

UAE Recommendation for Endurance Rules 2020

article	Rule change	Comments
FEI Statutes 20.4	The ETC recommends a new Art 20.4 of the FEI Statutes accordingly. That emergency welfare rule proposals can be approved by the FEI Board and implemented without delay when there is judged to be a clear benefit to equine welfare.	This rule change should be rejected. The new Article poses a risk as the FEI Board can control any discipline without referring back to the floor of the General Assembly. Even if the majority of NFs respond by disagreeing with a rule amendment, the FEI Board may suggest that it is 'not possible to rescind the measure (rule)'.
802.5	802.5.1 To ensure the smooth running of a Championship, the FEI Endurance Technical Committee will require (for 3* Championships) and may require (for all other Championships) the organizer of a Championship to host a test event at least six months prior to the Championship, which test event must have:	We agree with this proposal
805.1	Minimum Weights: Athletes must comply with the following minimum weight requirements: Young Rider/Junior Competitions and Championships: No minimum weight CEI1*: No minimum weight CEI 2* and 3* (regardless of the Athlete's age): 70 kg (including all riding equipment, except for the bridle) CEIOs and Championships (irrespective of star level/distance, and regardless of the Athlete's age): 70 kg (including all riding equipment, except for the bridle)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We agree with the proposal to reduce minimum Athlete weight to 70kg for Championships & CEI3*. • For CEI2 level we recommend to have a minimum weight margin of 60 kg to 70 kg with giving the right for the Organizing Committee to select the suitable weight for the following reasons: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - So far, there are no criteria to specify the weight. - Statistical analysis conducted by UAE NF: The analysis proved that the average weight of most male and female riders is between 55 and 65 kg. Our records, which include nearly 2,790 registered riders are from 64 different nationalities. - Study conduct by Dr. Divad Marlin presented at The 4th International Endurance Conference will be held in Boudheib/ UAE : <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Rider weight increases the energy the horse must use 2. Rider weight places extra strain on the tendons and joints 3. Rider weight often causes injury to the back

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		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. The greater the added weight the greater the risk of injury to the horse. 5. Any additional weight that a horse carries in the form of a rider with tack will increase the amount of energy the horse must use. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - it is unreasonable to add weight to the horses for long distances given that the weight usually placed is iron sheets or industrial materials that affect the health and safety of the horse and damage the principle of the welfare of the horses. - The substantial evolvement in Endurance Sport, in terms of training and veterinarian and nutritional care, was accompanied by evolvement in the athletes' performance in order to become professional, - Results of the recent Endurance events proved that the weight addition did not contribute to speed reduction. For instance, it was observed that in Young and Junior events which do not require weight, the average speeds are similar to those requiring weight and thus the targeted speed reduction by weight adding has not been achieved.
807	807.1 Veterinary inspection in case of visible blood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We agree with this proposal
807.2	Staggered starts may be used for single-day CEI 1* Events, if there are at least 50 starting Combinations, provided that the interval between the first and last Combination to start may not exceed one hour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We agree with the proposal to use Staggered Start for CEI 1* Events. • We recommend to have a Staggered Start for CEI 2* & CEI3* Events for the following reasons: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Enhance Horse welfare. 2. the staggered start was applied for FEI-CEI* 80 km events and CEI2* 120 km and proved to be successful with no injuries, fractures, accidents of horses were reported, no riders accidents during the event. The field clinic was almost

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		<p>empty. Despite the larger number of starters, vet gate operations functioned efficiently and with much ease.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Increased the percentage of completion 4. Enable the NF & OC to cope up with the growth of the sport and high increased number of horses. 5. Staggered start saves the cost and time for the OC, Rider, Trainer, Owner, Officials. 6. Staggered starts allow the athletes to depart in relevant groups allowing them to set their own speed. This is also a protection to horses as mixing with faster combinations can be avoided.
814.4	<p>Requirements for Loops 814.4.2 Each Loop must be a minimum of 20 km and a maximum of 40 km in length. 814.4.5 Minimum number of loops: 6 for 160km, 4 for 120km, 3 for 80km;</p>	<p>We agree with the proposal but we recommend to keep the current rule for Number of loops for CEI3*</p>
817.4	<p>Heart rate assessment: When the Horse enters the Vet Gate, it must first be presented for a heart rate assessment: For all Events (regardless of star level), Horses must be presented at the Vet Gate with a heart rate of no more than: 64 beats per minute (bpm) within 15 minutes of crossing the end line of each Loop (except the final Loop); and 64 bpm within 20 minutes of crossing the finish line of the final Loop.</p>	<p>We recommend maintaining the current Rules : At lower level events younger, less experienced horses may well take longer to achieve the required HR at vet gates throughout the competition. It is part of a learning curve for both horse and athlete and adds to the development of their competencies. A reduction to the time for HR compliance will result in the increase in disqualifications of athletes, reducing their ability to increase their experience and skill</p>
817.4.3	<p>In addition to Article 817.4.1, at the first Vet Gate after the halfway point on the course or at the third Vet Gate (whichever comes first), and at each subsequent Vet Gate, Horses that present with a</p>	<p>We recommend maintaining the current Rules because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some horses can still be nervous with higher heart rate which does not indicate a metabolic problem.

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	heart rate greater than 68 bpm at the first presentation will be designated as Failed to Qualify - metabolic (FTQ-ME), without any opportunity to present a second time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> at Low Level events younger, less experienced horses may well record higher than normal HR at vet gates throughout the competition. It is part of a learning curve for both horse and Athlete. The requested recovery inspection is always available as is the CRI to check if a horse required two presentations to initially meet the max 64 is fine to continue
819.1.2	Subject to Articles 817.2 (further restrictions for Vet Gates) and 819.1.1, the maximum number of Crew Members allowed on the Field of Play is three per Horse	<p>We recommend maintaining the current Rules that allow 5 people as crew members because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The nature of the climate and weather condition requires continuous cooling on the horses and therefore needs a crew to do the job for the welfare of the horse, and the current rule allows the officials to reduce the number if needed. When the restriction on crew numbers was first introduced, five was established to allow the inclusion of family members. Endurance has always prided itself on being a family sport at all levels as this is not purely a spectator sport. The existing rule allows to reduce numbers if needed in any event.
826.4.2	There must be at least 5km between crewing points. Continuous crewing (i.e. crewing outside the designated crew points) is prohibited and will result in Disqualification	<p>We don't agree with this proposal and recommend maintaining the current Rules because:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The Endurance sport is practiced in many countries in the world and in different geographical areas, some areas are characterized by extreme cold, moderate and rainy climate whereas some with high temperature, therefore the need for continuous crewing of horses in events vary in different regions. In countries where heat and humidity are high, the horses need to be crewed continuously throughout the loops for the horse welfare. therefore, we recommend that the current situation of continuous crewing should remain. For example, at the Tryon World Equestrian Games,

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		<p>where heat and humidity were high, there were few places to cool the horses, which led to many horses being eliminated.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The sport is growing tremendously in Asia and Africa where the weather condition is hot. Study and recommendations presented by Dr. David Marlin at the FEI Sport Forum 2019 for the countries participating in the Olympics - Tokyo 2020, advises the participants countries to do continuous cooling of horses during training periods and competition in order to maintain the health and safety of horses because the period of the Olympics is characterized by high temperatures and humidity and this situation is similar to the climate in many regions of the world that are similar in climate including Africa, Asia, Middle East and Americas
828	<p>Dye, Henna And Barrier Cream</p> <p>Dye, henna and/or barrier cream may not be used on the Horse at any time on the Field of Play. Failure to comply with this provision will result in Disqualification.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We agree to prevent using Dye & Barrier Cream and recommend to use Henna because henna is a natural material extracted from plants used to keep horses' limbs from salty soil and the high humidity which can cause big damage to the skin. thus, the use of henna is to protect the health and safety of horses The colour of Henna is much different than the blood.
831.1	<p>The minimum age requirements for Horses are: CEI2*:7 years old CEI3*:8 years old CEIOs and Championships: Horse must be one year older than the minimum age requirement that applies to a CEI of the same star level as the Championship</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We recommend maintaining the current Rules
832.3	<p>832.3 Any change in the Trainer of the Horse must be notified to the FEI without delay. If the registered Trainer of a Horse changes, the Horse may not participate in any Event for a period of 30 days, starting from the date of notification of the change to the FEI.</p> <p>847.3.1 Substitutions after Definite Entries:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We recommend maintaining the current Rules because: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> As the sport developed, stable with a big number of horses have more than one trainer for each stable who help in horse training and therefore have knowledge and experience in dealing with horses in the event of changing the current Trainer

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	<p>b) the registered Trainer of a Horse taking part in the Competition may not be substituted. In the event of a change in registered Trainer, Article 832.3 applies</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. The horse suspension period for participation is very long compared to the short season period. 3. There is little evidence to support this 30day competition ban because the Trainer has changed. If the rules are considered to be protecting the horse what difference will a 30day competition ban, make? <p>We suggest having pledge/ commitment from the new Trainer that he/she is fully responsible for a horse after changed to his/her supervision</p>
<p>834.2</p>	<p>Mandatory Out Of Competition Periods –MOOCP additional 7 days for Horses exceeding the average of 22kph over completed phases</p>	<p>We recommend maintaining the current Rules because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The nature of the tracks in many countries are flat tracks, thus, the speed of 22 km is the normal speed of the horses during the transition from Trot to Canter in flat tracks while it is much less in mounting and stony tracks. - The speed must be compared with the track nature: speed varies according to geographical regions and event tracks where sometimes in some areas the speed is 15 km/h, but compared to the effort exerted by horses in these areas, it is equivalent to a speed of more than 22 km /h. - The results of the scientific and practical study by “Equi-rating”, an equestrian research analytics company that has conducted several FEI studies, by analyzing 62,288 results, 618 competitions and 13280 horses show the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Horses seriously injured are those who have returned to competition after a long break (When assessing rest periods for horses, the most significant increase in risk to horse welfare are those horses who have not competed within the last 365 days) ▪ Horses that are constantly involved in Endurance events develop fewer injuries.

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ While research shows that speed is undoubtedly a risk factor, a finding that we do not dispute in any way, the reality in the sport is that horses with faster completion rates have higher qualification rates in their next competition, this is simply because those capable of producing high levels of performance are more likely to be successful in future competitions. This evidence suggests that elite horses should not be required to rest for longer periods between competitions as they are already producing higher qualification rates than lower-performing horses. ▪ Horses with poor performance in past competitions have low qualification rates in future competitions. ▪ Horses with faster completion speeds have higher qualification rates in their next competition. - In addition, we all know that the endurance season in most countries of the world is very short. Accordingly, adding additional rest period will impact the fitness and health of the horses and the growth and development of the endurance sport in the world. - In 2018, The proposed rule was to apply an additional 7 days rest period for Horses exceeding the average of 20 kph, and this year the proposed speed became 22 km kph which indicates that there is no field-based study that clearly shows what exactly the average speed require an additional mandatory rest period. This suggests that more field studies should be conducted before an extra mandatory period is imposed
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834.2	<p>Mandatory Out Of Competition Periods –MOOCP additional 14 days for 2 consecutive FTQ-ME 6 months following third consecutive FTQ-GA The horse will be banned from all future Endurance competitions at both the national and international level. For Four consecutive FTQ-GA</p> <p>180 days (subject to extension under Art.834.2.4) for Serious Injury (musculoskeletal)</p> <p>60 days (subject to extension under Art.834.2.4) for Serious Injury (metabolic)</p>	<p>We agree with this proposal</p> <p>Does FEI now record the national events on their platform? How can the FEI determine the MOOCP of a national event?</p>
848	<p>Maximum Number of Starter For each Event, there may be a maximum of 200 starters per Competition and a maximum of 400 starters per day, subject in each case to space at the venue and an appropriate ratio of Athletes to Officials.</p>	<p>If OC meets all FEI condition there is no need to set any limit on the number of starters because of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The great development in Endurance sport in recent years in terms of a number of horses, riders and the also officials, are increasing as the sport of Endurance is one of the most growing sport in the International Equestrian Federation. - The technological development and technology used in Endurance events in terms of infrastructure, equipment, number of stables, clinic, timing system and heart rate systems - The fact that Endurance season in most countries of the world is short and the demand by riders to compete in endurance events is very large due to the development of the sport. - All of these factors allow the NF and OC to accept a large number of participants. Accordingly, we recommend not to set any limit on the number of starters. - We suggest forming FEI Technical Committee group to evaluate the capacity of venues especially the permanent venues.

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850	<p>Rotation of Officials: The President of the Ground Jury, the Technical Delegate, the Chief Steward, the Foreign Veterinarian Delegate, the President of the Veterinary Commission and the President of the Treating Veterinarian Commission may be appointed at the same Event venue in any of the foregoing capacities only once every three months.</p> <p>A person may not serve as an FEI Endurance Official at more than ten Events in each Regional Group in any rolling year (i.e. in any 12-month period). (For example, if a person serves as a Steward ten times in a Regional Group in one rolling year, he may not serve as a Steward or in any other FEI Official role in that Regional Group during that one rolling year period. However, he may act as an FEI Official at Events in a different Regional Group in that period, subject to the same ten Event maximum).</p> <p>FEI Headquarters is responsible for appointing any Official For CEI 3* the Key officials</p>	<p>We recommend to apply the rule of appointment of officials to be the same applied in FEI other disciplines:</p> <p>In Endurance proposed Rules 2020 we note that the Endurance Technical Committee has amended many Rules to be in line with FEI General Regulations for other disciplines which we support. The proposed educational and evaluation system for the officials at the 2019 FEI sports forum is the solution to assure the implementation of the rules during the event. Example: The proposed rule of the responsibility to appoint the key officials for CEI3* is given to FEI headquarters, while the appointment of the officials for the FEI regional competition was given to the OC in consultation with FEI. This indicate to maintain the general officials appointing system across all FEI displaces</p> <p>The proposed rules will increase the cost for the OC and NFs</p>
854.4	<p>The Foreign Judge or President of the Ground Jury (as indicated in the table below) must provide a report to the FEI containing the information set out in the FEI General Regulations within 15 days of the relevant Event:</p> <p>CEI 1* and 2* and Regional Championships: President of the Ground Jury CEI 3* and Championships: Foreign Judge</p>	We agree with this proposal

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876	<p>Suspensions</p> <p>867.1 If an Athlete or Trainer incurs 100 or more penalty points, the Athlete/Trainer will receive an automatic two-month suspension. After the suspension is served, the Athlete's/Trainer's penalty points total will be reduced by 100 points</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We recommend increasing the penalty points to 300 instead of 100 for the trainer because the trainers have many horses participating in the same event. - there should be a ratio between the number of horses under trainer and the total penalty points. - If the horse is eliminated because of higher pulse only and not a metabolic, the 10 penalty points should not be applied as it does not compromise the horse welfare.
	<p>Exemptions from novice qualification requirements:</p> <p>839.2.2 The Horse will be granted the exemption only if (i) it is eight years or older at the time of the request, and (ii) in the three years prior to the request it has successfully completed a minimum of 480 km in Competitions over distances of 80 km, including at least one competition of 80km or more at the age of eight or older.</p> <p>839.2.3 The Athlete will be granted the exemption only if he has successfully completed a minimum of 480 km in Competitions over 80 km or more in the three years prior to the request</p>	<p>We recommend maintaining the current rule as: Horses & Athletes who have accumulated a minimum of 240 km in a maximum of three events of 80km or higher in a 36 months period, can be granted an exemption</p>
841	<p>Qualification for Championships:</p> <p>Young Rider/Junior Championships: Three CEI 2* Events or higher Senior Championships: Five CEI 2* Events or higher (including a minimum of two CEI 3* for Senior 3* Championships) Regional Championships: Three CEI 1* Events or higher Young Horse Championships: Five CEI 1* Events or higher</p>	<p>We recommend maintaining the current rule</p>

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<p>862</p>	<p>Elite Athlete Status</p> <p>862.1 Athletes who meet the criteria under this Article 862 will receive the recognition of Elite Athlete Status. Elite Athlete Status will not result in automatic qualification for any Championships.</p>	<p>We recommend keeping the current rule because</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There must be a rewarding system for the Elite riders compare to other disciplines, for example, in showjumping Elite rider receive a special invitation to big events even with a free entry and travel costs - Rewarding Elite riders will encourage another rider to reach this status which we believe it will promote the horse welfare. - It can't be that most of the proposed rules are just restriction and sanction but has to be rewarding as well.
	<p>Qualification from CEI1* to Championships</p> <p>Art. 840 CEI EVENTS</p> <p>Competing at CEI 1* once qualified for that level:</p> <p>a) Athletes and Horses must successfully complete three CEI 1* Competitions at a maximum speed of 18 km/hour or at the speed linked to their Completion Rate, whichever is lower. b) The speed cap for any subsequent CEI 1* will be determined by the Completion Rate of the Athlete/Horse.</p> <p>Competing at CEI 2* once qualified for that level:</p> <p>a) Athletes and Horses must successfully complete one CEI 2* at a maximum speed of 18 km/hour or at the speed linked to their Completion Rate, whichever is lower. b) The speed cap for any subsequent CEI 2* will be</p>	<p>We don't agree with this proposal because:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. It does not serve sports and does not contribute to its development, rather it will hinder the current development and growth in the Endurance discipline. 2. it has been rejected by the endurance community (70% of the society) Where it proved through the questioner conduct By Mr. Tareq Taher (Rider representative in Endurance technical committee) 3. was rejected by the practicing countries during 2019 FEI Sport forum. 4. Increase the time for the riders and horses to qualify that can be extended for years, especially in countries where there are not enough FEI events 5. This system will be very expensive for the riders, owners and organizing committees as they have to do many events to finish the qualification. 6. Too short a notice to implement in the field as a proper system needs to be devised including all the required changes> (example: IT system to do all the calculations).

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	<p>determined by the Completion Rate of the Athlete/Horse.</p> <p>Competing at CEI 3* once qualified for that level:</p> <p>a) If the Athlete and Horse have not successfully completed a CEI 2* together as a Combination within three years of the date of the CEI 3* Competition they wish to participate in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) They must successfully complete one CEI 3* at a maximum speed of 18 km/hour or at the speed linked to their Completion Rate, whichever is lower; and (ii) Any subsequent CEI 3* will be subject to a speed cap based on the Completion Rate of the Athlete/Horse. <p>b) If the Athlete and Horse have successfully completed a CEI 2* together as a Combination within three years of the date of the CEI 3* Competition they wish to participate in, their speed cap for CEI 3* Competitions is based on their Completion Rate.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. In many countries, they don't have Electronic Timing System but they used the Manual system which will be more difficult to record the speed of the combination, and more difficult for the official to control it. 8. This system requires Advance Electronic Timing System which will increase the cost for NF/OC 9. The proposed system is quite ambiguous as it allows the riders/horses compete with 16/h in Novice qualifications and at the same time preventing it to do a higher level of competitions with a lesser speed(in case of horse/rider with less than 25% completion rate where the speed limit is 14/h) <p>We recommend keeping the current rule until proper system is studied and tested including the endurance community.</p>
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