



WELFARE OF THE HORSE

The following Code of Conduct was elaborated by the FEI for all people involved in the welfare of competing horses. The purpose is to ensure the health and welfare of horses participating under FEI Rules and Regulations and protecting the good image of the equestrian sport. To achieve the widest possible publicity it must be included in the **Schedules** and it is recommended that it also be included in the **Programmes** of all major international events.

CODE OF CONDUCT **FOR THE WELFARE OF THE HORSE**

The Fédération Equestre Internationale (FEI) expects all those involved in international equestrian sport to adhere to the FEI's Code of Conduct and to acknowledge and accept that at all times the welfare of the horse must be paramount and must never be subordinated to competitive or commercial influences.

1. *At all stages during the preparation and training of competition horses, welfare must take precedence over all other demands. This includes good horse management, training methods, farriery and tack, and transportation.*
2. *Horses and athletes must be fit, competent and in good health before they are allowed to compete. This encompasses medication use, surgical procedures that threaten welfare or safety, pregnancy in mares and the misuse of aids.*
3. *Events must not prejudice horse welfare. This involves paying careful attention to the competition areas, ground surfaces, weather conditions, stabling, site safety and fitness of the horse for onward travel after the event.*
4. *Every effort must be made to ensure that horses receive proper attention after they have competed and that they are treated humanely when their competition careers are over. This covers proper veterinary care, competition injuries, euthanasia and retirement.*
5. *The FEI urges all involved with the sport to attain the highest levels of education in their areas of expertise.*

1. EVENTING MINIMUM ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS OF ATHLETES & HORSES (Art. 506) – Please include relevant part for level and category of event

Each NF must certify the minimum eligibility requirements of each horse and athlete and list the competitions which enabled horse and athlete to qualify, according to the qualification procedure established for each star level as laid out in Art. 506. Relevant level and criteria must be included in the schedule.

1.1. Principles

In order to compete at an international event, an athlete and horse must have obtained the minimum eligibility requirements at a number of events at a lower level.

The requirements are laid out below. With the approval of the FEI and their own NF, OCs may impose additional qualifications for horses and/or athletes, which must be published in the schedule.

1.2. Minimum eligibility requirements

The minimum eligibility requirements are achieved by completing a competition within minimum parameters of all round performance. As follows:

- Dressage Test: not more than 75 penalty points;
- Cross-Country Test:
 - From 2009 onwards, the results at obstacles at International events need to include, where applicable, a clear round (0 penalties) at obstacles for CICs events and maximum 20 penalties at a CCI.
 - Not more than 90 seconds exceeding the optimum time in the Cross. At 4* events, the maximum time by which the optimum time may be exceeded is 120 seconds; and
- Jumping Test: not more than 16 penalties at obstacles.

1.3. Certification of Qualification for Events

1.3.1. All NFs, including the host nation, are responsible to certify that athletes and horses entered by them in international events are correctly qualified in accordance with all the requirements of the Rules.

1.3.2. All qualifying events must be identified, and any national events must be certified as of at least the equivalent standard of difficulty as the relevant international star level of competition.

1.3.3. The Technical Delegate or his nominee shall check that all horses and athletes starting at all International events are properly certified as qualified by their NF or duly exempted in accordance with this article.

1.4. Qualifying Period and Deadline

1.4.1 Minimum eligibility requirements for CIOs, CCIs and CICs must be obtained in the calendar year in question or the 2 preceding calendar years.

1.4.2 The Minimum Eligibility Requirement at a CCI must be obtained at least 24 days before the Cross Country test of the event for which it is needed; a Minimum Eligibility Requirement at a CIC must be obtained at least 10 days before the event for which it is needed.

1.4.3 Minimum eligibility requirements may be achieved as a combination or separately by athlete and horse.

1.4.4 Where a Minimum Eligibility Requirement at a CIC is specified, one Minimum Eligibility Requirement at a CCI of the same level is equally acceptable.

1.5. Required minimum Eligibility Requirements (MER) for CCIO/CCI/CIC/CICO

	CCI / CCIO	CIC / CICO
1 *	Horses and Athletes must be certified as competent to take part by their NF	Horses and Athletes must be certified as competent to take part by their NF
2 *	Minimum 2 MER required: 1x CCI 1* or 1x CIC 2* <u>plus</u> 1x CIC 2* or 2x CNC 2*	Minimum 1 MER required: 1x CIC 1* or 1x CNC 2*
3 *	Minimum 3 MER required: 1x CCI 2* <u>plus</u> 1x CIC 3*	Minimum 2 MER required: 1x CIC 2*

	<u>plus</u> 1x CIC 3* or CNC 3*	<u>plus</u> 2x CIC 2* or 1x CNC 3*
4 *	Minimum 3 MER required: 1x CCI 3* <u>plus</u> 1x CIC 3* <u>plus</u> 1x CIC 3* or 2x CNC 3*	Not applicable

In order to move up a level, and **as of 15 April 2009**, all CICs results of the international qualifying results must be clear on the Cross Country (no XC obstacles penalties).

1.6 EVENTING CHAMPIONSHIPS (CH) – Minimum eligibility requirements: see Art. 506.7

2. OFFICIALS (for reference only – please appoint accordingly)

Judges, Technical Delegates and Course Designers for all international events will be appointed in accordance with the table below (Art. 550).

CCI	4 Star	3 Star	2 Star	1 Star
Ground Jury	3 Judges		Option of 2 or 3 Members	
	All GJ Members must be chosen from FEI lists		1 GJ member must be chosen from FEI lists	Can be national Judges if TD on FEI lists
	Three "I" or "O" Judges compulsory	One "I" or "O" Judge compulsory		Either a Member of the GJ or TD to be chosen from FEI lists
	Jumping Judge compulsory		n/a	
	Foreign Member of GJ compulsory		Foreign Official compulsory	
Technical Delegate				Either Member of the GJ or TD to be chosen from FEI lists
	TD must be chosen from FEI "I" lists		CD & TD to be chosen from FEI lists	TD may be national if a Member of GJ from FEI lists
Course Designer	CD must be chosen from FEI "I" list		CD & TD to be chosen from FEI lists	CD may be national
Jumping Course Designer	"I" Jumping Course Designer	National Jumping Course Designer	Nationally recognised Jumping Course Designer recommended	
Veterinarians	1 Vet Delegate & 1 Associate Vet selected from FEI list of Eventing Veterinarians			
Appeal Committee	Full Appeal Committee (a President and at least 2 Members) or 1 Member or Ground Jury			
Chief Steward	Selected from FEI Eventing Stewards List		Can be national Steward	

CIC	1 Star
Ground Jury	2 or 3 Members
	Either Member of the GJ or TD to be chosen from FEI lists
	Can be national Judges if TD on FEI lists

	n/a
Technical Delegate	Either Member of the GJ or TD to be chosen from FEI lists TD may be national if a Member of GJ from FEI lists
Course Designer	Can be National CD
Jumping Course Designer	Nationally recognised Jumping CD recommended
(Exceptional Case) AUS & NZL only for cost reasons	n/a
Veterinarians	1 Vet Delegate from FEI Eventing Veterinarians list and a holding box Vet
Chief Steward	Qualified National steward

3. VETERINARY ASPECTS / ISSUES

3.3 SAMPLING PROCEDURE FOR PROHIBITED SUBSTANCES (Vet. Regs, Ch. V & VI and Annex IV)

Regular sampling is carried out in CCIs 4/3*, CCIOs, World Cup™ Qualifiers and Finals, Championships and Games, whereas at other CCIs/CICs sampling is recommended. When testing takes place, the number of horses tested is at the discretion of the Testing Veterinarian/Veterinary Delegate; however, a minimum of three is recommended (Vet. Regs. Art. 1016).

Special guidelines are applicable for events covered by the FEI Medication Control Programme (Groups I & II only).

3.4 MEDICATION CONTROL PROGRAMME (GROUP I & II ONLY)

The Organising Committees of FEI events within Groups I & II are advised to charge competitors the equivalent of CHF 12.50 per horse per event as a contribution towards the costs of the MCP programme.

NEW 3.5 GROUPS I & II ONLY - MCP CENTRAL LABORATORY UPDATE 1st SEPTEMBER 2009

Under the Medication Control Programme (MCP) in **Groups I and II**, all samples collected in accordance with Vet. Regs. Art. 1016 will be analysed by the **Horseracing Forensic Laboratories (H.F.L) Sport Science, Quotient Bioresearch Limited Newmarket Road Fordham, Cambridgeshire CB7 5WW**. For events other than those listed in Vet. Regs. Art. 1016 or for events other than in Groups I and II, samples may be analysed at an alternative FEI listed laboratory (Vet. Regs. Art. 1021).

4. MISCELLANEOUS

4.1. **OBJECTIONS/COMPLAINTS (Art. 166)**

All complaints to be valid must be made in writing and accompanied by a deposit of CHF 150 or equivalent.

4.2. **DEDUCTIONS FROM PRIZE MONEY**

Full details of any deductions from prize money must be outlined in the schedule. This includes government taxes. If it is necessary for OCs to deduct such taxes, they must provide participants with an official form indicating the amount of tax deducted.

4.3 **EVENTING MEDICAL CARD (Annex 7 "Rules for Eventing")**

OCs must draw the attention of all competitors that they must carry readily accessible on themselves a medical card for the Cross-Country Test. Armbands must be checked by the OC upon arrival to the

competition by the athletes and checked by the Official Doctor and the Technical Delegate for accurate information.

4.4. INSURANCES

Details pertaining to insurance of competitors, horses, etc

Responsibility of OC for damages, fire, theft, etc

The following is to be published **in verbatim** in all schedules:

"All owners and competitors are personally responsible for damages to third parties caused by themselves, their employees, their agents or their horses. They are therefore strongly advised to take out a third-party insurance providing full coverage for participation in equestrian events at home and abroad and to keep the policy up to date".

4.5 EVENT'S ORGANISATION (Art. 114 & 115)

The OC reserves the right to modify the schedule in order to clarify any matters or matters arising from an omission or due to unforeseen circumstances. All modifications made to the schedule must have the approval of the FEI Secretary General.

4.6 ENTRY RIGHT TO SHOWGROUNDS

OC to include details concerning right of entry to show-grounds of owners, grooms, athletes, other persons.

4.7 STABLE

Security and stewarding at International events, see Annex II of this Check List.

STABLE SECURITY/STEWARDING AT INTERNATIONAL EVENTS Minimum requirements to ensure implementation of Veterinary Regulations, Art.1005.2

1. ACCESS TO STABLE AREA

For an optimal stable security, the stables must be completely enclosed within a suitably restrictive perimeter (stable area) which will act both as a deterrent to the admission of unauthorised persons and to the exit of horses. The area must be sufficiently large to allow horses to be evacuated from the stables in an emergency but still remain within the confines of the perimeter. However, several disciplines allow in specific situations a lower level of stable security (see discipline rules).

Whenever possible the stable area must include only stables; lorries, caravans, etc., should not be permitted within the area unless specifically needed as accommodation for horses and/or grooms.

Access to stables must be limited to those persons indicated in VRs Art. 1005.2.5.2. It is essential that the official issuing authorised access be a responsible person of seniority within the OC.

2. CONTROL OF ACCESS

A control system must operate at all entrance gates so that there is an efficient and reliable method of identifying those who enter and leave the stable area at any time.

Extra vigilance must be used in establishing the identity of persons and reasons for entering the stables during the night.

3. STEWARDING OF STABLE AREA

At least one stable steward, directly responsible to the Chief Steward, must be present or readily available in the vicinity of the stable area 24 hours a day during the entire duration of the event. He may be assisted by deputies as required. The steward/deputies must regularly patrol the stable area, without establishing any predetermined pattern, to discourage any form of illegal practices or abuses to horses. Any misdemeanours must be reported immediately to the stable steward who must, in turn, report to the Chief Steward.

The duty of the stewards is therefore to safeguard the welfare of the horses and to prevent any form of

illegal practices.

4. GROOMS

It is appreciated that grooms wish to remain with their horses during the night. Only grooms duly registered with the OC are permitted to do so.

The Person Responsible must ensure that his/her grooms, or any other authorised persons with access to his/her horses, are familiar with the security and stewarding procedures operating at the event attended.

5. MOVEMENT THROUGHOUT EVENT GROUNDS

Movement of horses between the stables, practice, grazing and main arena must be strictly controlled. The optimum layout for Jumping and Dressage disciplines is attached. It is appreciated that flexibility will be required depending on the requirements of other disciplines.

6. STEWARDING OF PRACTICE ARENA

The Chief Steward must ensure that all practice arenas are adequately stewarded all the time that they are officially open. He must also ensure that these arenas are subject to random control when they are officially closed.

7. GRAZING AREA

It is recommended that a grazing area be provided at all outdoor events, and that this be subject to random control. If available, horses must only be grazed or walked in hand within this area.

The Foreign Judge/TD at events will be specifically asked to check that the relevant requirements are met as reasonably as can be expected, depending on the discipline, and to indicate clearly any shortfalls, following which consideration may be given to altering the category of the event in future.