ shall result in a Yellow Warning Card, being issued to the Athlete or Participating Support Personnel (as applicable) unless exceptional circumstances apply. The use of cameras on Athletes or Participating Support Personnel (as applicable) or equipment (such as on Protective Headgear, head covering or carriage) shall not be

permitted, unless otherwise specifically agreed by the FEI. An Athlete's decision to wear a camera while competing shall always be voluntary and at their own risk.

#### Article No. 144 - Judges

##### Explanation for Proposed Change

The age limit requirements have been deleted from Article 144 to take account of the competency based evaluation system that will apply to FEI Officials as of 1 January 2020.

##### Proposed Wording

~~4. Judges of all categories must retire at the end of the year in which they reach the age of 70. In special circumstances and by decision of the relevant Technical Committee, this age limit may be extended.~~

#### Article No. 155 – Status and Liability of Officials (previously Article 156)

##### Explanation for Proposed Change

It is proposed that the process for the suspension (provisional and/or up to 3 months), removal or demotion of FEI Officials will now be dealt with under the proposed new Administrative Disciplinary Process. Therefore, the provisions that previously dealt with these have been deleted from Article 155.

A new Article 155.1 has been inserted to take account of the competency based evaluation system that will apply to FEI Officials as of 1 January 2020.

##### Proposed Wording

1. The qualification and requirements to be satisfied to act as an FEI Official at the respective levels are set out in the relevant Sports Rules and related education systems.

- ~~1. Any Official may be removed from a list or from an Event or demoted by the body that appointed him or by his NF. This paragraph confers no power of removal on the OC of an Event. In addition, the FEI Secretary General may provisionally suspend any Official and/or not accept the appointment of any Official in the event there is reasonable cause to believe that any Official has failed to observe the FEI Rules and Regulations.~~
- ~~2. Any proposal to take action under paragraph 1 must be reported to the Board.~~
- ~~3. The Secretary General shall notify in writing any person whom it is proposed to remove and that person may make oral and/or written representations against the proposal for consideration by the relevant body.~~

## Chapter VIII – FEI Legal System and new Chapter IX – Miscellaneous Provisions

### Explanation for Proposed Change

As presented at the FEI Sports Forum 2019\*, a full review of the FEI Legal System (*Chapter VIII of the FEI General Regulations*) was carried out this year and this entire chapter has been revised.

The key changes are listed below and NFs are encouraged to consult the attached draft of the FEI General Regulations to see the proposed final version of Chapter VIII.

- Removal of Appeal Committee from all Events (if this proposal is approved at the FEI General Assembly, all Sports Rules will be updated accordingly)
- Possibility for FEI Officials to give a Yellow Warning Card to an Athlete arising from the Incorrect Behaviour of a member of his/her entourage
- New "Catalogue of Sanctions" dividing sanctions for various offences into 4 categories: "Low-end", "Mid-Range", "Top-End", "Max".
- Flexibility to allow the FEI/FEI Tribunal postpone the start date of a suspension to ensure it has a real effect
- New Administrative Disciplinary Process – allowing FEI HQ to impose sanctions for "minor offences"
- Alignment of deadline to appeal to FEI Tribunal with deadline to appeal to Court of Arbitration for Sport (21 days)
- New Chapter IX: "Miscellaneous Provisions" section with generally applicable provisions on: Governing Law, Personal Data, Matters Not Otherwise Provided For, Waiver of Claims, Communications (Notices), Severability, Amendments

In addition to the above changes, the chapter has been restructured and renumbered for ease of reference and to ensure a more logical sequence of the articles.

\*Please note that the proposal to allow non-official video recordings (e.g. mobile phone footage) was not supported by the FEI Board and has, therefore, not been incorporated in the revised rules.

### Proposed Wording

See Chapters VIII and IX of the attached draft of the FEI General Regulations 2020 for full wording.

## General Change – FEI World Equestrian Games/FEI World Championships

### Explanation for Proposed Change

For 2022, FEI opened the bidding for FEI World Equestrian Games and/or individual & combined FEI World Championships. References to FEI World Equestrian Games in FEI General Regulations to be updated accordingly.

### Proposed Wording

See Appendix D of the FEI General Regulations.

## General Change – Miscellaneous

### Explanation for Proposed Change

Further to the FEI Sports Forum presentation on Gender Equality, the FEI is making an effort to reflect the gender balance of our sport in the wording of the FEI Rules. Therefore, it is proposed that the FEI General Regulations will no longer only use the masculine gender when referring to physical persons.

The 2020 versions of all other FEI Rules and Regulations will be updated accordingly prior to publication of the final versions.

### Proposed Wording

~~The masculine gender used in relation to any physical person (for example, names such as Athlete, Owner, Judge, Technical Delegate, Official, Chef d'Equipe, or pronouns such as he, they or them) shall, unless there is a specific provision to the contrary, be understood as including the feminine gender.~~

The following ancillary changes are proposed, references to:

- "he" are updated to "he/she";
- "him" are updated to "him/her"
- "himself" are updated to "himself/herself"

## Appendix G – FEI Code on the Prevention of the Manipulation of Competitions

### Explanation for Proposed Change

According to advice received, the FEI would have a duty under Swiss law to report any potentially criminal activity in relation to the manipulation of competitions to the relevant legal authorities.

- 1.2.2. It shall be the personal responsibility of every Participant to make himself or herself aware of this Code including, without limitation, what conduct constitutes a violation of this Code and to comply with those requirements. Participants should also be aware that conduct prohibited under this Code may also constitute a criminal offence and/or a breach of other applicable laws and regulations including other regulations of FEI or any other Sports Organisations. Participants must comply with all applicable laws and regulations at all times. The FEI will report any behaviour, which in the reasonable opinion of the FEI, amounts to potentially criminal behaviour to the appropriate legal authorities.

**Section B: Proposal from NFs**
**Article No.: Appendix A – Definitions (“Children”)**
**Explanation for Proposed Change**
**PROPOSAL RECEIVED FROM USEF:**
**Explanation from USEF**

- The USEF believes, especially in Jumping, that it would greatly benefit the development of young athletes if they could have the option to remain in Children for one more year (i.e. until they are 15). This would still give them 3 years until the finish in Juniors which is consistent with the three years they can have in Young Riders once they finish in Juniors.
- In the US, we want to do all we can to encourage young athletes to participate in FEI level Jumping events and we believe it would be very beneficial for development if athletes at the age of 15 could still compete at 1.20M. We do not believe this will impact on Junior competitions and will in fact provide a more effective pathway for young athletes.
- We acknowledge that this change will have to be made across all disciplines and cannot see that it will disadvantage other disciplines as no change is being proposed to the minimum age for Juniors.
- In summary we believe this change will bring the transition between Children and Juniors in line with the transition between Juniors and Young Riders. More importantly it will give coaches and parents more flexibility as they map out the progression of young athletes ensuring they are not pushed to move up the levels but progress as their development allows whilst also still enjoying equestrian sport.

**FEI FEEDBACK**

This proposal did receive the support of some (but not all Technical Committees). However, it did not receive the support of the FEI Board who did not want an overlap between the Children’s category and the Junior Category and were not in favour of allowing “children” compete.

**Proposed Wording**

No change to current wording.

**Article No.: Appendix A – Definitions (“Horse”)**
**Explanation for Proposed Change**
**PROPOSAL RECEIVED FROM ITA NF:**

To amend the definition of “Horse” to clarify that Mules are not considered as Horses and therefore cannot compete in FEI Competitions.

This current definition of “Horse” leave the opportunity to compete to the mule also.

It seems useful that the General Assembly be aware on this possibility to allow to compete horses and mules together mixing two different genetic animal (horse and mule that is an hybrid from horse mare and donkey stallion).

This situation (compare two different animals from within different genetic characteristics) seems to be incorrect for both, horses and mules, considering their physiological,

biomechanical and ethological characteristics and may affect the historical perception of Equestrian sport.

**FEI FEEDBACK**

Supported by FEI Veterinary Department and FEI Board.

**Proposed Wording**

**Horse:** Refers also to a Pony or other member of the genus Equus unless the context requires otherwise. A Horse shall be born from the union of a mare and a horse stallion and classified as Equus caballus.

**Article No. N/A – No specific article referenced**

**Explanation for Proposed Change**

**PROPOSAL RECEIVED FROM USEF :**

To introduce a rule for Games and Championships familiarisation training times and the order of the first Horse Inspection will be decided by a random draw.

**Explanation from USEF**

There is, currently, no definitive "Rule" that defines how Training Times are allocated at Games and Championships. The allocation of training times is therefore at the purview of the Chief Steward. Whilst there is no suggestion that Chief Stewards do anything but an excellent job, when there are weather and/or "time of day" factors (early start or late finish) there should be openness and transparency as to how key Training Times (for example Main Arena) are allocated: Also allocation should not be on predetermined factors that can never change (e.g. alphabetical order). The same applies to Horse Inspections where if it is an early inspection, going late could be an advantage and if it is a late Inspection, going early could be an advantage (it is acknowledged that many Horse Inspections do run off a draw).

An example of this was Tryon WEG 2018 with the Dressage. Both SWE and the USA were disadvantaged with Main Arena training because all the timing allocations were done by Nation alphabetical order; this meant that USA and SWE were late on in the training window and on consecutive days the weather impacted on the training.

In Tokyo, the weather will be of great influence and there will be training sessions when the order of training will have advantages or disadvantages.

Whilst there may be a feeling amongst some that this is unnecessary it was a very real challenge in Tryon and perception is as important as actual. In Tokyo there is no doubt that some training times and the Horse inspection order will be more beneficial in terms of preparing for competition and also in terms of finishing riding earlier so as to avoid the sleep deprivation that will be a factor in Tokyo. Introducing a Draw protects the Chief Steward and eliminates any complaints.

It is acknowledged that some disciplines already have a draw for the Horse Inspection. There does not have to be a "random draw" for each day of training. A draw for the order could be done at the start of the training period and then each day the starting point on that "order of go" is drawn.

**FEI FEEDBACK**

Supported by FEI Steward General and the FEI Jumping Committee but only for Games and Championships. The FEI Board was in favour of including this concept in the Stewarding manuals rather than in the FEI General Regulations.

### Proposed Wording

Not for FEI General Regulations but for Stewarding Manuals instead.

*"At all Games and Championships Field of Play familiarisation Training Times and the First Horse Inspection order will be decided by a random draw. The Second Horse Inspection will be decided either by a draw, which could be the same as the first Horse Inspection, or by the current standings of the Individuals or Teams."*

## Article No. 100.3 – General Regulations and Sports Rules

### Explanation for Proposed Change

#### PROPOSAL RECEIVED FROM ITA NF

We feel that it is important for NFs to have the opportunity to offer proposals also for series such as the FEI Nations Cup. The Nations Cups are a qualification for the Olympic Games and there should be the opportunity for NFs to review the draft documents and offer proposals in a clear and transparent manner.

This already happens for the Olympic and Paralympic Rules.

We feel that the wording in point 4 is outdated and needs to be updated to represent the current situation.

Suggested wording:

Sport Rules, including Series, Olympic Regulations for Equestrian Events at Olympic Games and Paralympic Regulations for Equestrian Events at Paralympic Games are published under the authority of the General Assembly.

*In alternative:*

Sport Rules are published under the authority of the General Assembly whereas Sport Rules for Series, Olympic Regulations for Equestrian Events at Olympic Games, and Paralympic Regulations for Equestrian Events at Paralympic Games are published under the authority of the Bureau following a period for review and evaluation by National Federations to be included in the FEI Rules Revision Policy.

#### FEI FEEDBACK

This proposal was not supported by either the FEI Headquarters, the Technical Committees or the FEI Board.

### Proposed Wording

No change to original wording

**Article No. 116 - Entries**
**Explanation for Proposed Change**
**PROPOSAL RECEIVED FROM AUT NF**

Nominated Entry should only fix the number of athletes/horses no names.

Especially in CH for Children, Ponies Juniors and Young Riders there often need to be changes more close to the event or they reach MER too late and sometimes there is no second chance next year because of the age requirements.

**FEI FEEDBACK**

This proposal was not supported by either the FEI Headquarters, the Technical Committees or the FEI Board.

**Proposed Wording**

No change to original wording

**Code of Conduct for the Welfare of the Horse**
**Explanation for Proposed Change**

As part of the Endurance Rules revision, the Code of Conduct for the Welfare of the Horse was reviewed and some minor changes/clarifications were proposed.

As the Code of Conduct for the Welfare of the Horse is included in all Sports Rules, if approved, the changes below will be included in the 2020 versions of all Sports Rules.

**Proposed Wording**
**FEI CODE OF CONDUCT FOR THE WELFARE OF THE HORSE**

The FEI requires all those involved in international equestrian sport to adhere to the FEI Code of Conduct and to acknowledge and accept that at all times the welfare of the Horse must be paramount. The ~~W~~welfare of the Horse must never be subordinated to competitive or commercial ~~influences~~ or other interests. The following points must be particularly adhered to:

**1. General Welfare:**
**a) Good Horse management**

Stabling and feeding must be compatible with the best Horse management practices. Clean and good quality ~~forage~~hay, feed and water must always be available.

**b) Training methods**

Horses must only undergo training that matches their physical capabilities and level of maturity for their respective disciplines. They must not be subjected to methods ~~which~~ that are abusive or cause fear.

c) Farriery and tack

Foot care and shoeing must be of a high standard. Tack must be designed and fitted to avoid the risk of pain or injury.

d) Transport

During transportation, Horses must be fully protected against injuries and other health risks. Vehicles must be safe, well ventilated, maintained to a high standard, disinfected regularly and driven by competent personnel. Competent handlers must always be available to manage the Horses.

e) Transit

All journeys must be planned carefully, and Horses allowed regular rest periods with access to food and water in line with current FEI guidelines.

2. **Fitness to compete:**

a) Fitness and competence

Participation in Competition must be restricted to fit Horses and Athletes of proven competence. Horses must be allowed suitable rest period between training and ~~e~~Competitions; additional rest periods should be allowed following travelling.

b) Health status

No Horse deemed unfit to compete may compete or continue to compete, ~~v~~Veterinary advice must be sought whenever there is any doubt.

c) Doping and ~~M~~Medication

Any ~~action or intent of~~ doping ~~and or~~ illicit use of medication constitutes a serious welfare issue and will not be tolerated. After any ~~v~~Veterinary treatment, sufficient time must be allowed for full recovery before Competition.

d) Surgical procedures

Any surgical procedures that threaten a competing Horse's welfare or the safety of other Horses and/or Athletes must not be allowed.

e) Pregnant/recently foaled mares

Mares ~~must may~~ not compete when more than four months pregnant after their fourth month of pregnancy or with foal at foot.

f) Misuse of aids

Abuse of a Horse using natural riding aids or artificial aids (e.g. whips, spurs, etc.) will not be tolerated.

**3. Events must not prejudice Horse welfare:**

a) Competition areas

Horses must be trained and compete on suitable and safe surfaces. All obstacles and ~~Competition~~ conditions must be designed with the safety of the Horse in mind.

b) Ground surfaces

All ground surfaces on which Horses walk, train or compete must be designed and maintained to reduce factors that could lead to injury.

c) Extreme weather

Competitions must not take place in extreme weather conditions that may compromise Horse welfare or safety ~~of the Horse~~. Provision must be made for cooling conditions and cooling equipment for Horses after competing.

d) Stabling at Events

Stables must be safe, hygienic, comfortable, well ventilated and of sufficient size for the type and disposition of the Horse. Washing-down areas and water must always be available.

**4. Humane treatment of Horses:**

a) Veterinary treatment

Veterinary expertise must always be available at an Event. If a Horse is injured or exhausted during a Competition, the Athlete must stop competing and a ~~Veterinary~~ evaluation must be performed.

b) Referral centres

Wherever necessary, Horses should be collected by ambulance and transported to the nearest relevant treatment centre for further assessment and therapy. Injured Horses must be given full supportive treatment before being transported.

c) Competition injuries

The incidence of injuries sustained in Competition ~~should~~ must be monitored in accordance with the relevant discipline's requirements. Ground surface conditions, frequency of Competitions and any other risk factors should be examined carefully to indicate ways to minimise injuries.

d) Euthanasia

If injuries are sufficiently severe a Horse may need to be euthanized on humane grounds by a ~~Veterinarian~~ as soon as possible, with the sole aim of minimising suffering.

e) Retirement

Horses must be treated sympathetically and humanely when they retire from Competition.

5. **Education:**

The FEI urges all those involved in equestrian sport to attain the highest possible levels of education in areas of expertise relevant to the care and management of the Competition Horse.

This Code of Conduct for the Welfare of the Horse may be modified from time to time and the views of all are welcomed. Particular attention will be paid to new research findings. ~~and the~~ FEI encourages further funding and support for welfare studies.