

Lausanne, 5 March 2020

Dear FEI Official,

In order to ensure that the 2020 FEI Endurance Rules are correctly implemented, I am sending this letter to you specifically as you will officiate in an FEI Endurance event very shortly.

The reason behind my letter is to inform you about and clarify some of the new rules and how to proceed if there are breaches while applying the rules during the event.

Please find below rules clarifications on the following topics:

- 1. Crew Members**
- 2. Access to Vet Gate/Bib numbers**
- 3. Course Design**
- 4. Assistance on the field of play**
- 5. Dyes and Skin Creams**
- 6. Tack and Equipment**
- 7. Abuse of Horse** (requirement to report)

I would like to highlight the fact that as FEI Official you **must** apply the correct sanction for each breach of the rule. Please ensure that you inform all other FEI Officials at the upcoming Events of these important rule updates.

I also take this opportunity to remind you of the importance of including detailed information about any rule breaches in your official report (if you are required to submit one). This information is required in order to assess if any further disciplinary measures are appropriate.

Under the recently revised FEI Legal System, FEI Headquarters can now take disciplinary actions against FEI Officials for failure to comply with your obligations as an FEI Official. One of your main obligations is to ensure the application of the FEI Rules, so it is very important that you ensure that the rules are correctly applied.

Thank you for your collaboration and I wish you a very successful event.

Best regards.



Manuel Bandeira de Mello

FEI Endurance Director

1. Crew members:

Art. 813.2.1 Access to the Field of Play may be restricted as set out in these Endurance Rules, the FEI Veterinary Regulations, other applicable FEI Rules and Regulations, the Competition Schedule, or as announced by the Ground Jury.

Art. 813.2.2 Subject to Articles 816.4 (further restrictions for the Vetting Area) and 813.2.1, the maximum number of **Crew Members allowed on the Field of Play is four per Horse.**

What to do if not respected?

The sanction is covered under Art. 822.5 "Prohibited Assistance": Yellow Warning Card and Disqualification to the PR.

2. Access to Vet Gate/Bib numbers:

Art. 813.3.2 Any person entering the Vetting Area must be clearly and officially identified by the OC (e.g. with a bib). Such person must wear the official identification at all times in the Vetting Area. **Any person accompanying a Horse in the Vetting Area must wear the number that corresponds to that Horse.**

Art. 813.3.4 If a person fails to wear the required identification on the Field of Play, he may **be removed from the Field of Play, in addition to any other applicable sanctions.** If a person assists an Athlete and/or Horse without wearing proper identification or the correct corresponding number, **such assistance will be considered prohibited assistance under Article 822.5.**

→ What to do if not respected?

The sanction is covered under Art. 822.5 "Prohibited Assistance": Yellow Warning Card and Disqualification to the PR.

3. Course Design:

Art 818.1 **The OC and the Course Designer (if appointed), in consultation with the Technical Delegate**, should assist in creating a technically challenging course across country (within the limits of the terrain and weather conditions) that will test the stamina and riding skills of the Combinations, without compromising the welfare of the Horses.

Art. 818.2 The course **should include technically challenging factors including in relation to footing, terrain, altitude, and direction**. To accomplish this, the course should include naturally occurring or man-made features such as tracks, ditches, steep climbs, descents, and water crossings. To the extent possible, the technical challenges must be left in their natural state, but they must be reinforced if necessary to ensure that they remain in the same state throughout the Competition.

→ What to do if not respected?

You must inform the Organising Committee and the FEI (in the report). The OC at least has to know that the presented Course is not in line with the existing Endurance Rules.

This situation will need to be followed up and it's crucial that this information is mentioned in your report.

4. Assistance on course and Fair Play:

Art. 822.5 An Athlete or Trainer who receives or provides the following assistance will receive an Endurance Yellow Warning Card, and in the event of a breach of Articles 822.5.5, 822.5.6 and/or 822.5.7 will also be Disqualified:

- 822.5.1 being followed, preceded or accompanied on any part of the course by any person on foot, on bicycle, or in a motorised vehicle;
- 822.5.2 being followed, preceded or accompanied by any motorised vehicle on any access track adjacent to the course;
- 822.5.3 encouraging a Horse during the trot in the Vetting Area (except that the person trotting the Horse may use limited verbal encouragement);
- 822.5.4 cutting wire fences or altering a part of an enclosure on or within the course so as to clear a way, or cutting down trees or eliminating challenges or altering technical aspects of the course;
- 822.5.5 providing or accepting any assistance on any part of the course not specifically designated for such assistance;
- 822.5.6 a person on the course (other than the Athlete) encouraging the Horse by any means whatsoever; or
- 822.5.7 accepting any intervention by a person not authorised to assist the Combination, whether solicited or not, with the object of advantaging the Athlete or his Horse.

What to do if not respected?

The sanction is covered under Art. 822.5, the PR **must** receive a Yellow Warning Card and Disqualification.

5. Dyes and Skin Creams:

Art. 824 Dyes (including henna) **may not be used on the Horse at any time on the Field of Play** as it may obstruct the veterinary inspection and identification of the Horse. Barrier cream or other topical skin cream may be used on the Horse, provided that it is removed before presentation for Horse Inspections or at the request of any Veterinarian or Official anywhere on the Field of Play. **Failure to comply with this provision will result in Disqualification.**

What to do if not respected?

As FEI Officials you must not accept any kind of dyes (fresh, old, etc.). It does not matter if it appears to be old or new, the rule is very clear and can easily be identified at the First (Pre-ride) Inspection.

The sanction is covered under Art. 824, the PR **must** receive an Immediate Disqualification.

6. Tack and Equipment:

Art. 825.1 **Tack condition:** Horse tack must be in a safe condition and correctly fitted to avoid the risk of pain or injury to the Horse. Officials may require any ill-fitting tack/equipment to be removed or altered. The use of any ill-fitting equipment that risks causing (or causes) pain or injury to the Horse may be considered as Horse Abuse (see also the FEI Veterinary Regulations).

Art. 825.2 **Permitted tack:** The FEI may issue further detailed rules regarding permitted tack. Subject to the foregoing and Article 825.1, the following tack is required or permitted (as specified below) on the Field of Play:

- 825.2.1 A correctly fitted bridle and saddle are required on the course.
- 825.2.2 Gags and 'bitless bridles' are permitted.
- 825.2.3 Martingales are permitted, provided that they do not unduly restrict the free movement of the head of the Horse.
- 825.2.4 Reins must be attached to the bit or (for bitless bridles) directly to the bridle.
- 825.2.5 Any shank (lever arm) on any bit may not exceed 8 cm.
- 825.2.6 Leather or plastic nosebands are permitted. A noseband may never be so tightly fixed that it risks causing (or causes) irritation to the skin. It must be adjusted to allow at least two fingers under the noseband on the front of the nose.
- 825.2.7 Cheek pieces (meaning two strips of sheepskin or similar material that is attached to the cheek pieces of the bridle) are permitted. See Annex 8 for a diagram.
- 825.2.8 Unless specified otherwise in the Competition Schedule, Blinkers and visors (similar to Blinkers, but with holes cut in one or both cowls permitting limited side or rear vision) are permitted, provided that they allow full forward vision without any interference. They must be removed during Horse Inspections. See Annex 8 for diagrams showing permitted/prohibited variations.
- 825.2.9 Fly masks are permitted only if specifically authorised by the Ground Jury to take account of the local conditions, and provided that they (i) do not unduly obstruct the Horse's vision or hearing, (ii) do not serve any purpose other than to protect the Horse from insects, and (iii) are removed during Horse Inspections.
- 825.2.10 Equi-boots and pads are permitted.
- 825.2.11 Head collars are permitted only if the Horse can be adequately controlled and does not pose any safety risk to any person or

other Horse. Otherwise (and in most cases) a bridle must be used.

825.3 Prohibited tack/equipment: Use of the following is prohibited at all times on the Field of Play and in training areas:

- 825.3.1 any type of rein that might unduly restrict the free movement of the head of the Horse, including draw (running) reins/French reins;
 - 825.3.2 rein additions such as handles;
 - 825.3.3 metal chain nosebands;
 - 825.3.4 whips (including any other item that is used as a whip);
 - 825.3.5 spurs;
 - 825.3.6 anything placed inside or covering the Horse's ears (for example, ear plugs or similar and ear bonnets/hoods), except for fly masks as set out in Article 825.2.9; and
 - 825.3.7 subject to Articles 825.2.8 and 825.2.9, any material covering the Horse's eye(s) or otherwise obstructing the Horse's vision, including eye covers or eye shields (these are similar to Blinkers, but in place of the eye cowls, the eyes are covered with mesh or other transparent material or by an opaque cover). See Annex 8 for diagrams.
- 825.4 **Safety equipment:** The Competition Schedule may require the use of specific safety equipment, such as reflective items.
- 825.5 **Mobile phones and GPS:** The use of mobile phones and GPS devices is permitted. All other forms of communication devices must be approved by the Ground Jury prior to the Competition.

825.6 Failure to comply: An Official may inspect a Combination's tack/equipment on the Field of Play at any time. If an Official determines at or prior to the First (Pre-Ride) Inspection that a Combination's tack/equipment is in breach of Article 825.2 (permitted tack) and/or 825.3 (prohibited tack), the Official may request that such tack/equipment be altered or removed. Failure to comply with the Official's instructions will result in Disqualification. If the determination is made after the First (Pre-Ride) Inspection, the Combination will be Disqualified.

What to do if not respected?

You must first request to the PR to remove the prohibited tack/equipment.

If the PR fails to comply with your request it will result to an immediate Disqualification. It is not enough to check that the correct tack/equipment is used at the pre-ride inspection. You must monitor the tack/equipment that is being used throughout the ride.

7. Abuse of Horse

801.3 The FEI has zero tolerance for any cruelty towards or Abuse of a Horse:

801.3.1 Failure to comply with Article 801 and/or the FEI Code of Conduct for the Welfare of the Horse may be considered Horse Abuse.

801.3.2 Any act or omission at an Event that amounts, in the opinion of the Ground Jury, to cruelty towards or Abuse of a Horse shall result in an Endurance Yellow Warning Card and Disqualification and may also be subject to the additional sanctions set out in the FEI General Regulations.

801.3.3 Any cruelty towards or Abuse of a Horse that takes place away from an Event will be subject to the sanctions set out in the FEI General Regulations.

What to do if not respected?

You must issue a Yellow Warning Card and Disqualify the combination

Please ensure that full details of the Abuse of Horse are included in the official report.

Also, please note that Article 801.4.4 confirms that failure to report cruelty towards or Abuse of a Horse is itself subject to sanction as a breach of the FEI Rules and Regulations, so please ensure that you take appropriate action for all cases of Abuse of Horse that you become aware of at an Event and ensure that they are mentioned in the official report.