

Dear National Federations,

Re: Veterinary Regulations, 2018

The FEI Veterinary Department has carried out a complete re-write of the Veterinary Regulations during 2017.

The principle aims of the re-write are to remove unnecessary repetitions, contradictions and unnecessary information from the current regulations. Information has been removed to ensure that the contents of the document focus strictly on regulatory matters.

The structure of the Veterinary Regulations has been changed. A logical approach has been proposed and we anticipate that this will make the document more user-friendly in the field situation.

A number of changes to the Veterinary Regulations have been proposed which are detailed in the accompanying document. A marked up version of the veterinary Regulations is available on request from the FEI Veterinary Department.

We would appreciate any comments you may have on these proposed rule changes prior to 18 September 2017.

Yours sincerely,

FEI Veterinary Department.

2018 Veterinary Regulations: Proposals

The major changes to the Veterinary Regulations concern pony measuring, the treatment of horses with medication and supportive therapies and the introduction of Permitted Equine Therapists.

Pony Measuring

The changes concerning pony measuring regulations include the FEI reserving the right to carry out unannounced pony measuring, a member of the Ground Jury attending pony measuring where possible and where ponies are presented in bridles, they are to stand on a loose rein.

The FEI also reserves the right to request out of competition measurements and where requested by the Ground Jury, this must be carried out within a specified timeframe following the conclusion of the event. The procedure for out of competition measuring process, regulatory height and funding have been determined.

Ponies having measured out during competitions and out of competition measurements, and ponies that have not been presented for measuring following request, will not be permitted to compete in any the FEI Event until the relevant measurement has been carried out and the pony's height has been determined.

Clarification regarding the role of the Veterinary Department in the administration of pony measuring and the procedures required for the management of ponies after having measured out at the first competition measurement, have been made.

Veterinary Treatment

Horses will no longer be treated by injection with any substance prior to competition on the day in which they compete. An exception will be granted for classes starting at 1800hrs or later.

Veterinary Forms 2 and 4 will no longer be in use. Although it will still be possible to use substances previously recorded on these forms, their use will no longer have to be declared. Veterinary Forms 1 and 3 will remain in use and be renamed to Veterinary Forms A and B respectively. Copies of Veterinary Forms that have been signed by the Veterinary Delegate and Ground Jury will only be provided to the PTV administering the treatment.

In addition to changes in the treatment of horses at events, vaccinations must not be given to horses at events and it will no longer necessary to record the use of GnRH vaccines.

Permitted Equine Therapists & Supportive Therapies:

Clarification has been provided regarding the supportive therapies that can be used during FEI events and the personnel permitted to carry them out. Supportive therapies have been categorized into Non-Restricted and Restricted Therapies. Restricted Therapies will be carried out by trained personnel, known as 'Permitted Equine Therapists'. Permitted Equine Therapists will be listed on the FEI database and issued with an FEI ID card.

Stewards will be able to carry out checks to inspect the Permitted Equine Therapist's ID card, and verify the therapy they are carrying out. They may also ensure that only Permitted Equine Therapists are carrying out Restricted Therapies.

Facilities

Minor changes have been made to the provision of isolation stables, testing and treatment boxes. A minimum of two isolation stables will be required and situated in a secure location. The FEI Veterinary Department may request additional treatment and testing boxes and the Organising Committee must produce a stables evacuation plan. The use of common water troughs will no longer be permitted, however an exception has been granted for Endurance Events. An examination of arrival area must be determined for the safe examination of horses and a covered area will be required for the collection of equine passports.

Clarifications have been made to the required veterinary services and equipment available at the event and the advance arrangement required in the case of sending an equine fatality to a post mortem examination facility.

With respect to supportive facilities, the Organising Committee will provide the Examining Veterinarians access to secretarial facilities and provide Measuring Veterinarians with a start list. The Organising Committee is no longer responsible for making arrangements for samples to be analysed at FEI labs, this obligation will be carried out by the Testing Veterinarian or Veterinary Delegate.

FEI Veterinarians

All details concerning the educational requirements for FEI veterinarians have been removed from the regulations and will be published on the FEI website as already is this case for other FEI Official Educations.

Clarification has been made with respect to Veterinary Delegates being responsible for ensuring that the examination on arrival takes place. They will not be permitted to treat any horses at the event, including horses competing in national classes, unless in an absolute emergency. The Veterinary Delegate will attend the event on the day before the First Horse Inspection and must take the required breaks from officiating at the same event on multiple occasions. Changes have been made to the rotation of Veterinary Delegates at events. From 2018 Veterinary Delegates and Additional Veterinary Delegates must not have officiated at the same event for more than two years without taking a two year break.

Testing, Measuring and Examining Veterinarians will be required to submit their respective reports and all supporting paperwork to the FEI Veterinary Department within a specified timeframe following their duties at events. Failure to report within the specified timeframes may result in a sanction.

Clarification has been made regarding the appointment of the Holding Box Veterinarian and their role in reporting clinical findings. At events where advisors to the Veterinary Services Manager are required, the advisor will be appointed within specific timeframes according to the type of event.

Horse inspections and the departure of horses

During the Horse Inspection horses will not be permitted to wear bandages or blankets/rugs or equivalent and will not be presented with their identity concealed in any manner. Clarification as to when morning re-inspections are carried out and the required procedure have been made; and that horses that have not been accepted at the horse inspection will not be permitted to compete in national classes at the same event.

Clarification has been made regarding horses that leave the venue during the event for veterinary examination and their management on return to the venue.

Equine Fatalities

VDs will be responsible for reporting equine fatalities and ensuring a full post mortem examination is carried out regardless of the circumstances surrounding the horse's death. Where possible post mortem examination will be carried out by a pathologist at a dedicated veterinary pathology facility and the standardised FEI Post Mortem Examination report will be completed.

Equine Anti-Doping and Controlled Medication Programme (EADCMP)

Clarifications have been made concerning the EADCMP. The reasons for targeted sampling must be clearly recorded and clarification has been made regarding the obligatory use of testing boxes, the notification procedure and sampling process.

National Federations

The role of the National Federation has been clarified with respect to the recruitment and approval of Testing Technician and Permitted Equine Therapists applications, sourcing a measuring pad for out of competition and appeal pony measurements and the procedure for removal of veterinarians from the FEI Veterinarians' List. National Federations will no longer be responsible for ensuring the rotation of Veterinary Delegates at events.

Sanctions

New sanctions have been included regarding the failure to update passports for vaccination records not up to date, identification anomalies and failure to correct them, failure to meet reporting obligations, failure to obtain Permitted Equine Therapists status for carrying out Restricted Therapies and the treatment of horses on competition days prior to competition.

FEI Veterinary Department

July 2017