

## **Rules for Endurance Events, Effective 2009.**

### **Preamble**

*The present Rules for Endurance Riding are the 7th edition, effective 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2009. As from the aforementioned date, all other texts covering the same matter (other editions and all other official documents) issued previously are superseded.*

*Although this booklet sets out the detailed Rules of the FEI governing International Endurance Rides, it must be read in conjunction with the Statutes, the General Regulations and the Veterinary Regulations.*

*Every eventuality cannot be provided for in these Rules. As a result, this edition of the Rules is designed for flexibility to adapt to a developing discipline by referring in appropriate circumstances to **Annex** information for suggestions and recommendations on how to safely manage this discipline and its events. Additionally, in any unforeseen or exceptional circumstances, it is the duty of the Ground Jury and the Veterinarians to make a decision in a sporting spirit and approaching as nearly as possible to the intention of these Rules and of the General Regulations of the FEI.*

### THE FEI 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 competitors 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.

A full copy of this Code can be obtained from the Fédération Equestre Internationale, Avenue Mon-Repos 24, CH-1000, Lausanne 5, Switzerland. Telephone: +41 21 310 47 47. The Code is available in English & French. The Code is also available on the FEI's website: [www.horsesport.org](http://www.horsesport.org).

## **Chapter I      The Competition**

### **Article 800 - General**

*800.1* Endurance Riding is a test of the competitor's ability to safely manage the stamina and fitness of the horse over an endurance course in a speed competition against the track, the distance, the climate, the terrain and the clock. Therefore, the most important responsibility of the Technical Delegate, the Ground Jury, the Stewards, the Veterinary Commission, the Chef D'Equipe, the Team Veterinarian, the Grooms and ultimately the rider is to ensure the health and welfare of the horse by diligent application of their skill together with a caring, knowledgeable attitude by the rider. To be successful, the competitor must have knowledge of pace and efficient and safe use of the horse across country. In an Endurance Ride any member of the Genus Equus counts as a "horse".

*800.2* The competition consists of a number of phases.

*800.2.1* No phase may exceed 40 km in length.

*800.2.2* At the end of each phase, there will be a compulsory halt for veterinary inspection. The Foreign Veterinary Delegate (FVD) and the President of the Veterinary Commission (PVC) should be consulted on the distance of each phase and the hold times in each Vet Gates.

*800.2.3* In a 160 km ride there must be at least five Vet Gates plus the final inspection. (6 phases) (There may be a possibility to reduce this to 5 phases subject to the recommendation of the Technical Delegate (TD))

*800.2.4* Phases may be spread over one or more days.

*800.2.5* Each phase of an Endurance competition must be separated by a compulsory rest period, or hold time.

*800.2.6* Each day of an Endurance competition must be divided into at least two phases, separated by a veterinary inspection and a compulsory rest period, or hold time.

*800.2.7* In every Endurance competition, there shall be at least one hold no shorter than 40 minutes.

*800.2.8* In 3-Star events or higher, total hold time for the event must at least meet a ratio of 1 minute per 1 km, ie: for 160km, a minimum hold time total of 160 minutes.

*800.2.9* The maximum scheduled hold time for a single hold in a one-day event shall be 60 minutes, and in 3-Star or above events there shall be at least one hold of at least 50 minutes.

*800.2.10* Also, hold times in vet gates requiring compulsory re exams must be a minimum of 40 minutes, and for compulsory re exams horses must be allowed to present up to 15 minutes prior to their departure time.

*800.3* Whatever the order and rules for starting, each competitor must carry out the whole competition as if he/she were alone and competing against the clock.

*800.4* An Endurance Ride is a competition against the clock. The combination that finishes the course in the shortest time will be classified as the winner of the competition after successfully completing all final Veterinary Examination(s) and medication control as well as other protocols in place for the safety of the horse and rider under these Rules, the FEI General Regulations or the FEI Veterinary Regulations. Competitions shall be organised to allow competitors to establish their own pace to compete against the clock, subject to:

*800.4.1* Due to the conditions of the course or other considerations which might adversely affect the opportunity to safely complete a course, the Organising Committee (OC) in consultation with the Technical Delegate (TD) may establish a maximum time for a section of the course or a phase of competition and/or the closing times for one or more Vet Gates, in order to ensure competitors are not falling too far behind the actual pace of the ride in order to ensure horse safety.

*800.4.2* Conversely, due to circumstances related to trail safety, the OC in consultation with the TD may establish portions of a course where controlled gaits of the horse and/or maximum speed apply. However, this will depend on the given circumstances of a specific course as well as time of day and generally should not exceed 5 km at any one time or 5% of the course. Generally, there should not be more than one section under controlled speed and/or set pace per phase of the course, and never in the final phase.

## **Article 801 - The Course**

- 801.1 The Technical Delegate (TD) shall consult with the Organising Committee (OC) to assist in creating a technically challenging course across country within the limits provided by the terrain. They should attempt to implement technically challenging factors including, but not limited to: changes in footing, changes in terrain, changes in altitude, changes in direction.
- 801.2 The type of terrain and altitude differentials must be clearly indicated in the schedule of the competition.
- 801.3 In principle, the course should not contain more than 10% of hard surface roads intended for vehicular use.
- 801.4 In general, the more demanding part of the course should be earlier in the ride.
- 801.5 The distance of the phases shall be determined by the OC and should be published in the schedule.
- 801.6 Technical challenges within the course may include naturally occurring obstacles such as ditches, steep climbs or descents, or water crossings, but may not be something specially constructed to add additional technical challenge to the course.
- 801.7 As far as possible those technical challenges must be left in their natural state. If necessary, they should be reinforced so that they remain in the same state throughout the competition.
- 801.8 The finish must be long and wide enough to enable several horses to finish at speed without interfering with each other, and must provide sufficient run-out to allow competitors to safely come to a stop after crossing the finishing line in any potential sprint or gallop.

## **Article 802 - Marking of the Course**

- 802.1. *General Requirement:* The marking of the course must be done in such a manner that there is no doubt on how to proceed along the course. The markings can be flags, ribbons, indicators, lime, paint etc.
- 802.2. *Order of Course:* The competitor must complete the entire course in the direction as marked on the map referred to in Art. 802.6.
- 802.3. *Errors on Course:* Any error of course must be corrected from the place where the error has started under penalty of elimination. Alternatively, if correcting a course error is not feasible and/or in the best interest of the horse, the Ground Jury may determine an alternative which will require the competitor to complete an equivalent distance over the same distance and same type of terrain, such distance to be made up within a single phase thereby ensuring the competitor still passes through each Vet Gate in the correct order and within the time limits in force. In such cases the competitor will receive a completion classification only. The competitor may earn a Certificate of Capability or meet other Qualification Criteria with such a performance, but may not be considered for the Best Condition award or for contribution to team scoring or individual classification for placing.
- 802.4. *Boundary Flags:* Boundary flags or other acceptable indicators must be used to mark defined sections of the entire course, and to mark the start and finish lines. Such flags or indicators, etc. must be respected wherever they may occur in the course under penalty of disqualification. . Whenever a short cut is possible on the course the Organising Committee must place a steward to control that the obligatory passage is respected.

- 802.5. *Trail Markers:* Direction flags or signs are intended to show the general direction and path to be taken to help competitors to find their way. They should be placed so that competitors can recognise them without loss of time. A distance marker should be placed every 10 km.
- 802.6. *Plan of the Course:* Each competitor will be given in advance access to a map or plan showing the track of the course and the location of any compulsory halts or obligatory obstacles. In Championships or 4-Star events, OCs must also provide copies of such maps or plans to each competitor.
- 802.7. *Start and Finish:* The start and finish of each phase must be clearly and distinctly marked with the appropriate signs.

### **Article 803 - Course**

- 803.1. *Map* A map in a scale of at least 1:50'000 should be available to competitors when the course is finalised, preferably at the ride briefing and certainly before the start of the ride.
- 803.2. *Completion of Course Design:* The course of an Endurance competition will be officially established at least 7 days before the competition begins.

### **Article 804 - Modification to the Course and Rescheduling/Delay or Abandonment of Events**

- 804.1 *Course Modification:* After the course has been officially established, no alteration shall be made without the approval of the Technical Delegate (TD) and the Ground Jury (GJ).
- 804.2 *Rescheduling/Delay of Event:* In exceptional circumstances, as set out generally in Art. 804.2.4, an event may be rescheduled or delayed in start by:
- 804.2.1. *Advance of Event (Up to an hour before First Veterinary Inspection):* Decision of the Technical Delegate in consultation with a representative of the OC, the FVD, the PVC and the PGJ.
- 804.2.2. *Upon Commencement of the Event:* Decision of the President of the Ground Jury in consultation with the GJ, a representative of the OC, the FVD, the PVC, and the TD.
- 804.2.3. *OC Responsibility:* Organizing Committees are encouraged in all event planning to anticipate the possibility of the need to either delay the start of an event by up to 30 hours and/or to reschedule completely. In CEIO, 4-Star and Championship events, the OC should include reference to such potential in its Schedule.
- 804.2.4. *Exceptional Circumstances:* Such Exceptional Circumstances are those which arise on short notice and can be reasonably foreseen to produce unreasonable and unfair risks to riders and/or horses during the conduct of the event. Examples and advice for determining such shall be provided in the Endurance **Annex** to these Rules, **Annex**.
- 804.3. *Abandonment of Event:* When catastrophic occurrences or circumstances arise at or during an event, as set out in Art. 805.3.4, an event may be abandoned whereby:
- 804.3.1. *Advance of Event (Up to an hour before First Veterinary Inspection):* Decision of the Technical Delegate in consultation with a representative of the OC, the FVD, the PVC and the PGJ.
- 804.3.2. *Upon Commencement of the Event:* Decision of the President of the Ground Jury in consultation with the GJ, a representative of the OC, the FVD, the PVC, and the TD.
- 804.3.3. *OC Responsibility:* Organizing Committees are encouraged in all event planning to anticipate the possibility of the need to abandon an event and evacuate the venue.
- 804.3.4. *Catastrophic Occurrences or Circumstances:* Those which arise on short notice and are determined to dangerously risk rider and/or horse safety, and which cannot be avoided through Course Modification, Rescheduling or Delay of the Event. Examples and advice for determining such shall be provided in the Endurance Annex to these Rules, **Annex**.
- 804.4. *Nature of Endurance:* In all cases it should be remembered that this discipline anticipates competition over and in challenging terrain, weather and circumstances as a test of endurance, and so delay, rescheduling and abandonment should be used only as extraordinary remedies.

804.5 *Notifications:* In any case noted above, the riders and/or the Chefs d'Equipe should be officially and personally informed as soon as practicable of the decision, certainly before the start or before the phase concerned.

#### **Article 805 - Method of Starting**

805.1. Horses must not cross the starting line before the signal is given.

805.2. If a competitor makes a start which is in any way false, under penalty of disqualification the competitor must return and re-cross the start line. However, their starting time will be recorded as if they had started when originally given the signal.

805.3. The starting time of any competitor who does not present himself/herself on time for start is recorded as if they had started on time. No competitor may start later than 15 minutes after their starting time under penalty of disqualification.

805.4. A mass start may not be used in following day(s) in multi-day events. In the event of an interval or staggered start, the interval between the start times of competitors will be at the discretion of the President of the Ground Jury, the Technical Delegate in consultation with the Organising Committee.

#### **Article 806 – Time and Record Keeping**

806.1. As timing plays such an important part in the competition, OCs must ensure that each competitor's start and finish time for each timed phase is accurately noted and recorded by properly qualified persons using synchronised time-keeping methods. Recommendations for methodologies are set out in **Annex**, herein.

806.2. Each competitor will be issued a time card or acceptable and reliable alternative for each event, as outlined in **Annex**, herein.

806.3. OCs must arrange for alternative power sources and back-up record-keeping for timing and all recorded information when electronic systems are the primary methodologies. Time keeping systems with Stewards to monitor and/or timekeepers are required at the start and finish of each timed phase to record the times of each competitor.

806.4. Time is counted from the instant the signal is given to start until the instant when a competitor crosses the finish line.

806.5. The veterinary gate system at compulsory halts must be used. The veterinary gate system is set out in **Annex**.

806.6. At vet gates, the timing of the competitors must be performed in such a manner to avoid any delay to a competitor's timing caused by the arrival of several horses simultaneously for examination.

#### **Article 807 – Competition & Fair Play**

807.1. A rider may lead or follow their horse on course, but must be mounted to pass the start of any day under penalty of disqualification.

807.2. A competitor who does not respect any given time limits will be penalised by disqualification.

807.3. On the course, no other person may lead or ride the horse once the competitor has started under penalty of disqualification.

- 807.4. Wilful obstruction of an overtaking competitor by a slower competitor is penalised by disqualification. This is not to prevent competition between riders on course for placing, but is intended to apply in situations where the slower competitor is being lapped or passed due to travelling at a significantly slower pace or because of other problems of refusal or equipment issues.
- 807.5. A competitor eliminated or disqualified for any reason must leave the course at once and has no right to continue unless there is no viable alternative and only after being approved by a member of the GJ or, if not available, a Steward.
- 807.6. *Permitted Assistance During Event or On Course:*
- 807.6.1. The Event Schedule shall specify what assistance shall be allowed both within vet gates and on course during an event.
- 807.6.2. Competitors should have access to water on course at least every 10 kms.
- 807.6.3. In any case including while on course, for example after a fall or if the competitor is separated from their horse, or in the case of loose or lost horseshoes, a competitor may be assisted.
- 807.6.4. Other Permitted Assistance anticipated to be allowed is listed in **Annex**, but the Event Schedule shall be determinative for each event.
- 807.7. *Forbidden Assistance:* Please see **Annex** for an itemisation of examples of Forbidden Assistance. However, in general terms the following types of activities are forbidden, subjecting offending riders to possibility of yellow or red card violation, time penalties or disqualification at the discretion of the GJ, including but not limited to:
- 807.7.1. To be followed, preceded or accompanied on any part of the course by any bicycle, pedestrian or a rider not in the competition.
- 807.7.2. To be provided aid on any part of the course not specifically designated for such aid.
- 807.7.3. To accept aid on any part of the course by someone not authorised to provide it.
- 807.7.4. To be followed, preceded or accompanied on the course by an unauthorised vehicle.
- 807.7.5. To have a third party encourage a horse to trot in a vet gate.
- 807.7.6. To allow someone on course to encourage the horses by any means whatsoever.
- 807.7.7. To cut wire fences, or to alter a part of an enclosure on or within the course so as to clear a way or to cut down trees or eliminate challenges or alter technical aspects of the course.
- 807.7.8. To accept any intervention by a third party, whether solicited or not, with the object of giving advantage to the competitor or their horse.

## **Article 808 - Schedule of the Competition**

- 808.1. In the schedule which is published by the Organising Committee of any CEI event, there is no necessity to repeat the General Regulations or the Rules contained in this booklet. It is sufficient to give the category of the competition, the distances, the speeds, time limit and the possible time limit for each phase, method of classification, rules for starting, method used for marking the course, procedures at compulsory halts, outline of the course and of possible obstacles.
- 808.2. For additional specifics related to Endurance schedules, please refer to **Annex**.
- 808.3. In addition to the conditions of the competition (closing date for entries, place and time of start, number and length of compulsory halts, entry fees and prizes), it will be usual to include such administrative arrangements as transport facilities, accommodation for competitors and grooms, stabling, forage etc.

## **808.4. Article 809 – Dress Code**

- 809.1. Protective headgear, of a recognised equestrian/endurance standard and adequately secured, is compulsory for all persons at all Endurance events whilst mounted.
- 809.2. Safe riding footwear with heels of 12 mm or more, or cages/boxes on stirrups are required to compete in a CEI event.

809.3. Dress, that is appropriate and not detrimental to the image of Endurance Riding, is expected and required at all CEIs. At all 3\* CEI competitions it is compulsory to wear the following dress:

809.3.1. For pre-ride events and Opening Ceremonies, please refer to [Annex](#)

809.3.2. During the actual competition, please refer to [Annex](#).

809.3.3. At post-ride events and Awards/Prize-giving Ceremonies, please refer to [Annex](#).

809.3.4. For grooms, crew and all team officials, please refer to [Annex](#).

809.3.5. For FEI Officials please refer to [Annex](#).

#### **Article 810 - Saddlery and Equipment**

810.1. In principle, there is no restriction on saddlery, but saddlery must be in safe condition and should fit the horse. See [Annex](#).

810.2. Specific safety equipment, such as reflective gear or otherwise, may be required as indicated in the schedule of the competition.

810.3. Whips (or the use of any other item as a whip) and Spurs are prohibited.

#### **Article 811 – Cruelty**

811.1. 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.

811.2. Reports of such actions must be accompanied whenever possible by the signatures and addresses of witnesses of the actions. The reports must be given to the Ground Jury or the Secretary of the Organising Committee as soon as possible.

#### **Article 812 - Weights**

812.1. At all senior CEI events, the minimum riding weight for riders should be 70kg.

812.2. However alternative weight divisions or gender divisions may be allowed, subject to prior approval by the FEI, and must be clearly specified in the FEI schedule

812.3. There shall be no minimum weight in Young Rider and/or Junior competitions.

812.4. When a minimum weight is required, weight control must be carried out before the start and, where applicable, after the finish and may take place at random during the event.

812.5. Riders must be weighed out and, where necessary, be weighed with all riding equipment (excluding bridle). Such weighed out riding equipment must then be carried by the rider at all times throughout the competition under penalty of disqualification. It is the rider's responsibility to weigh in immediately after crossing the finish line if requested to do so by an FEI Official.

812.6. Riders are allowed to lose a maximum of 2 kilos from their body weight during the ride,

812.7. Organisers must provide a reliable weighing machine.

#### **Article 813 - Classification**

813.1. *Individuals*: In an endurance competition, the winner is the combination with the shortest elapsed riding time who successfully passes or complies with all protocols and requirements, including but not limited to the final veterinary examination. The schedule of the competition must clearly define the method of classification.

- 813.2. *Teams*: The winning team is the team with the best time after adding the final classification of the three highest placed competitors in the team. In the case of a tie, the winning team will be the one whose third competitor has the best time. In the event there are fewer than 3 members of a team who are classified, such teams are not eligible for team placing.
- 813.3. *Dead Heat*: When two or more competitors, who started together, have the same total elapsed riding time, they are classified according to their respective passage across the finish line.
- 813.4. *Disqualification, Withdrawal or Elimination*:
- 813.4.1. *Disqualification*: Occurs when a competitor is penalized by the GJ and removed from further competition for a violation of these Rules, the FEI General Regulations, the FEI Veterinary Regulations, or the Schedule.
- 813.4.2. *Elimination*: Results when a competitor is removed from competition for failure to successfully pass a veterinary examination, to complete the full course as required, or to meet all time requirements for presentation or completion.
- 813.4.3. *Retirement*: Results when a competitor voluntarily withdraws from competition, but may only be considered voluntary and a Retirement when: the competitor has correctly finished all phases to that point; the competitor has completed its most recent phase by passing all required veterinary exams following that phase, including compulsory re examination or veterinary requested re-examination; and, Art. 813, herein, has not otherwise provided for removal from competition.
- 813.5. All horses removed from competition, voluntarily or otherwise and at any point within the event, must be presented for veterinary inspection within 30 minutes of removal. If removal occurs on course the horse must be inspected by a member of the veterinarian panel as soon as it is returned to the ride base and the horse's veterinary records updated accordingly.

## **Chapter II    Officials for Endurance Events**

### **Article 814 - Duties of Officials**

#### **814.1.    Ground Jury**

- 814.1.1.    The Ground Jury will supervise all arrangements made by the Organising Committee for the judging, veterinary control and timekeeping of the Endurance competition.
- 814.1.2.    The Organising Committee shall enlist the assistance of other officials, stewards and veterinarians, according to the number of entries, but the Ground Jury will remain in overall control of the competition.

#### **814.2.    Technical Delegate**

- 814.2.1.    The Technical Delegate must, in coordination with the Organising Committee check and approve, and participate in course design where necessary, in advance the layout of the course. The Technical Delegate must approve the technical and administrative arrangements for the conduct of the event: for the examinations and inspections of horses; for the accommodation of horses and riders and for the stewarding of the event.
- 814.2.2.    The Technical Delegate will supervise the briefing(s) and the conduct of all technical personnel.
- 814.2.3.    The Technical Delegate will investigate all and report to and advise the Ground Jury on any decisions they are required to make.
- 814.2.4.    Until the Technical Delegate has reported to the Ground Jury that he is satisfied with all the arrangements, the authority of the Technical Delegate shall be absolute. Thereafter the Technical Delegate will continue to supervise the technical and administrative conduct of the event and will advise and assist the Ground Jury, the Veterinary Commission and the Organising Committee.

814.2.5. At 3 Star or lower star rated events, the Technical Delegate, if suitably qualified, may also serve on the Ground Jury.

814.2.6. At 4 Star events, the Technical Delegate must be foreign.

### **814.3. Veterinary Commission**

814.3.1. The Veterinary Commission has absolute control on all matters concerning horses' safety, health and welfare. The FEI Veterinary Regulations apply to all FEI-sanctioned Endurance rides.

814.3.2. The President of the Veterinary Commission and the Foreign Veterinary Delegate should be consulted by the OC and the TD as early as practicable regarding planning for vet gates and other horse safety issues at the event.

### **814.4. Chief Steward**

814.4.1. The Chief Steward is responsible for the organisation of stewarding throughout the event.

814.4.2. The Chief Steward must ensure that stable security is adequate for the level of event and that sufficient stewards are available at each Vet Gate.

814.4.3. The Chief Steward assists the Organising Committee, Ground Jury and Technical Delegate to ensure the smooth running of all defined functions during a competition such as opening and closing ceremonies or any required organised function within the competition.

814.4.4. The Chief Steward is responsible for the overall security and welfare of participants at the event.

814.4.5. The Chief Steward must liaise closely with the President of the Ground Jury, the Technical Delegate and the President of the Veterinary Commission, and should be consulted by the OC and the TD as early as practicable regarding planning for the event.

**814.5. Appeal Committee:** The duties of the Appeal Committee are as laid down in the General Regulations (See, Art. 164, 170-174) and in the Veterinary Regulations (See, Art. 1011 and 1019).

## **Article 815 - Officials required for International Endurance Events**

### **815.1. World Championships**

815.1.1. The Ground Jury must consist of a President and at least four members chosen from the FEI list of Endurance Judges, one of which must be foreign, appointed by the FEI in consultation with the FEI Endurance Committee and in consultation with the OC. All members must comply and meet the requirements of the then-current \*Rating requirements for Endurance Judges.

815.1.2. The Veterinary Commission shall consist of a President, a Foreign Veterinary Delegate and one additional veterinarian per 15 horses, with the minimum number of commission members being 5, including the PVC and the FVD. At least half of the members must be foreign, chosen from the FEI list of Endurance veterinarians and appointed by the FEI in consultation with the FEI Endurance Committee and in consultation with the OC. All members must comply and meet the requirements of the then-current \*Rating requirements for Endurance veterinarians.

815.1.3. The Treatment Veterinarians must be approved FEI Treatment Veterinarians appointed by the FEI in consultation with the FEI Endurance Committee and in consultation with the FEI Veterinary Committee. There must be a minimum of 1 Treatment Veterinarian per 20 competing horses. At least 50% of the Treatment Veterinarians must be experienced in CEI competition at the Championship level.

815.1.4. The Foreign Technical Delegate must be chosen from the FEI list of Endurance Technical Delegates and appointed by the FEI in consultation with the FEI Endurance Committee and in consultation with the OC and meet the requirements of the then-current \*Rating requirements for Endurance Technical Delegates.

- 815.1.5. The Chief Steward must be chosen from the FEI list of Endurance Chief Stewards and shall be appointed by the OC.
- 815.1.6. Appeal Committee: The General Regulations, Art. 164, apply, such Appeal Committee being compulsory and appointed by the FEI in consultation with the FEI Endurance Committee and in consultation with the OC.

**815.2. CEIO's, Regional Games and Continental Championships for Seniors, Young Riders and/or Juniors and other CEI 4 Star Endurance Events**

- 815.2.1. The Ground Jury must consist of a President and at least three members chosen from the FEI list of Endurance Judges, one of which must be Foreign, appointed by the FEI in consultation with FEI Endurance Committee and in consultation with the OC. All members must comply and meet the requirements of the then-current \*Rating requirements for Endurance judges.
- 815.2.2. The Veterinary Commission shall consist of a President, a Foreign Veterinary Delegate and one additional veterinarian per 15 horses, with the minimum number of commission members being 5 including the President and the FVD. At least half of the members must be foreign, chosen from the FEI list of Endurance veterinarians and appointed by the FEI Endurance Committee in consultation with the OC. All members must comply and meet the requirements of the then-current \*Rating requirements for Endurance veterinarians.
- 815.2.3. At CEI 4 Star events, the Treatment Veterinarians must be FEI approved veterinarians appointed by the FEI in consultation with the FEI Endurance Committee in consultation with the FEI Veterinary Committee. There must be a minimum of 1 Treatment Veterinarian per 20 competing horses. At least 50% of the Treatment Veterinarians must be experienced in CEI competition at the Championship level.
- 815.2.4. The Foreign Technical Delegate must be chosen from the FEI list of Endurance Technical Delegates (Endurance Judges, Veterinarians) and appointed by the FEI in consultation with the FEI Endurance Committee and in consultation with the OC and meet the requirements of the then-current \*Rating requirements for Endurance Technical Delegates.
- 815.2.5. The Chief Steward must be chosen from the FEI list of Endurance Chief Stewards and shall be appointed by the OC.
- 815.1.7. Appeal Committee: The General Regulations, Art. 164 apply, apply, such Appeal Committee being compulsory and appointed by the FEI in consultation with the FEI Endurance Committee and in consultation with the OC.

**815.3. CEI 3 Star Endurance Events**

- 815.3.1. The Ground Jury must consist of a President and a Foreign Judge chosen from the FEI list of Endurance Judges and appointed by the OC. Other members, if any, may be National Endurance Judges appointed by the OC. All members must comply and meet the requirements of the then-current \*Rating requirements for Endurance judges.
- 815.3.2. The Veterinary Commission must consist of a President and two members from the FEI list of Endurance veterinarians appointed by the OC. One of them must be foreign. All such members must comply and meet the requirements of the then-current \*Rating requirements for Endurance veterinarians All other members must be experienced Endurance veterinarians and appointed by the OC.
- 815.3.3. There must be a minimum of 1 Treatment Veterinarian from the FEI list of approved veterinarians per 30 competing horses.
- 815.3.4. The Technical Delegate must be chosen from the FEI list of Endurance Technical Delegates (Endurance Judges, Veterinarians) and appointed by the OC and meet the requirements of the then-current \*Rating requirements for Endurance Technical Delegates. The Technical Delegate may act as a member of the Ground Jury once the competition begins.
- 815.3.5. The Chief Steward must be chosen from the FEI list of Endurance Chief Stewards and appointed by the OC.
- 815.3.6. An Appeal Committee is not required.

**815.4. CEI 1 & 2 Star Endurance Events**

- 815.4.1. The Ground Jury must consist of a President chosen from the FEI list of Endurance Judges. All other members may be experienced National Judges. All members must comply and meet the requirements of the then-current \*Rating requirements for Endurance judges.
- 815.4.2. The Veterinary Commission must consist of a President and a minimum of 2 members from the FEI list of Endurance veterinarians appointed by the OC. All such members must comply and meet the requirements of the then-current \*Rating requirements for Endurance veterinarians. One of them must be foreign. All other members must be experienced Endurance veterinarians and appointed by the OC.
- 815.4.3. At CEI 1 and 2 Star events there must be a minimum of 1 Treatment Veterinarian per 50 competing horses.
- 815.4.4. The Technical Delegate must be chosen from the FEI list of Endurance Technical Delegates (Endurance Judges, Veterinarians) and appointed by the OC and meet the requirements of the then-current \*Rating requirements for Endurance Technical Delegates .
- 815.4.5. The Chief Steward must be chosen from the FEI list of Endurance Chief Stewards and appointed by the OC.
- 815.4.6. An Appeal Committee is not required.

### **Chapter III Definition of Endurance Events**

#### **Article 816 - Categories of Endurance Rides**

International Endurance Rides are divided into:

- CEI (Concours de Raid d'Endurance International),
- CEIO (Concours de Raid d'Endurance International Officiel).

The International Endurance Rides specified below are governed by the General Regulations and the Veterinary Regulations of the FEI and by the rules herein. They are divided into:

##### **816.1. CEI Events**

- 816.1.1. They must comply with the requirements of the FEI General Regulations and the FEI Rules for Endurance Riding.
- 816.1.2. In these Rides, there must only be an official individual classification.
- 816.1.3. Where there is a team competition, it may not be considered as an Official Team competition and each member of the team will automatically be considered as an individual competitor. The number of teams which can be accepted is at the discretion of the Organising Committee. Teams may consist of three to five competitors, not necessarily of the same nationality.
- 816.1.4. These rides may be held in conjunction with wider national or FEI approved series or programs, with approval of the FEI Technical Committee, which shall reserve the right to require the series or program be run under CEIO or CEI-4 Star requirements, regardless of distances.
- 816.1.5. CEIs are defined in the FEI Calendar. CEIs are divided into four different star levels as follows:
  - 816.1.5.1. **4 Star:** Senior Championships of a minimum of 160 km in one day, Junior and Young Rider Championships of a maximum of 120 km in one day. However for Regional Championships only the OC can apply for a change of distance to take into account local climatic or cultural conditions. Maximum Pulse at Vet Gates: 64 bpm within 20 minutes. FEI Passports are required.
  - 816.1.5.2. **3 Star:** All rides of 140 km – 160 km in one day, or 90-100 km over 2 days, or 70- 80 km over 3 days or more. Maximum Pulse at Vet Gates: 64 bpm within 20 minutes. FEI Passports are required.
  - 816.1.5.3. **2 Star:** All rides between 120 km and 139 km in one day or between 70 km and 89 km over two days. Maximum Pulse at Vet Gates: 64 bpm within 20 minutes.

- 816.1.5.4. **1 Star:** (Low Level Event) All rides between 90 km and 119 km in one day. Maximum Pulse at Vet Gates: 64 bpm within 20 minutes.
- 816.1.5.5. At Final Exams, the Maximum Pulse shall be 64 bpm within 30 minutes.
- 816.1.5.6. To compete in any FEI sanctioned event all riders and horses must be registered with the FEI as per FEI General Regulations.
- 816.1.6. The FEI may create special categories of rides and apply specific CEI Star system requirements for officials and eligibility to participate, regardless of distance for emerging programs in developing nations or regions or for purposes of research into future needs for changes to these Rules, including alteration of weight divisions or special categories or divisions within competitions. In such cases, there will be requests made for ongoing input from NFs and the FEI Veterinary Committee.
- 816.1.7. The FEI will determine, in consultation with the FEI Technical Committee, OC and applicable NFs what Star system requirements to apply to World Cup rides or finals, as well as to national, regional, continental or world series of rides or multiple ride cup programs.
- 816.1.8. The pulse criteria may be reduced during the ride if, in the opinion of the President of the Vet Commission in consultation with the FVD, the President of the Ground Jury and the TD and the OC they believe there is a danger to the safety of the horses.

## **816.2. CEIOs**

- 816.2.1. CEIOs must comply with the requirements laid down in the General Regulations and the Rules for Endurance Riding.
- 816.2.2. At a CEIO, there must be an individual and a team classification. Each nation may enter only one team. A minimum of three teams is necessary for the team competition to be considered as an official team competition. Each team must be composed of a minimum of three and a maximum of five competitors of the same nationality. The three best results will be considered for the final classification. In the event that less than three members of a team are classified, such a team shall not be eligible to be placed as a classified Team, even if it leaves medal or award places vacant.

## **816.3. Regional Games**

Endurance Rides at the Regional Games must comply with the requirements laid down by the various IOC affiliated Regional Games Associations, as well these Rules and the FEI GRs.

## **Article 817 - Eligibility**

817.1. Any person from the year in which he/she reaches his/her 14<sup>th</sup> birthday and who is duly authorised by his/her National Federation is eligible to take part in all Endurance Rides (CEIs, CEIOs and Championships), either as an individual or as a member of a team. .

### **.2. Horses:**

- 817.2.1 Horses must be at least 5 years old to qualify as Novices.
- 817.2.2 For CEIs 1-Star through 2-Star horses must be at least 6 years old to participate.
- 817.2.3 For 3-Stars horses must be at least 7 years old to participate.
- 817.2.4 For 4-Stars, CEIOs and Championships horses must be at least 8 years of age.
- 817.2.5 Mares obviously in advanced pregnancies, meaning over 120 days, or with foal at foot cannot be entered in any CEI or higher event.
- 817.2.6 All ages are determined as of the date of the event for which eligibility to participate is sought, and must be confirmed either through reliable registrations or written veterinary opinion, which may be recorded within Passports. Northern Hemisphere horses are deemed to have their birthday on the 1<sup>st</sup> January and Southern Hemisphere horses on the 1<sup>st</sup> August.

### **.3. Mandatory Rest for Horses:**

- 817.3.1. After competing in a CEI 2\* or above event, a horse must be given a mandatory minimum rest of 20 days before it is again eligible to participate in a CEI 2\* or above event.
- 817.3.2 If a horse is eliminated for metabolic reasons at any CEI event, it must be given a mandatory minimum rest of 30 days before it is again eligible to participate in a CEI event.

817.3.3. If a horse is eliminated for metabolic reasons at any 2 consecutive CEI events or twice within any 3 month period, it must be given a mandatory rest period of 40 days before it is again eligible to participate in a CEI event.

817.3.4. The FEI Technical Committee may decide to create a supplementary schedule for additional rest requirements for horses who suffer consistent metabolic elimination problems over time in consultation with the FEI Veterinary Committee, as per those further rest requirements in **Annex**.

## **Article 818 - Qualification Procedure & Certificates of Capability:**

818.1. *Novice Qualifying:* To be administered by each NF.

818.1.1. Horses and riders must, though not necessarily as a combination:

818.1.1.1. Successfully complete 2 rides of distances of between 40-79 km and 2 rides of between 80-89 km at speeds of 16 kph or under; or alternatively,

818.1.1.2. Successfully complete 3 rides of distances of 80-89 km at speeds of 16 kph or under.

818.1.2. Riders and Horses must complete the requirements of this qualifying phase within a 24 month period to qualify to take part in FEI competitions.

818.2 *CEI Star Qualifying:* To be determined according to FEI records and database, and attested to by each NF.

818.2.1. All horses and riders must have successfully completed Novice Qualifying to be eligible for CEI Star Qualifying.

818.2.2. Horses and riders, not necessarily as a combination must successfully complete FEI competitions to progress through the Star system, beginning with a successful completion at the 1-Star level, thereby qualifying to move up through each Star category as defined in Art 816.

818.3 *4\* Championships:*

818.3.1. Horses must have graduated through the qualifying processes outlined above for Novice and CEI-Star qualifying up to, and including, the distance of the event for which a Certificate of Capability is sought.

818.3 Horses must have successfully completed at least 3 CEI 2\* events or higher.

818.3 Of these 3 CEI events, at least one must be at the same distance, minimum speed and time frame as the 4-Star Championship and achieved no earlier than 24 months prior to, no later than 60 days before, the close of nominated entries for Championship and must be in combination with the nominated rider.

818.3 Riders must have graduated through the qualifying processes outlined above for Novice and CEI-Star qualifying up to, and including, the distance of the event for which a Certificate of Capability is sought.

818.3 Riders must have successfully completed at least 5 CEI 2\* events or higher.

818.3 Of those 5 CEI events, one must be at the same distance, minimum speed and time frame as the 4\* Championship and achieved no earlier than 24 months prior to, no later than 60 days before, the close of nominated entries for the Championship and must be in combination with the nominated horse.

- 818.3 *Recording and Proof of Qualification:* Approved records must be provided for Rider/Horse results for eventual insertion into FEI Database/Passports as required. However, the ultimate responsibility for proof is still remains with each NF.

## **Article 819 – Invitations**

### **819.1. CEIs**

The number of officials and competitors, whether competing as individuals or as members of an unofficial team, to whom hospitality will be extended is at the discretion of the Organising Committee. The number of competitors which can be accepted will be stated in the official invitation to National Federations.

### **819.2 CEIOs, and Championships**

A minimum of four competitors and five horses and a maximum of five competitors and six horses, a non-riding Chef d'Equipe and a veterinary surgeon as Team Veterinarian must be included in the official invitation to the National Federation(s) concerned.

### **819.3. Grooms**

The Organising Committee of a CEI, CEIO, and Championship must accept two grooms per horse.

### **819.4. Teams and Individuals**

At Championships, the following applies to individuals and teams who are eligible to take part.

- 819.4.1. *Teams:* If an NF starts 3 or more competitors, they shall all (maximum of 5) constitute members of their Team, but are also eligible for individual classification and placing/awards.
- 819.4.2. *Individuals:* If an NF starts fewer than 3 competitors, they shall only be eligible for individual classification and placing/awards, but not as a Team.
- 819.4.3. With regard to the number of teams required for Championships, Art. 108 of the General Regulations applies.

**819.4.4. DETAILS TO BE SUPPLIED AFTER FURTHER RESEARCH LINKED TO OTHER FEI DISCIPLINE PROCEEDURES**

### **819.5. Expenses & Privileges**

The Organising Committee of World and Continental Championships may accept responsibility for meeting the travelling and living expenses of competitors, horses, grooms and team official (Chefs d'Equipe and Veterinarians) to be invited according to the rules from the day before the First Horse Inspection until the day after the end of the Championships. This must be published in the schedule.

## **Article 820 - Entries**

- 820.1. The General Regulation applies (see **Annex**).
- 820.2. No competitor may actually compete with more than one horse in any Endurance Ride.
- 820.3. At Championships, as many reserve horses as allowed by the Organising Committee may travel to the event and stabling for a minimum of 1 reserve horse must be provided. However, all such reserve horses must be on the Nominated Entries list.

## **Article 821 - Declaration of Starters**

821.1. The Chefs d'Equipe must declare in writing to the Secretariat of the Organisers the names of the competitors and of the horses allocated to the competitors definitively starting, chosen from those nominated on the official entry forms.

821.2. Declaration of starters by the Chef d'Equipe or his/her representative will take place within one to three hours after the first inspection of the horses, at the previously announced discretion of the PGJ.

821.3. *Substitutions:*

821.3.1. *Substitutions after Definite Entries:* After the Definite Entries have been sent in, substitution of horses and/or competitors from their country's own list of Nominated Entries (if any) may only be made with the written permission of the rider's NF and the OC, such consent not to be unreasonably withheld.

821.3.2. *Substitutions in Case of Accident or Illness:* In case of an accident or illness of a competitor or a horse, where such accident or illness makes it impossible for that competitor or horse to take part in the competition, occurring between the declaration of starters and the start of the competition; substitutions can be made up to 2 hours before the start of the competition. The following conditions must be met; 1) a certificate of the condition from an officially recognised physician for the rider, and from a veterinary surgeon/Team Veterinarian for the horse, and 2) permission of the President of the Ground Jury.

821.3.3. A competitor or horse, either or both, can only be replaced by another competitor or horse or by competitor/horse combination taken from those who have been duly entered as members of teams or as individuals and whose horses have successfully passed the First Horse Inspection.

821.3.4. At any Championship or any other CEI 4-Star ride horses can only be substituted by the rider's National Federation with horses that have been included on that National Federation's Nominated Entries list and that are qualified according to Art. 818.

## **Chapter IV Inspections, Examinations, Control of Medication**

### **Article 822 - Veterinary Control**

822.1. The Veterinary Commission has absolute control on all matters concerning horse safety.

822.2. The FEI Veterinary Regulations apply to all International Endurance Rides.

822.3. The series of inspections and examinations required by these Rules are established in the interest of the health, safety and welfare of the horse in the competition.

822.4. The decision of the Ground Jury taken on the direct advice of the official veterinarians is final and there can be no appeal against them. However, the Ground Jury is obliged in all cases to provide the reasons for the elimination of any horses.

822.5. Should an entered horse die for any reason during the period between the first inspection and the final inspection, the Ground Jury is obliged to write a report on the circumstances to the National Federation of the country in which the Ride is taking place, which shall be filed with the FEI Veterinary Committee for review of circumstances as well.

822.6. Should a horse who has competed die for any reason within 30 days following a Championship event, the NF of the horse shall provide a written report of same to the FEI Veterinary Committee for review of circumstances as well.

822.7. Only competitors whose horses have passed all the inspections and examinations are entitled to be classified in the final list of results.

- 822.8. Each horse shall have an FEI Endurance Log Book included in its passport. This shall contain veterinary information in addition to date, location, distance and \* category of each Endurance event. The horse's result: completion, completed distance to the nearest vet gate, grounds for elimination (metabolic, lameness or both), treatments at the venue, referral for hospitalisation, mandatory rest periods and any other comments necessary to protect the horse's future competition safety and welfare deemed necessary by the veterinary commission. Only the veterinary delegate, presidents of the ground jury and appeal committees can make entries in the log book.
- 822.9. All the relevant information required at the inspections and examinations must be recorded on an individual veterinary record for each competitor and must, in principle, be available at all subsequent inspections and examinations. Such records being produced electronically (with back up) or by hard copy. Competitors are entitled to see and copy the record referring to their horses immediately after the inspection or examination. Veterinary cards may be retained by the Organising Committee.
- 822.10. The arrival time into the Vet Gate must be recorded and the horse must be presented within the presentation time according to these Rules and as confirmed in the schedule to the Veterinary Commission for inspection.
- 822.11. The compulsory halts are operated by establishing a vet gate with an examination area that the competitors/grooms enter with the horse when they decide that the horse is ready to pass the veterinary inspection. When riders/grooms have entered the examination area, they must proceed with the horse directly to the nominated vet at a reasonable pace showing constant forward motion. No more than three people can accompany an individual horse within the examination area, and that number may be further limited by Schedule or pre-announced decision of the GJ.
- 822.12. During this period, the horse may be inspected more than once if the Veterinary Commission so decides. However, before the scheduled presentation time has elapsed, the horse must demonstrate its fitness to continue which is assessed upon three criteria: pulse recovery, metabolic stability and gait.
- 822.13. These examinations for pulse recovery, metabolic stability and soundness must be conducted at the same time and the horse must meet the minimum criteria for the Star level of the event. If there is any alteration to how the exams will be conducted, that must be announced prior to the competition by the GJ or published in the Schedule.
- 822.14. Once a horse has successfully passed the pulse control its timed hold, starting from the moment the horse was presented to the Veterinary Commission, continues for the stated period,. During the timed hold, all the other aspects of the inspection, including trotting the horse, will be carried out.
- 822.15. The Technical Delegate or the Ground Jury together with the Veterinary Commission can decide to modify the length of timed holds according to extreme weather conditions or other exceptional circumstances. Modifications must be announced to all competitors and/or Chefs d'Equipe before the start of the phase concerned.
- 822.16. The Organising Committee, the TD, the President of the Veterinary Commission, the Foreign Vet Delegate and the PGJ are required to provide for appropriate aftercare and veterinary treatment controls including arrangements with an equine referral facility with surgical capabilities. For CEI 4 Star events and Championships, triage and emergency treatment facilities must be provided on site. Such arrangements must be clearly written in the Schedule and approved by the Technical Delegate prior to the First Examination. After the First Examination, the President of the Veterinary Commission and Foreign Vet Delegate in consultation with the Ground Jury may recommend changes in the treatment arrangements including the placement of members of the veterinary commission, or scheduling of their availability, for help in the treatment/aftercare area. Such arrangements must identify the treatment veterinarian(s) and the treatment group must include a veterinarian licensed to practice veterinary medicine in that geographical location.

## **Article 823 - Veterinary Inspections and Examinations of Horses**

### **823.1. Veterinary Examination**

- 823.1.1. The first examination shall take place as soon as possible after the arrival of the horses at the stables of the Ride and definitely before the horses are released to their assigned stalls.
- 823.1.2. It should be performed by an official veterinarian appointed by the Ground Jury and, if not available, by a Veterinary Surgeon of the host country. The PGJ and the FVD should be present whenever possible.
- 823.1.3. The aim is first to establish the horses' identity (passports, registration documents, etc.) and second, to establish the general health of the horse, and in particular, to identify any contagious conditions. Doubtful cases should be reported to the OC, Technical Delegate or Ground Jury on arrival, but in any case not later than one hour before the first inspection.
- 823.1.4. At CEIs, these examinations can be coupled with the first inspection.
- 823.1.5. At CEIOs and Championships, these examinations must occur separately and far enough in advance to allow for quarantine of compromised horses and their travelling partners until health questions or concerns are satisfied. That also means the OC must provide adequate quarantine facilities for those purposes.

### **823.2. Horse Inspections:**

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- 823.2.1. *First Inspection:* Whenever possible, it takes place on the day preceding the start of the competition and is performed by the Veterinary Commission, together with the Ground Jury. It will be conducted according to the standards for all inspections, as outlined below, to include: Heart Rate, Respiratory System, General Condition, Gait Evaluation, Soreness, Lacerations, Wounds, Range of Motion and other matters and items which from time to time may be added to the Veterinary Card, an example of which is attached herein in **Annex**.
- 823.2.2. *Inspections Generally:* There are no differences between the Veterinarians' responsibilities to evaluate a horse between the First Inspection and the Final Inspection. The same standards apply to judging fitness to continue both metabolically and in terms of gait evaluation.
- 823.2.3. *Inspection Decorum:* The inspection areas should remain politely quiet in respect to riders and horses under the stresses of intense competition, and the GJ and Stewards are responsible to enforce that decorum. At the same time, riders and their crews or owners or Team Staffs are also responsible to respect the nature of what is occurring there, the examination and evaluation of the ongoing health and fitness to continue of horses under stressful physical demands. As a result, no gamesmanship will be tolerated in terms of delaying or interfering with a fair presentation. From time to time, the FEI Technical Committee may provide a list of specifically prohibited behaviours under threat of disqualification or other discipline in **Annex**. However, this list is not intended to be exhaustive and the good judgment of the GJ and Stewards shall be sacrosanct.
- 823.2.4. *Compulsory Exit Exams:* The Veterinary Commission, in consultation with the Ground Jury, will establish at which Vet Gates they will require horses to be presented for a compulsory re-examination, up to 15 minutes before that competitor's scheduled departure time from that Vet Gate.
- 823.2.5. *Requested Re-Examinations:* The examining veterinarian may ask a competitor to present their horse for re-examination during its hold time and 15 minutes prior to departure if after passing the horse, the veterinarian retains concerns about the horse's continuing stability. This rule is in place to provide the benefit of the doubt for the opportunity to continue to the horse.
- 823.2.6. *Heart Rates:* Horses with abnormally high pulse rates, or pulse rates higher than the parameters defined in the schedule or as amended by the Ground Jury upon recommendation from the Veterinary Commission, will be eliminated. Any abnormal heart sounds must be recorded.
- 823.2.7. *Respiratory System:* Abnormalities in rate or character of the breathing deemed by the Veterinary Commission to be of such a nature as to endanger the safety of the horse, will be cause for elimination.
- 823.2.8. *General Condition:* Temperatures may be recorded and mucous membrane will be examined. Horses in a generally poor condition or with an abnormally high temperature will be eliminated.
- 823.2.9. *Irregularity of Gaits:*

- 823.2.9.1. A horse with an irregularity of gait;
  - 823.2.9.2. Which must be consistently observable at trot, or an equivalent gait where applicable in select breeds;
  - 823.2.9.3. And is observable through evaluation by trotting the horse on a loose lead in hand straight out and back, without prior flexion or deep palpation;
  - 823.2.9.4. Which must be observed to cause pain, or threaten the immediate ability of the horse to safely perform athletically;
  - 823.2.9.5. Will be eliminated at the first or the final inspection or any inspection during the course.
  - 823.2.9.6. In principle the examination should be run on a flat firm surface.
  - 823.2.9.7. If, after having once trotted the horse, the observing Veterinarian questions the horse's fitness to continue, the horse will be re-examined by a three-vet panel. The vet panel review must be carried out under the observation of three veterinarians who will by secret individual vote opt for a pass or fail and communicate their vote directly to a member of the Ground Jury.
  - 823.2.9.8. Any of the three veterinarians can call for a second panel examination prior to voting if they so wish, giving the horse and competitor the benefit of the doubt, and will communicate that request to the member of the Ground Jury present who will request the horse be examined again. The ultimate decision based upon the majority vote from the three veterinarians, independent and without discussion, will be final.
  - 823.2.9.9. However, if the panel is still unable to conclude based upon 3 attempts (one by the original examining veterinarian and twice by the panel) that the horse is fit to continue, whether it is because of a presentation failure or according to veterinary criteria, the horse will be eliminated.
  - 823.2.9.10. Any unusual feature about a horse's gait must be noted on the veterinary card of the horse, whether it is deemed grounds for elimination or not.
- 823.2.10. *Soreness, Laceration and Wounds:* Any evidence of soreness, lacerations and wounds in the mouth, on the limbs and on the body, including girth and saddle galls, must be recorded. If participation in or continuation of the competition is bound to seriously aggravate any such soreness, lacerations or wounds, the horse will be eliminated.
- 823.2.11. *Shoes and Feet:* Horses may be ridden without shoes, but if shod they must be correctly shod and the shoes must be in a suitable condition for the competition. Horses which are shod at the first inspection may cross the finish line without one or more shoes. Equi-boots and pads are allowed. However, in all cases, the ongoing condition of the horse's feet and its adverse effect on the horse's immediate ability to perform athletically or which is observed to be causing the horse pain in proceeding shall be grounds for elimination.

### **823.3. Individual Veterinary Cards**

The individual veterinary cards (vet cards) must be issued before the first inspection and be completed after each inspection.

### **823.4. Final Inspection**

- 823.4.1. To qualify for presentation to the veterinary commission at the final inspection the horse's heart rate must have attained 64 bpm or less within 30 min of crossing the finish line. Horses that do not meet these criteria are eliminated and must be presented to the veterinary commission for inspection at 30 min after crossing the finish line.
- 823.4.2. In any case, pulse must be taken and registered on the vet card within the time limit shown in the schedule.
- 823.4.3. The Final Inspection is to determine whether the horse is still fit to continue, to be ridden after a normal rest period for another full phase and it will be performed in the same manner as previous inspections with the same control and criteria as the inspections during the course with the exception that only one opportunity to qualify for presentation is allowed. Each horse shall also be checked against its vet card.

- 823.4.4. At all Endurance Competitions over 160 km in one day or of an average of 100 km in 2 or more days, all competing horses must remain in the stable area of the Ride to stay under Veterinary supervision at least 24 hours after finishing time or for a shorter period if the Veterinary Commission authorises an earlier departure.

#### **823.5. Other Inspections**

Other inspections may be carried out by the Ground Jury or the official veterinarians on all or any horses selected at random at any time during the course of the competition.

#### **Article 824 - Best Condition Award**

824.1 The OC may organize a Best Condition Award at all FEI Endurance Events.

824.2 The purpose of this Award is to find the horse which is in the best condition having completed the event and been classified among the best horses (maximum the first ten horses).

824.3 A horse can only be entered in the Best Condition Award if it successfully completes the competition in a riding time which is within an additional percentage of the winning time, to be decided by the Ground Jury.

824.4 Horses which enter the Best Condition Award are deemed to be still in the competition until after the prize giving ceremony for the Best Condition Award.

824.5 Competitors are not obliged to enter their horse in the Best Condition Award.

824.6 The procedure laid down in **Annex** should be used to establish the Best Condition Award. It is recommended that all entrants in the Best Condition Award be subjected to medication control.

#### **Article 825 - Veterinary Treatment during Competition**

Veterinary treatment may not be administered to a horse during the competition without the written approval of the Veterinary Commission. Authorised treatment does not affect classification of the horse.

### **Chapter V Awards and Prize-giving Ceremonies**

#### **Article 826 - Awards**

826.1. An award must be given to all competitors who complete the course.

826.2. There is no minimum value for awards in Endurance Rides.

826.3. For distribution of prize-money, refer to Articles 128, 129 and 130 of the General Regulations.

#### **Article 834 - Prize-giving Ceremonies**

The Veterinary Commission should exclude any unfit horse from participation in the prize-giving ceremony.

#### **Annex**

#### **Article 121 - Entries**

See FEI General Regulations

#### **Annex**

#### **Promotion of Judges (GR Art. 149-150)**

#### **International candidate Judge**

1. The FEI maintains a List of qualified International Candidate Judges, who have been recommended by their NFs and accepted by the FEI Endurance Committee.

2. The qualifications for International Candidate Judges are as follows:

2.1. To have acted as a member of a Ground Jury or Appeal Committee at a CEI or as President of the Ground Jury at National Events during the current or preceding year.

2.2. To have a working knowledge one of the two official languages.

2.3. To have qualified at an FEI course for International Candidate Judges.

2.4. To have acted as a member of an Organising Committee or as assistant to the Chief Steward or as Chief Steward at two Events, preferably International.

2.5. To be preferably under the age of 60.

### ***International Judges***

1. The FEI maintains a List of qualified International Judges recommended by their NFs and accepted by the FEI Endurance Committee.

2. The qualifications for International Judges are as follows:

2.1. To have acted at least twice in 4 years as a member of a Ground Jury or Appeal Committee or as Technical Delegate at a CEI, CEIO or a Championship.

2.2. To have served as a Candidate Judge for at least two years or two complete seasons.

2.3. To have a working knowledge of one of the two official languages.

2.4. To have qualified at an FEI course for International Judges.

### **Annex**

#### **Vet Gate**

##### ***1. Vet Checks during an Endurance Ride***

The Vet Gate into a timed hold has proved to be the best veterinary check and is now internationally established.

##### ***2. How does a Vet Gate function?***

A rider comes to a Vet Gate. A time keeper writes down the time of the *arrival*. The riding time is not stopped until the rider presents his horse at the gate to the vet area ("*in time*") to have it checked by the *veterinarians*. At this time the *pulse* of the horse must *not exceed* 64, otherwise he is sent back. Horses which are sent back have the opportunity to be rechecked later by the veterinarians. The "*in time*" counts as definite when the veterinarian has confirmed the pulse. Horses which do not meet the pulse criteria are eliminated.

The *hold* begins when the rider asks to see the veterinarian ("*in time*"), providing his horse's pulse meets the criteria set in the schedule. The time of each hold is laid down in advance and will be announced in the program or at the briefing. It is recommended that, in principle, holds should not be longer than 40 minutes and not shorter than 15 minutes.

To calculate the *out time* the time of the hold is added to the "*in time*".

##### ***3. Organisation of a Vet Gate***

Very good organisation plenty of room and enough officials are most important at Vet Gates. Ideal would be to have the following officials for the below described tasks at each Vet Gate:

## Officials' Tasks

1. **Chief Steward:** He is responsible for seeing that the whole Vet Gate functions well.

Remarks:

Important are:

- Direction signs, well roped off vet areas, marking of the officials and helpers with hats or coloured rider vests.

- Vet area: wide enough for 3 to 5 horses to be checked at the same time. At least 40 meters long to trot the horses.

- Horses are only attended to by their crews after the time is taken at the "arrival". This is why there should be enough room for watering many horses and measuring the pulse between the arrival time keeper and the vet area. It is an advantage if the horses can be near the cars where the personal equipment is available and water tanks are easily accessible.

2. **Time keepers** (one each: at the arrival, at the gate into the vet area and at the departure)

a) Arrival

The time keeper writes down the time on the:

1) form

2) vet card

Remarks:

- The riding time goes on.

- The forms are records of the time keepers.

- The rider carries the Vet. card.

b) Gate into the vet area (*in time*)

The time keeper (in timer) writes down the time when the rider asks to have the horse checked, on the:

1) form

2) veterinary card

He checks the time between arrival and "in time" to the actual vet area.

Remarks:

- The riding time is stopped and the hold begins.

- If several riders are asking at the same time, they all get the same "in time" even if not all can be checked by the veterinarians at the same time.

c) Departure (*out time*)

- The time keeper (out timer) checks the "out time" and writes it down on the

1) form

2) vet card

- He checks if the horse has passed the veterinarian inspection and if it was presented to the veterinarian for a possible recheck.

- He releases the rider on to the trail at the right time.

Remarks:

- Vet Gate "in time" + time of hold = "out time"

## 3. Stewards

The Vet Gate steward directs the horses which have passed the in-timer and have entered the gate to the vet area and avoids congestion and unnecessary waiting times at the entrance.

#### Remarks:

- Horses which have passed the in-timer should have their pulse taken as soon as possible.
- If there are several competitors asking at the same time to have their horses checked, the steward may for example take the last of the group first because they all have the same "in time" and will therefore have the same "out time".

#### **4. Veterinarians**

The veterinarians inspect the horses in the vet area and decide which may go on, which must be eliminated and which must return for a recheck e.g. if the pulse is too high.

#### **5. Veterinarian writers**

Veterinarian writers write down the veterinarians' findings on the:

- 1) vet card
- 2) vet form

#### Remarks:

- Vet forms are records of the veterinarians.

#### **Annex**

##### **\* Rating of Endurance Officials**

#### **FEI International Candidate Status (2\*)**

For appointment to 2\* FEI Official an FEI Endurance Judge will:

- Have acted as President of the Ground Jury or been a member of a Ground Jury or Appeal Committee at a CEI or officiated at National Events during the current or preceding year.
- Speak one of the two official languages.
- Have qualified at an FEI course for International Candidate Judges – level 1(1\* 2\*).
- Have been appointed an FEI International Candidate Judge
- Have acted as a member of an Organising Committee, or as assistant to the Chief Steward or as Chief Steward at two events, preferably International.
- Be preferably under the age of 60.

#### **Promotion to 3\* Endurance Official**

For promotion to 3\* Official an FEI Endurance Judge will:

- Have been a member of a Ground Jury at a minimum of 3 events, 1\* or 2\* level, in any one 2 year period.
- Have acted as President of the Ground Jury at a 1\* event during the current or preceding year.
- Have qualified at an FEI course for International Judges – level 2 (3\* 4\*).
- Have been a 2\* Judge for a minimum of two years or two complete seasons

#### **Promotion to 4\* Endurance Official**

For promotion to 4\* Official an FEI Endurance Judge will:

- Have been a member of a Ground Jury at a minimum of 3 events, 3\* level, in any one 2 year period.

- Have acted as President of the Ground Jury at a 2\* event during the current or preceding year.
- Have attended a level 2 (3\*4\*) course within the previous twelve months.
- Have been a 3\* Judge for a minimum of two years or two complete season

All officials, after qualifying within the above criteria must attend a course equal to their status at least every 3 years. With the many changes within our sport in recent years it is considered that this requirement should be compulsory in the interests of safety and welfare. Anyone not attending courses within the agreed timeframe will be given notice to comply within a limited time or face being downgraded / dropped from the FEI lists.

**\* Rated Officials required for competitions:**

1*	<b>Vet. Commission</b>	President	3* or above
		Member	2* or above
	<b>Technical Delegate</b>		2* or above
2*	<b>Ground Jury</b>	President	3* or above
	<b>Technical Delegate</b>		3* or above
	<b>Vet. Commission</b>	President	3* or above
		Member	2* or above
3*	<b>Ground Jury</b>	President	4*
		Foreign Judge	3* or above
	<b>Technical Delegate</b>		4* or above
	<b>Vet. Commission</b>	President	4*
		Member	3* or above
4*	<b>Ground Jury</b>	President	4*
		Foreign Judge	4*
		Member	4*
	<b>Foreign Technical Delegate</b>		4*
	<b>Vet. Commission</b>	President	4*
		50% Panel	4*

In addition to the above, other officials may be lower \*rated or National as applicable.

