

Summary of changes accepted to the 13th Edition of the FEI Veterinary Regulations, 2014 Version

You will find below a summary of the changes to the 2014 FEI Veterinary Regulations accepted at the FEI General Assembly 2013.

In 2012 the Veterinary Regulations (VRs) underwent a significant revision in both approach and format. During their implementation in 2013, these changes have been well received by all stakeholders.

The 2013 review process also included an agreed harmonisation of the Veterinary Regulations with the Discipline Rules and vice versa; the intention of the changes for 2014 is:

- to complete this review during 2013;
- to standardise and harmonise the process of Horse Inspection within the disciplines;
- to ensure that the number of veterinary delegates at an event is proportionate to the need now that the Veterinary Services Manager (VSM) concept is well accepted.

HOLDING BOX VETERINARIAN

To facilitate Events with a small number of participants, the requirement for the Holding Box Veterinarian to be an Official Veterinarian is changed to allow Permitted Treating Veterinarians to fulfil this role. This will be permitted at Events where there is only one Veterinary Delegate present. This means the Holding Box Veterinarian may also be the Veterinary Services Manager at such smaller Events. At larger events where several Veterinary delegates or a veterinary Commission are present, the Holding Box Vet will still have to be an Official Veterinarian.

PERMITTED TREATING VETERINARIANS

In line with the General Regulations, qualification requirements for Permitted Treating Veterinarians will include *country of residence*, in addition to home country. Furthermore, the acronym used throughout the VRs for Permitted Treating Veterinarians will be changed from PV to the clearer term of PTV.

VETERINARY SERVICES MANAGERS

In order to avoid a conflict of interest, a paragraph is added stating that the VSM may not compete at the same Event where they have been appointed as a VSM by the Organising Committee.

OFFICIAL VETERINARIANS The number of Veterinary Delegates at Events will be adapted according to the importance in size of Events. Their obligation to be present and available at the field of play during all competition is highlighted. It has also been added that they must be contactable by the Veterinary Services Manager at all times to encourage communication between the two parties. The Veterinary Delegate must also ensure that there is a review of the emergency plan for field of play incidents together with the VSM.

ENDURANCE OFFICIALS AND TREATMENT OFFICIALS

The promotional requirements for Endurance Official Veterinarians (EOVs) and Endurance Veterinary Treatment Officials (EVTs) have been clarified, so as to avoid confusion. Official Veterinarians in Endurance may now be promoted as either an EOv or an EVT and there is no requirement for the EVT to first become an EOv. Additionally, the age restriction of 60 years is proposed to be removed.

INSURANCE OF OFFICIALS

The VRs will clearly state that insurance cover is not provided by the FEI for veterinarians routinely treating horses during Events. These Veterinarians are therefore advised to ensure they have their own suitable policies.

STABLES AND STEWARDING

Some minor clarifications have been made regarding the Stable Area; this includes a re-wording of the stable sizes with no modification of intent. In line with the harmonisation of the current Discipline Regulations, the requirements for stable security and other provisions are clarified. Requirements for stable security at lower level events are adapted so as to reflect the reality of the challenges faced by the organisers. This does not change the policy of the strict liability of Persons Responsible (PRs).

In order to avoid misinterpretation, a clear statement in the Veterinary Regulations is made to ensure that the Designated Treatment Boxes at an event remain open when the stables are open. Additionally, these Boxes are subject to intermittent monitoring by stewards during the period of the Event. It is also clarified that only unopened packages and containers must be used.

In line with both the responsibilities inherent to the role of the FEI Permitted Treating Veterinarian and the integrity of our Clean Sport campaign, additional random testing is proposed.

During veterinarian briefings, as required at an Event, the Chief Steward or their representative must now be present to ensure that a common approach is undertaken.

HORSE INSPECTION

As requested by the Disciplines and the FEI Medical Committee, the Veterinary Committee reviewed the requirements for the equipment and way the Horse is presented during the Horse Inspection. The intent is to ensure that Organising Committees provide a suitable and safe environment for the inspections. If the Horse cannot be presented for the Horse Inspection as described above and within the time period of the Horse Inspection, the Inspection Panel may not be able to accept the Horse as fit to compete. Additionally, a steward may be appointed to assist with the Horse Inspection under the direction of the Ground Jury.

PR AND SUPPORT PERSONNEL

The definition of PRs in the General Regulations (Art 118) is highlighted. Wording on their responsibility is also rephrased to ensure that they notify National Federations of all changes or updates to the Horse's identification information, such as the microchip or passport details.

PASSPORTS, RECOGNITION CARDS AND MICROCHIPS

Passports, Recognition Cards and Microchips have been revisited this year in light of the greater scrutiny that the FEI passport system will be under from the EU, the Public-Private Partnership undertaken with the OIE and in view of the collaboration plan of all the National Federations with their Governments.

In support of the biosecurity and integrity requirements at Events, an explanation is given regarding the process of identification of Horses and for handling any administrative issues and errors detected. As such, some changes are proposed for the Veterinary Delegate's responsibilities in dealing with this and additional descriptions of the Ground Jury, Person Responsible and National Federation's responsibilities are established. Passport and Recognition Card renewal times will also be made clearer and the process of notification and sanctions for irregularities have been reviewed.

ACUPUNCTURE

A statement is added regarding acupuncture; stating that acupuncture is permitted, provided it is administered correctly in a Designated Treatment Box and that the needles used must be of the solid type and not of the hollow type.

LIMB SENSITIVITY PROTOCOL

The process for the Final Examination is reworded with no modification of intent.

ELECTIVE TESTING

Following a review of the Elective testing by the Department, Veterinary Committee and the FEI Approved Laboratories, blood can now be offered in addition to urine for Elective Testing sample analyses. However, only those substances listed under the FEI Elective Testing Substances List are available for testing.

SAMPLING

Further clarification was necessary regarding which FEI Events require EADCMP sampling to be undertaken, in the manner specified in the previous Veterinary Regulations. The EADCMP sampling will be obligatory at listed high level Events, however for lower level Events it will currently remain as a recommendation only. The obligatory Events will be based on current practice as follows: CCI3* and CCI4*, CDI 3*, 4* and 5*, CEI 3* and 4*, CSI 3*, 4* and 5*, CIOs, World Cup Qualifiers and Cup Finals, Championships and Games. Such obligations will be key to ensuring a consistent level of testing across the world. Furthermore, the obligation for the reporting of sampling is added to the VRs, thereby ensuring that complete information about Event testing is always received by the Department within an appropriate time frame.

To facilitate the sampling process, it is added that Permitted Treating Veterinarians may perform the sampling duty under specific conditions and the supervision of the Official Veterinarian. Moreover, it is further clarified that the horse has to be left sufficient time so as to produce a urine sample.

PROHIBITED SUBSTANCES AND METHODS

The FEI considers that the use of banned substances is always strictly prohibited, therefore the paragraph concerning this is changed reflect this effect. It was felt that the concept of gene doping needed clarification. Therefore a statement is added to the VRs defining it as the non-therapeutic use of cells, genes, genetic elements, or of the modulation of gene expression, having the capacity to improve performance. Additionally, kinesio-taping is confirmed to be considered under prohibited methods.

REQUIREMENTS OF ORGANISING COMMITTEES

During the year, comments have been received on how Organising Committees could become more responsive to improving standards, which links to several other areas of work underway, such as event specification and event classification schemes. The Veterinary Services Manager has a large role to play in this area and the Veterinary Committee reminds all Veterinary Officials of their duties and responsibilities to check facilities report any short comings and refuse to run Events where standards are unsuitable. The VSM responsibilities are also clearly laid out. This will be assisted by a communications plan to be rolled out in 2013/14.

The deadline for the appointment of Veterinarians by Organising Committees has also been adapted to ten weeks, so as to reflect the FEI General Regulations.

BIOSECURITY

In view of the desire to facilitate the safe temporary international movement horses within agreed requirements of the authorities and to protect our horses, it has been added that, including all animal health measures imposed by the National Veterinary Authority, all other national provisions related to equine health must be strictly implemented. The necessity of also having good Biosecurity practices during transportation is raised.

CATASTROPHIC INJURIES, FATALITIES AND EUTHANASIA

In order to improve the consistency of how such situations are handled, and as a part of the planned FEI Injuries Surveillance System (ISS), it is added in the VRs that a contingency planning meeting must be held at the start of the event to review the protocols to be implemented in case of a catastrophic injury or fatality, and arranged by the VSM and OC. Additionally, any treatments administered, before the required EADCM sampling, must be recorded in full and communicated to the FEI. Moreover, the time of reporting of the events concerning all deaths of horses during an Event is changed to 24h. Immediate notification must take place as soon as possible.

Before the euthanasia of a horse, the Veterinary Delegate is recommended to seek a second veterinary opinion if possible and they must ensure that all details, such as weather conditions of the incident be included in the Veterinary Report.

POSTMORTEMS

In the VRs, it is clarified that the report of a death must include details of the Post Mortem facility to which the horse is sent and their contact details. Furthermore, the communication of the post mortem results to the FEI must be done within 24 hours of the pathologist completing their report. Additionally, the reporting time of 12 hours regarding a statement concerning any substance(s) administered to the horse before or during death or euthanasia is added.

PONIES

An extensive review of the regulations relating to measuring Ponies was instigated as a result of the experience gained in the field. As such, several clarifications were made for 2014 as explained below:

There is a need to emphasise that all Ponies must be presented for Measuring, as determined by the Ground Jury, and that this is usually done before the Horse Inspection. Pony Measuring may occur at any time during an FEI Event, and at the discretion of the Ground Jury.

The requirements for the Measuring Area are explained in greater detail to assist Organising Committees and this Area must be checked by the relevant Officials prior to commencing the Measuring. If there are concerns regarding the Measuring Area, it is the responsibility of the Organising Committee to ensure that these are corrected, or a suitable alternative provided. Additionally, the personnel requirements are clearly explained to ensure the efficiency and smooth management of all Pony Measuring organisations, this includes sufficient stewarding which has always been included in the VRs but required strengthened implementation. Moreover, any behaviour that might prevent or disturb the measuring procedure, such as photography, is prohibited.

To ensure that no unauthorised farriery or changes of shoes occur during or following measurements, it has been added that farriery at Pony Events should only take place in the Designated Shoeing Areas and with the correct and prior authorisation given by the Ground Jury and Veterinary Delegate.

An explanation has been added for all, including the Measuring Veterinarians and Person Responsible, describing the process if a Pony cannot be measured, when measuring is compulsory.

Moreover, it is added that a Pony, which enters into a FEI Appeal Measurement procedure, has to be identifiable thereafter by a microchip, in accordance with the microchip specifications of the VRs, ensuring the correct identification of the Pony. This is also to reflect that ponies tend to change ownership regularly and name changes are not uncommon.

Additionally, the time for an Appeal to be organised is suggested to be changed from 20 to 40 working days to ensure that this can be achieved under the best possible circumstances for the Pony and its supporting personnel.

Following a request by the National Federations, it is added in the VRs that each NF must nominate two Measuring Veterinarians who may be requested to undertake measuring duties, or in view of Appeal cases.

Yours Sincerely

FEI Veterinary Department