**ESNZ Endurance – seeking feedback on proposed changes to FEI rules**

We have a short period of time to decide how we want to vote on the proposed rule changes. Some of the modifications that we (and other NFs) proposed after the previous version of the rules have been incorporated. Some of the proposed rule changes are very unpalatable to endurance in NZ and it is highly likely that those changes would not be incorporated into our national rules. This document summarises the proposed changes, provides some comment and an opportunity for feedback on each change. Please advise whether you a) support the proposed rule change, b) you don’t particularly like the rule but think we could live with it, or c) are strongly opposed to the rule change. At this stage, we do not know which rules will be voted on in blocks. For this reason, we need to be pragmatic and think about what we could accept. I’ve taken all care in trying to prepare this table but some of the rules are a little difficult to understand; I suggest you also look at the original FEI documents (also attached to this email) if you want to look into these any further. Please send all feedback back to me at [j.f.weston@massey.ac.nz](mailto:j.f.weston@massey.ac.nz)

Feedback is on behalf of: …………………………………………………………………………. (your name or club)

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| Rule | Proposed New Wording (red font is | Comment | Your Feedback |
| Art 802.5.1 Criteria for test events for championships | 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 organiser of a Championship to host a test event around 12 months prior to the Championship (to ensure the test event takes place around the same time of year and with similar weather conditions as the Championship), which test event must have:  (a) the same (or similar) distance, course, and panel of Officials as the Championship; and  (b) the same provider for timing, data handling and heart rate monitoring. | Our feedback that the time of year should also be similar has been incorporated |  |
| Art 805.1 Rider Minimum Weight | JY riders 60 kg  1\* 70 kg  2\* 75 kg  3\* 75 kg (all include with all tack except the bridle) | NZ member feedback was quite evenly split around changing 2\* or 3\* weights or keeping them the same. A minimum weight for JY riders was not anticipated. |  |
| Art 807.2 Method of starting | Staggered starts in one-day rides are to be permitted only for CEI1\* subject to conditions (if there are at least 50 starting combinations). | Not likely to affect us in NZ |  |
| Art 847 Maximum number of starters | Maximum 200 starters per class subject to venue and appropriate ratio of competitors to Officials; maximum 400 starters per day subject to the same conditions.  Also subject to the infrastructure at the venue. | Not likely to affect us in NZ or when at Championship events |  |
| Art. 810 (Removal from Competition)  Art. 864 (Athlete and Trainer Penalty Points) | Increase sanctions for removing a Horse from the Field of Play | We were in favour of this originally and the wording has only been improved |  |
| Various (B5) | Course Design: loop length, loop number and distance between water points:  1\* rides to be 100-119 km (was 80-119km) and must be at least 3 loops  2\* rides must be at least 4 loops  3\* rides must be at least 5 loops  160 km Championship rides (world level) must be at least 6 loops  Loops must be a minimum of 20 km and a maximum of 20 km  Water must be available at least every 10 km  On-course crewing points must be at least 5 km apart – crewing outside the designated crew points is prohibited and will result in disqualification. | No more 1\* 80 km rides  We were against loops being a minimum of 20 km as we sometimes struggle to get a course where that works. Also, even at 20+ km, overseas some riders are still travelling at very high speeds on the last loop.  We were against on-course crewing. |  |
| B.6- Heart rate parameters and presentation times | |  | | --- | | For all Events (regardless of star level), Horses must be presented for a heart rate assessment with a heart rate of no more than:  (a) 64 beats per minute (bpm) within 15 minutes of crossing the end line of each Loop (except the final Loop); and  (b) 64 bpm within 20 minutes of crossing the finish line of the final Loop.  The presentation time limits in Article 816.6.1 start to count down from the time the Combination crosses the end line of a Loop and stops when the Horse crosses the line into the Vetting Area to be presented for its Horse Inspection (if the Horse is required to undergo a heart rate re-inspection, the presentation time limit will continue to count down from when the Horse fails the first heart rate inspection). If the Veterinarians responsible for the Horse Inspection are occupied with several other Horses when a Combination presents at the Vetting Area, then the presentation time will be stopped for that Combination while it waits for inspection.  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 at the Vetting Area with a heart rate greater than 68 bpm at the first presentation must pass a heart rate re-inspection and a compulsory re-inspection before being permitted to start the next Loop. | | Time to present has not changed from what was previously proposed but in red to draw your attention to it.  This bit is new and will require some changes to our timing systems in cases where a rider calls time but the horse’s HR isn’t able to be taken immediately.  This has been watered down somewhat in that they still have an opportunity to have a second HR inspection rather than being eliminated. |  |
| Art. 813.2.2 Number of crew | Subject to Articles 816.4 (further restrictions for the Vetting Area) and 813.2.1, the maximum number of Crew Members allowed on the Field of Play is four per Horse.  813.3 All crew associated with a horse must have bibs displaying that number and the horse must also be able to be identified from a distance at all times (e.g. if it has a rug on – must still be able to see a number on it)  813.5 Horses must remain in clear view at all times on the Field of Play and no screens, equipment or barrier of any kind may be used to obscure any part of the horse. | There were varying recommendations from 3 to 5 crew per horse (in addition to the rider) so this is a compromise. Need to clarify that this is 4 in total and not 4 in strapping area and another 4 out on course. Also that the Chef and Team Vet are in addition to the 4 for Championship events.  Would require more sets of bibs to have at least 5 the same for each number/colour.  OK |  |
| Art 824 Dyes and skin creams | Dyes (including henna and/or barrier cream) may not be used on the Horse at any time on the Field of Play as it may obstruct the veterinary inspection and identification of the Horse. Barrier cream or other topical skin cream may be used on the Horse, provided that it is removed before presentation for Horse Inspections or at the request of any Veterinarian or Official anywhere on the Field of Play. Failure to comply with this provision will result in Disqualification. | Henna still banned (many NFs were opposed to this), creams still OK but not during horse inspections, would need to be wiped off. |  |
| Art. 825.3 | Prohibited tack/equipment**:** Use of the following is prohibited at all times during a Competition on the Field of Play and in training areas | Expanded to include in training areas. |  |
| Art 826.2 Minimum age of trainer and change in trainer | The registered Trainer must be at least 18 years old. Substitution of the registered Trainer of a Horse taking part in an Event will not be allowed after the date of Definite Entries. When a Horse has a change of registered Trainer, the Horse will not be permitted to compete for 30 days. | We agreed that we could cope with this rule if it was introduced. |  |
| B.10- Targeted Mandatory Out Of Competition Periods (MOOCP) | Standard MOOCP (for distance travelled) 0-54 km = 5 d, >54-106 km = 12 d, >106-126 km = 19 d, >126-146 km = 26 d, >146 d = 33 days  Some additional MOOCP e.g. for first or second consecutive lameness eliminations have been dropped.  Additional MOOCPs:  Horses that exceed an average of 20 km/hr over completed loops – an additional 7 days.  Second consecutive FTQ-ME (Failure to Qualify – metabolic) in a rolling year – an additional 14 days.  Third (or subsequent) FTQ-ME (Failure to Qualify – metabolic) in a rolling year – an additional 60 days.  Serious injury (musculoskeletal) – additional 180 days.  Serious injury (metabolic) – additional 60 days.  Failure by the Person Responsible to provide a copy of the veterinary report from a designated/approved referral centre to the FEI Veterinary Department in accordance with Article 840 – additional 180 days. | The removal of these MOOCPs for lameness seemed like a backward step for horse welfare. |  |
| B.11- Qualification from CEI1\* to Championships | 830. OVERVIEW: In order to promote good horsemanship and protect Horse welfare, the qualification system to compete in FEI Events at different star levels is based on (and rewards) successful completions of Competitions, which will be tracked for each Athlete and Horse. Similarly, repeated 'Failure to Qualify' and/or Disqualification, in particular where such designations are combined with high average speeds over the course, will be penalised to ensure that the Athlete learns to ride safely over a course at lower speed (see Article 837).  831. SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION: A 'successful completion' of a Competition means that the Combination finished all of the Phases of the course in accordance with the applicable course requirements (maximum allotted time, correct order without short cuts, no prohibited assistance, etc), passed all of the Horse Inspections, complied with minimum weight requirements and any applicable speed restrictions, did not withdraw or retire, was not designated as 'Failed to Qualify', was not Disqualified during or after the Competition, and complied with any applicable Mandatory Out of Competition Period(s).  833.3 The qualification procedure for CEI star levels is set out below:  833.3.1 CEI 1\*: Athletes and Horses are qualified to compete at the CEI 1\* level once they have successfully completed all the novice qualifications, but no earlier than six months (for Athletes) and one year (for Horses) after the successful completion of their first novice ride. Athletes and Horses must successfully complete a CEI 1\* within two years of qualifying for the CEI 1\* level. If they fail to do so, they will lose their CEI 1\* qualification and must update their novice qualifications to re-qualify for the CEI 1\* level.  833.3.2 CEI 2\*: Athletes and Horses are qualified to compete at the CEI 2\* level once they have successfully completed a minimum of two consecutive CEI 1\* within a two-year period.  833.3.3 CEI 3\*: Athletes and Horses may only compete at the CEI 3\* level if they are qualified as a Combination. To so qualify, they must have successfully completed a minimum of (i) two consecutive CEI 2\*, and (ii) one CEI 2\* together as a Combination, all within a two-year period. (The Combination ride may be one of the two consecutive rides or may be a separate third ride).  834. COMPETING AT CEI EVENTS ONCE QUALIFIED  834.1 Once qualified for the CEI 1\* and CEI 2\* levels, there are no further requirements to compete at those levels.  834.2 If the Athlete and Horse are both individually qualified for the CEI 3\* level, but in other Combinations (i.e. with other partners), they have to successfully complete one CEI 2\* as a Combination to compete together in a CEI 3\*.  836.1 To qualify for Championships, Horses and Athletes must have:  836.1.1 graduated through the qualifying processes for novice and CEI star qualifications, up to and including the star level of the Championship (for example, for a 2\* Championship, the Athlete and Horse must each be qualified for the CEI 2\* level); and  836.1.2 successfully completed the relevant additional number of CEIs (or CEIOs of the same star level) specified in the table below. Of those additional rides:  (a) one or two (as specified in the table) must have been undertaken by the relevant Athlete and Horse as a Combination; and  (b) that ride (or one of those two rides) must have (i) been a single-day event over the same distance as the Championship (or greater distance), and (ii) taken place prior to, but no more than two years prior to, the deadline for Nominated Entries for the Championship or 60 days prior to the Championship (whichever comes first).  842 Transitional provisions: The qualification requirements for Championships set out in Article 836 will not apply to any Championships being held in 2020, and so will apply only to Championships held from 1 January 2021 onwards. | They have removed capped speeds as there was overwhelmingly negative feedback – although they often wouldn’t have affected us, having to monitor and calculate speeds would have been difficult.  Reduced from 3 CEI\* before progressing to 2\* but does require two consecutive qualifications.  More focus on horse and rider qualifying as a combination in at least some of the rides which will reduce the ability for rider exchanges overseas.  This will help. |  |
| Art 837 New speed restrictions associated with FTQ or DSQ at speeds > 20 km/hr | (Only comes into force if more than once in a one-year rolling period)  If an Athlete or Horse (in any Combination) is designated as Failed to Qualify (FTQ) or Disqualified (DSQ) at a number of Competitions within a one-year rolling period, and the average speed of the Athlete or Horse over the course at each of those Competitions exceeded 20 km/hour, the consequences (and conditions for lifting the speed restriction) set out in the table below will apply to the Athlete and Horse in question:  If two **consecutive** – limit to 18 km/hr until a successful qualification.  If three in a rolling year – limit to 18 km/hr until two successful qualifications at this speed.  If four in a rolling year – demoted by one \* level and limited to 18 km/hr until two successful qualifications at this speed.  If five in a rolling year then demoted back to novice qualifying again. | Only rarely do we have a horse competing at this speed. |  |
| Art 838 Calculating average speed and speed restrictions | 838.1 The average speed of a Combination over a course (including for the purposes of determining if 20 km/hour has been exceeded, further to Articles 837.1 and 839.2.1) is the average speed over all completed Loops (including any Loops that end in a 'Failed to Qualify' designation). If a Loop is not completed, then the speed of that partial Loop does not count towards the average. If a Horse fails to complete the first Loop, no average speed will be recorded.  838.2 To comply with the speed restriction of 16 km/hour (in Article 832.3) or of 18 km/hour (in Article 837.1), the average speed of a Combination in each Loop must be no more than the applicable speed restriction. It is not enough for the Combination to keep its average speed over all of the Loops combined under the speed restriction. If the average speed of a Combination exceeds the applicable speed restriction on any Loop, the Combination will be classified as Failed to Qualify-Speed (FTQ-SP). If the Horse fails a Horse Inspection after such Loop, the Combination will also be classified according to any other elimination codes (see Annex 3) that apply for veterinary reasons. |  |  |
| Art 832.2 Novice qualifying procedure | Horses and Athletes must have successfully completed (not necessarily as a Combination) two novice rides of 80-100 km each restricted to a speed of no more than 16 km/hour (calculated in accordance with Article 838.2). The required rides may be completed either as (i) two single-day events, or (ii) one single-day event and one multi-day event (for the multi-day event, 40-50km must be completed per day for two consecutive days at the same Competition). All qualifying novice rides must be completed within a two-year period.  832.4 The Horse will be granted an exemption from the novice qualifications 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 cumulative 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. The Athlete will be granted an exemption from the novice qualifications if he has successfully completed a cumulative minimum of 480 km in Competitions over 80 km or more in the three years prior to the request. | No longer need to also complete two 40 km rides.  Hard to see this being taken up in NZ as horses generally do a lot of CEN rides initially. |  |
| Art 803.1 | 803.1.1 **1\*:** Competitions between 100-119 km in one day.  803.1.2 **2\*:** Competitions between 120-139 km in one day, or between 70-89 km per day over two days.  803.1.3 **3\*:** Competitions between 140-160 km in one day, or 90-100 km per day over two days, or 70-80 km per day over three days or more. |  |  |
| Art 849 Rotation of officials | 849.1 For the purposes of this Article 849, a 'specified Official' includes all members of the Ground Jury (including the President of the Ground Jury and the Foreign Judge), the Technical Delegate, the Chief Steward and all members of the Veterinary Commission (including the President of the Veterinary Commission and the Foreign Veterinary Delegate).  849.2 Where only one Event is held each year at a particular venue, a person may serve as a specified Official at that Event no more than three times in any five year rolling period.  849.3 Where more than one Event is held each year at a particular venue, a person may serve as a specified Official at that venue (a) for no more than three Events per year; and (b) for no more than nine Events in total in any five year rolling period. | This probably isn’t too bad for us given we use a range of venues though we will need to be careful with NEC Taupo. |  |
| Art 856 Independent Governance Advisors | 856.1 At all FEI Events, the FEI has the right to appoint an Independent Governance Advisor to attend the Event and to report back to the FEI in relation to (i) the organisation of the Competitions, the venue and the course, (ii) the performance of the Officials, and (iii) suggested areas for improvement. Independent Governance Advisors must provide their reports to the FEI Endurance Department, which will share a copy of those reports with the FEI Endurance Technical Committee on request. The FEI Endurance Department will publish an annual report summarising the key findings of the Independent Governance Advisors (taking account of any confidentiality requirements). The FEI Endurance Technical Committee will also consider the Independent Governance Advisors' evaluation of the performance of Officials when appointing such Officials for Events. | Don’t think this is a problem for us. |  |
| Annex 6 Officials required for events | Proposal stays as initially presented. Basically for Judges and TDs, those that are currently level 4 would drop to level 3 and there will be a new qualification process to progress to level 4. For Stewards, (I think!) it looks like everyone will drop one level and there will be a new process for qualifying to Level 4.  At 3\* (*I think not at other levels*) – at least half of the Veterinary Commission (including President and FVD) must be ‘Foreign’ | Would like feedback from the OTP about the implications of this section.  We would always need at least 2 Foreign vets then which becomes much more expensive unless their travel is subsidised by FEI. |  |
| B 13 Annex Visible blood | Horse may continue in competition as long as blood is not “free-flowing” and the veterinary commission members do not think there is any risk to horse welfare from the horse continuing. Vets need to take photos and report on every instance. |  |  |
| Art 804.2 Competition schedule | Competition schedule must also include (viii) speed restrictions (if applicable), (ix) time limits (in total and for each phase as applicable) |  |  |
| Art 809.2 Individual classification | Regardless of the order and rules for starting, each Athlete must carry out the entire Competition as if competing alone against the clock… The Combination that finishes the course in the shortest time, while respecting all course requirements including **any applicable speed restrictions**...will be classified as the winner of the competition. | Asian Federations are saying this is a nonsense as you can’t have a winner when some horses may be on a speed restriction. The rule still makes sense I think. |  |
| Art 809.3 Team Classification | If any Combination whose result counted towards team classification is subsequently Disqualified, the classification of that entire team will become null and void. | This might need clarifying; if the team has another slower qualified horse then that 4th horse’s result should come into the calculation and the results be recalculated. |  |
| Art 817.1 | The course of a competition must be officially established at least 7 days before the competition begins. | We would struggle to achieve this much of the time. |  |
| Art 827.1 Horse minimum age | CEI2\* = 7 years old  CEI3\* 8 years old  CEIOs and Championships (world level) – horse must be at least one year older than the minimum age requirement for that \* level. | I think we could cope with this. |  |
| Art 843 Invitations for WEG | All details seem reasonable |  |  |
| Art 851.1 | In CEI 3\* and Championships, the Foreign Veterinary Delegate and President of the Ground Jury must be available at the Event Venue at least until the morning after the Event finishes. | This needs further definition of “morning” 12.01 am??? 9 am?? Will incur further costs but works for us when 3\* is held on the first day anyway. |  |
| Art 861.1 Elite athlete status | Elite athlete status will not result in automatic qualification for any Championships. |  |  |
| Annex 5 Veterinary Control | At all CEI 2\*, CEI 3\*, and Championships, subject to the discretion of the Veterinary Commission, all competing Horses must remain in the stable area at the Event under veterinary supervision for (i) a minimum of eight hours before the First (Pre-Ride) Inspection (subject to published closing times for the stables), and (ii) a minimum of eight hours after the scheduled finish for the Competition. | We would not generally have all horses present at least 8 hours before the first (pre-ride) inspection. |  |