



NEWS & MESSAGES

01/04

In this letter you'll find

- Motion of "Endurance Intercontinental Group" 2003 in comparison with FEI Rules Revision/ actions of the FEI
 - Common endurance culture of "Endurance Intercontinental Group" as defined in Paris 2003 and further discussions
 - FEI Code of Conduct (new version)
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- **Motion of "Endurance Intercontinental Group" 2003 in comparison with FEI Rules Revision/ actions of the FEI**

Motion, Point 1:

The Senior Championships must take place during a CEI** with a distance of 160 kms in only one day.**

FEI Rules Revision, Article 824.1.4.:

„4 Star: Senior Championships of a minimum of 160 km in one day, Junior Championships of 120 km in one day, World Cup Finals and finals of series or major rides approved by the FEI Endurance Committee. However for Regional Championships the OC can apply for a change of distance to take into account local climatic conditions.“

Motion, Point 2:

We request the FEI Endurance Committee appoints/ endorses a sub-committee to develop recommendations for standards on endurance.

- 1) Course Design (er)**
- 2) Vet Gates: Stages**
- 3) Hold Times**

5-6 members, geographically diverse, recommended by Endurance Intercontinental Group.

Actions of the FEI:

???

Motion, Point 3:

For Championships electronic monitoring of recovery and heart rate and display of the same is permissible at all vet gates and at the final control.

FEI Rules Revision:

not mentioned, seems to be neither compulsory nor forbidden

Motion, Point 4:

Before the FEI Endurance Committee reports proposed rule changes and/ or amendments of the rules to the FEI Bureau, they must seek 6 months of comment from the NF's. Rule changes can only be effective on 1 January of the year after the General Assembly has approved them.

Actions of the FEI:

The "New Rules proposals" have been sent more than 6 months before the FEI GA to the NF's. The new rules will be effective on 1 January 2005.

Motion, Point 5:

Final Schedules of Championships including the layout of the course, must be forwarded to the NF's 3 months at the latest before the Championship.

Actions of the FEI:

This didn't work out with the Championships held in Europe in 2003.

Motion, Point 6:

Nominated entries: during Championships, a rider can only ride a horse from the duly entered Nominated List of his NF

FEI Rules & Revision, Article 828.3.3:

„At any Championship or any other CEI** 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 per article 825.4.2.“**

Motion, Point 7:

The policy contained in Mr. M. Stone’s letter to the NF’s of Spain, France, Great Britain, Portugal and Switzerland (8 May 2002) of 8 weeks or more notice of an FEI ride before the ride date, be enacted as an endurance regulation.

Motion, Point 8:

To be nominated for a Championship/ any CEI** ride, the following qualification is required:**

- a) Horse and rider as a combination have to have completed a CEI ride over the same distance as the Championship/ CEI**** ride within the current or preceding year of the event.**
- or**
- b) The horse has to have completed a CEI ride over the same distance as the Championship/ CEI**** ride within the current or preceding year of the event and the rider has to have completed 3 endurance rides (at least one of them a CEI ride) over the same distance as the Championship/ CEI**** ride within the current or preceding 3 years before the event.**

There are no exceptions.

FEI Rules Revision, Article 825.3.:

„3. *Qualification Procedure*

3.1. To be qualified to participate in any Senior Championship or any other CEI** ride, a rider/horse as a combination has to have completed a CEI *** (or above) ride over the same distance as the championship/CEI**** ride within 24 months prior to the closing date for nominated entry.**

3.2. If the rider/horse has not qualified as a combination per 3.1 above, to be qualified to participate in any Senior Championship or any other CEI**, a horse has to have completed a CEI*** ride**

over the same distance as the championship/CEI**** ride within 24 months prior to the closing date for nominated entry and the rider has to have completed 3 endurance rides (at least one of them a CEI*** or above ride) over the same distance as the Championship/CEI**** ride within the current or preceding 3 years before the event.“

▪ **Common endurance culture of “Endurance Intercontinental Group” as defined in Paris 2003 and further discussions**

Common culture in endurance of “Endurance Intercontinental Group:

- To complete with a healthy horse.
- Horse and rider against the trail without excessive pit stop derby.
- Treating our horses as partners and not as disposable commodities.

If these conditions are fulfilled, then of course “to finish first is to win” and on top of that “getting best condition” are the great achievements we all aim at. We have a deep admiration for riders/ owners which manage their endurance horses in a way to be able to show their stamina and health competitively year after year. To see the same horses complete successfully over many seasons is in fact the only prove that endurance is really a sport for the welfare of the horses.

Further discussions included

- protection of the horse (i.e. Australian Log Book System)
- sanction after elimination for metabolic reasons
- official creation of a club with a seat in the FEI

Retrospect about tendencies during the season 2003:

- **overall completion rate seems to be dropping (not more than 25% completions in some countries)**
- **rumours about dead horses during/ after endurance rides are rising**
- **treatment vets start to be the most demanded officials at endurance rides**
- **only very few NF’s started to put into force a sanction system**

▪ **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.

a) **Good horse management** Stabling, feeding and training must be compatible with good horse management and must not compromise welfare. Any practices which could cause physical or mental suffering, in or out of competition, will not be tolerated.

b) Training methods

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

c) Farriery and tack

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

d) Transport

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

e) Transit

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

2. Horses and competitors must be fit, competent and in good health before they are allowed to compete.

a) Fitness and competence

Participation in competition must be restricted to fit horses and competitors of proven competence.

b) Health status

No horse showing symptoms of disease, lameness or other significant ailments or pre-existing clinical conditions should compete or continue to compete when to do so would compromise its welfare. Veterinary advice must be sought whenever there is any doubt.

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c) **Medication**

Abuse of medication is a serious welfare issue and will not be tolerated. After any veterinary treatment, sufficient time must be allowed for full recovery before competition.

d) **Surgical procedures**

Any surgical procedures that threaten a competing horse's welfare or the safety of other horses and/or competitors must not be allowed.

e) **Pregnant/recently foaled mares**

Mares must not compete after their fourth month of pregnancy or with foal at foot.

f) **Misuse of aids**

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

3. Events must not prejudice horse welfare.

a) **Competition areas**

Horses must only be trained and compete on suitable and safe surfaces. All obstacles must be designed with the safety of the horse in mind.

b) **Ground surfaces**

All ground surfaces on which horses walk, train or compete must be designed and maintained to reduce factors that could lead to injuries. Particular attention must be paid to the preparation, composition and upkeep of surfaces.

c) **Extreme weather**

Competitions must not take place in extreme weather conditions if the welfare or safety of the horse may be compromised. Provision must be made for cooling horses quickly after competing in hot or humid conditions.

d) **Stabling at events**

Stables must be safe, hygienic, comfortable, well ventilated and of sufficient size for the type and disposition of the horse. Clean, good quality and appropriate feed and bedding, fresh drinking water, and washing-down water must always be available.

e) **Fitness to travel**

After competition, a horse must be fit to travel in accordance with the FEI's guidelines.

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.

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a) **Veterinary treatment**

Veterinary expertise must always be available at an event. If a horse is injured or exhausted during a competition, the competitor must dismount and a veterinarian must check the horse.

b) **Referral centres**

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

c) **Competition injuries**

The incidence of injuries sustained in competition should be monitored. Ground surface conditions, frequency of competitions and any other risk factors should be examined carefully to indicate ways to minimise injuries.

d) **Euthanasia**

If injuries are sufficiently severe the horse may need to be euthanased by a veterinarian as soon as possible on humane grounds and with the sole aim of minimising suffering.

e) **Retirement**

Every effort should be made to ensure that horses are treated sympathetically and humanely when they retire from competition.

f) **The FEI urges all those involved in equestrian sport to attain the highest possible levels of education in their areas of expertise relevant to the care and management of the competition horse.**

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