



**EQUESTRIAN SPORTS  
NEW ZEALAND**

**General Regulations, July 2020  
Summary of changes**

**ESNZ General Regulations Index page. Removed**

- *This is the page that follows the Contents.*
  - *It is a list of words and terms with page number/s on where to find them in the regulations.*
  - *Over the years the regulations have been updated, and often shortened, and various words or terms have had to come out of the Index, but new ones don't tend to go in, so it's not actually very comprehensive.*
  - *It was agreed by the ESNZ TC that it is probably not used very much (if at all) as the Contents page is the go-to for finding the appropriate Article/subject in the regulations.*
  - *The FEI's General Regulations do not have an Index page.*
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**Article 116: Nationality Status of Competitors**

1. Individual foreign competitors (as defined in Article 116.2.2) may compete in events and competitions in NZ subject to:
    - 1.1. For national events and competitions in NZ they must **have the appropriate level of ESNZ membership** ~~be full members of ESNZ.~~
    - 1.2. For international (FEI) events and competitions in NZ they must have permission from their own National Federation and from ESNZ.
    - 1.3. For national events and competitions in NZ, a Discipline's rules may require proof of eligibility of rider and/or horse for safety reasons; this proof should not require membership of the competitor's national federation.
- *ESNZ have added a new level of membership for foreign riders so need to ensure our GRs recognize and cover this. It is \$60 for the rider and \$60 for the horse registration. Entitles them to compete at three events only – if they are doing more than that then they need to fully register horse and/or rider. Riders and horses that are invited to compete in New Zealand as part of an official team or competition i.e, trans-tasman competition are not required to be registered.*
  - *The ESNZ TC have resolved to change the wording of 116.1.1 to reflect this.*
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**Article 123: Membership, Good Standing and Eligibility**

1. Subject to Article 105, all competitors competing in Sanctioned events must be a member of ESNZ and are therefore bound by the general rules and regulations of Equestrian Sports New Zealand Inc. Competitors must be one of the following:
  - 1.1. Full Member
  - 1.2. Full Member – Child **(as per ESNZ Membership form)**
  - 1.3. Full Member – Non-Competing Official/Volunteer

#### 1.4. Introductory Member

#### 1.5. Casual Member

- *The ESNZ TC were asked if the age definition for Child or Full was required.*
  - *The ESNZ TC were asked if Casual Member should be added as a membership to Article 123.*
  - *The ESNZ TC resolved to add the wording as above.*
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### **Article 127: Age Definition and Classification of Horses and Ponies**

1. **For the purposes of competing in any ESNZ event, all horses are deemed to have their birth date on 1 August.**
  2. The minimum age for any horse entered in any event will be determined by the Discipline Board.
  3. To compete as a pony in competitions under the Constitutional Rules and Regulations the pony must measure 148cm or under. The owners must be in the possession of an annual or life measurement certificate issued by the Royal Agricultural Society for that pony. A copy of this must be lodged with ESNZ on the pony's file to complete the process.
  4. Classification of the height of a pony is up to and not exceeding 148cm. Once a pony is registered with ESNZ it may, if its height changes, be re-registered as a horse, **with a current height certificate provided to prove it is now a horse (ie exceeding 148cm)**. However, once re-registered as a horse it cannot be registered again as a pony.
  5. Classification of a horse is height over 148cm. Once a horse is registered with ESNZ it may, if its height changes, be re-registered as a pony, provided it has a current RAS Height Certificate or Life Certificate. However, once re-registered as a pony it cannot be registered again as a horse
  6. **Once a horse/pony has been measured and issued with a Life Height Certificate, it cannot be registered as a different height to what the Life Certificate shows.**
    - *The ESNZ TC were asked to discuss whether an Age Definition for all competing horses should be added to Article 127 and as a result have now added 127.1 for clarity and simplification.*
    - *The ESNZ TC were asked to discuss the issues of a) ponies being re-registered as horses but without proof (as our rules don't require horses to have a height certificate) and b) horses or ponies (mainly) being measured and issued with a Life Height Certificate, and then later being re-measured as different from the Life certificate and being re-registered accordingly.*
    - *The ESNZ TC believe that Life Height certificates should be just that: for life*
    - *The ESNZ TC resolved to make the above changes to Article 127.*
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### **Article 132: Abuse of Horses**

1. No person may abuse a horse during an event or at any other time. "Abuse" means an action or omission which causes or is likely to cause pain or unnecessary discomfort to a horse, including without limitation any of the following (to be read in conjunction with the relevant discipline rules):
  - 1.1. To whip or beat a horse excessively;
  - 1.2. To subject a horse to any kind of electric shock device;
  - 1.3. To use spurs excessively or persistently;
  - 1.4. To jab the horse in the mouth with the bit or any other device;
  - 1.5. To compete using an exhausted, lame or injured horse;
  - 1.6. To "rap" a horse;
  - 1.7. To abnormally sensitise or desensitise any part of a horse;
  - 1.8. To leave a horse without adequate food, drink or exercise;

- 1.9. To use any device or equipment which cause excessive pain to the horse upon knocking down an obstacle.
  - 1.10. Trimming a horse's whiskers or inner ear hair ~~(to be enforced from 2020)~~
2. Any person witnessing any form of abuse must report it in the form of a ~~Protest if the abuse occurs during an event or as a~~ Complaint, either to the GJ if at an Event, or to the ESNZ CRO if ~~outside of an Event if the abuse does not occur during an event.~~
    - *The ESNZ TC discussed whisker and inner ear trimming and agreed that we should be leading the way on these important horse welfare issues. Article 132.1.10 has been updated to show whisker and inner ear trimming as abuse of the horse. Officials will be issuing warnings to anyone seen not complying with this rule.*
    - *The ESNZ TC were asked to discuss Article 132 as abuse of a horse may occur during an Event, but outside of a competition (ie at the stables).*
    - *It was agreed and resolved that 132.2 would be re-worded so that abuse of horses could only be dealt with by way of Complaint, and not Protest.*
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### **Article 134: Stewards General**

1. ESNZ must appoint a Steward General in order to maintain communication with the FEI on stewarding matters.
  2. The Steward General must:
    - 2.1. attend an FEI seminar for Stewards General;
    - 2.2. direct and control the stewarding of all international events organised in NZ.
- *The ESNZ TC discussed Article 134 and resolved to re-name the Article **Steward General***
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### **Article 135: Foreign Judges Judging in New Zealand**

1. Before a Foreign National Judge can officiate in NZ, under the Constitutional Rules and Regulations, their credentials will be checked by the Discipline concerned before their appointment is approved.
  2. Should a Foreign National Judge become domiciled in NZ it will be at the discretion of the relevant Discipline should that person be permitted to be President of the GJ under ~~that discipline's rules the~~ **Constitutional Rules and Regulations.**
    - *The ESNZ TC were asked to review the wording for 135.2. It was resolved to be edited as above.*
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## **CHAPTER EIGHT: NATIONAL OFFICIALS**

### **Article 136: Disclaimer of Liability**

3. For the purpose of Article 136, ESNZ national and FEI officials, must be a minimum age of 18 and must be ~~a~~ financial members of ~~their national federation~~ **ESNZ**, as well as meeting any discipline requirements.
  - *The ESNZ TC resolved to remove NATIONAL from the Chapter Eight heading so it covers all Officials.*
  - *The ESNZ TC resolved to add in the extra to 136.1 to make it clear that all Officials must be financial members of their NF.*

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## Article 151: Protective Headgear

1. ESNZ recommends approved safety helmets should be worn at all times when dealing with horses.
2. Riders will not be permitted to train or compete unless they wear approved, tagged, protective headgear bearing the ESNZ/NZPCA helmet tag.

Note: if riders are found with unapproved and/or non-tagged helmet, it will not result automatically in elimination but 151.5, in its entirety will be applied, and the rider can continue to ride providing they are wearing an approved, tagged, helmet.

3. All riders must wear protective headgear that conforms with one of the current approved safety standards and is tagged accordingly. These standards may be subject to change but the latest list can be found on the ESNZ website at <https://www.nzequestrian.org.nz/safety/helmet-tagging/> ESNZ will ensure that any changes to the standards are communicated to members and area committees
4. While riding at any showgrounds/competition venue, or ESNZ venue, the use of properly fastened approved, tagged protective headgear will be mandatory. **This includes award ceremonies where riders are mounted.**
5. FAILURE TO WEAR APPROVED TAGGED PROTECTIVE HEADGEAR
  - a. Any rider who fails to wear approved, tagged, protective headgear at any event, training day or at any ESNZ venue at any time, will be issued with a warning by a member of the Ground Jury or an ESNZ listed official at an event where there is no Ground Jury. The issuing officer/Ground Jury will issue an official warning card and a copy will be sent to ESNZ.
  - b. If that rider fails to comply for a second time, they will receive an instant \$50 fine, payable to ESNZ. An official warning card will be filled out by a member of the Ground Jury/ESNZ official and sent to ESNZ. The rider cannot compete again until the fine is paid to ESNZ.
  - c. A third or any subsequent offence for riding at a competition/venue without correctly, approved, tagged protective headgear will result in a further fine of \$250 and may include a stand down period which will be determined by an ESNZ judicial committee or ground jury.
    - *It was brought to the attention of ESNZ that riders will occasionally remove their helmets during award ceremonies, and this is contravening Article 151.*
    - *The ESNZ TC discussed this and agreed that more education was required around this, and that we would adopt the extra wording to 151.4*

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## Article 154: Traffic Management

1. All ESNZ events that have a direct or indirect impact on traffic must have a traffic management plan, **approved by the relevant authority**, in place for their event.
  - *The ESNZ TC resolved that Article 154 just needs some wording to make it correct so that OCs are fulfilling their legal obligations in regards to Traffic Management.*

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## Protests (from Article 139)

11. The GJ shall have the power to receive and determine any of the following protests received during its period of jurisdiction:
  - 11.1 Protests relating to a breach of Discipline Rules or By Laws and/or ESNZ Regulations by a competitor while riding and competing in an Event (for the avoidance of doubt this is conduct that could not be the basis of a Complaint).

- 11.2 Protests relating to the eligibility of a competitor for a Competition or Event.
- 11.3 Protests relating to the eligibility of a horse for a Competition or Event.
- 11.4 Protests relating to the eligibility of any combination of horse and rider for a Competition or Event.
- 11.5 Protests to an obstacle, or to the plan or length of a course for a jumping Competition.
- 11.6 Protests relating to the cross country course or obstacles at an Event.
- 11.7 Protests relating to the classification of a Competition.
- 11.8 Protests relating to abuse of a horse as set out in Article 132.
- 11.9 Protests relating to Article 3 of the VRs.

12. For a Protest to be valid it must:

- 12.1. be made by a competitor who has competed in the specific Competition from which the protest ensues, or that competitor's representative when the competitor making the protest is incapacitated or is under the age of 18;
- 12.2. be submitted to the GJ in writing and accompanied by a fee of \$50.00. The fee can be paid in cash or as a cheque;
- 12.3 reference the relevant Rule alleged to have been infringed from the ESNZ Regulations and/or the Discipline Rules or By-Laws; and
- 12.4 subject to Rules 13 or 14 of this Article, be submitted to the GJ no later than 60 minutes after the completion of the Competition from which the protest ensues. For the purposes of this Rule, the GJ is the sole judge of time.

- *The ESNZ TC were asked to discuss the rules around Protests and the omission of decisions not subject to Protests.*
- *It was agreed that the following would be **added** in the ESNZ GRs (as per the FEI's GRs but without one point which refers to Yellow Warning Cards, which we felt was unnecessary).*
- *This will become 139.12, with everything following that clause being moved down a clause.*

12. There is no Protest against:

- a Decisions of the Ground Jury arising from the field of play, which are final and binding, such as, but not limited to:
  - (i) where the Decision is based on a factual observation of performance during a Competition or the awarding of marks for performance;
  - (ii) whether an obstacle was knocked down; whether a Horse was disobedient; whether a Horse refused at an obstacle or knocked it down while jumping;
  - (iii) whether an Athlete or Horse has fallen;
  - (iv) whether a Horse circled in a combination or refused or ran out;
  - (v) the time taken for the round;
  - (vi) whether an obstacle was jumped within the time; and/or
  - (vii) whether, the particular track followed by an Athlete caused him/her to incur a penalty under the applicable Sport Rules.
- b The Elimination or Disqualification of a Horse for veterinary reasons, including nonacceptance of a Horse at a Horse Inspection unless otherwise specified;
- c The Elimination or Disqualification of an Athlete for medical reasons/fitness to compete.