

Review of proposed FEI Endurance Rules (effective January 1 2020)

Opportunity for ESNZ members to provide feedback

After each section of this document there will be questions seeking your views. Feel free to provide additional comments to expand on your answer to any question. You do not have to reply to each question. Please send written submissions to the Sports Administrator, Jo Lankow at m.lankow@xtra.co.nz by 5 pm Friday 9th August so we can collate all responses. There will be further versions of the proposed rules and more opportunities for ESNZ to comment on the proposals ahead of the General Assembly in November where the rules will be voted on.

Further information about the proposed rule changes is available at:

Memo https://inside.fei.org/system/files/MEMO%20Endurance%20v8_FOR%20PUBLICATION.pdf

Full version of proposed Endurance rules

<https://inside.fei.org/system/files/FEI%20Endurance%20Rules%20-%2008.07.2019%20%28final%20draft%29.pdf>

We need to carefully consider which proposed rules we might not like but that we can live with and decide which ones we really want to comment on. We should also be recommending which rule changes should be voted on as a block (i.e. which ones are we generally happy to support) and which ones should be voted on separately.

1) The FEI Code of Conduct for the Welfare of the Horse has been significantly expanded with more details.

Q1 – Do you have any concerns about the new wording of the FEI Code of Conduct for the Welfare of the Horse?

2) Test event for Championships 802.5.1 provides details about what things should be ‘matched’ at the test event compared to the Championship event. Note that this means WEG/WEC events and not our own Island or National Championships. Include that climatic conditions must also be similar at the test event as they will be for the Championship. Things that were mentioned included: Officials, HR monitoring, timing system. During the Forum ahead of the AGM, there was discussion that this proposed rule should be expanded to include that the climatic conditions should also be similar (as much as this is possible to achieve) – so the test event should be held at a similar time of the year.

Q2 – Do you agree that the test event should be held under similar climatic conditions (or at least as much as that might be possible)?

3) Combined FEI and National Events 802.6.1 States that the NF can request that National and CEI classes be combined when 20 or fewer combinations are entered in the Event. This seems to mean no more than 20 combinations in all classes at the Event. Suggest that this needs to be clarified that it is the number at the Event and not in each individual Class. If it is no more than 20 combinations at the entire Event then this would preclude us from holding any combined classes at our Island and National Championships.

Q3 – Are you in favour of us still being able to hold combined CEI/CEN classes at our Championship events? If no, why not?

4) Minimum Weights (Seniors) – no minimum weight for CE11*, 70 kg for 2* and 3*.

Q4 – Do you agree with these changes to the minimum weights? If no – why not?

5) 814.4.2 Each loop must be a minimum of 20 km and a maximum of 40 km in length. This was discussed at the forum prior to the AGM and was felt to be unworkable in NZ conditions where we have to utilise natural terrain (farm tracks etc) to develop the course. It was felt that even with a final loop of 20 km, competitors in some countries will still gallop horses the entire last loop and so this change wouldn't protect horse welfare.

Q5 – Do you disagree with the proposal that no loop should be shorter than 20 km? If yes, why?

6) 817.4 Heart rate assessment – proposal to change the HR criteria to 64 bpm within 15 minutes for each loop and 64 bpm within 20 minutes at the finish.

Q6 – Do you believe that this rule is workable at ESNZ Endurance events / could we live with it? If no – why not?

7) 817.4.3 If the HR is >68 at any veterinary inspection that occurs more than halfway through the ride then there will be no chance for a second HR presentation and the horse will be eliminated for metabolics; there will still be a need for a second vet to confirm the high HR.

Q7 – Do you believe that this rule is workable at ESNZ Endurance events / could we live with it? If no – why not? There was discussion at the Forum that any horse that presented with a high HR could be given a second chance to present for HR (except at the finish) but that such horses would also then have to have a re-inspection prior to commencing the next loop – would that be a better way to protect horse welfare?

8) Access to the Field of Play 819.1.2 No more than 3 crew (plus rider) per horse. This was discussed at the Forum and members stated that they felt they needed 5 crew (plus rider) per horse.

Q8 – Do you believe that this rule is workable at ESNZ Endurance events / could we live with it? If no, why not?

9) 828 Dye, henna and barrier cream mat not be used on the horse at any time on the field of play.

Q9 – Does anyone have a significant issue with this proposed rule? If yes – please comment why.

10) 829 Tack and Equipment – provides a fair amount of detail. “Correctly fitted bridle and saddle are required on the course”, “Martingales are permitted, provided they do not unduly restrict the free movement of the head of the horse.”

Q10 – Does anyone have any concerns about what is covered in this section of the rules? If yes – please provide details and why.

11- 829.3.5 Anything placed inside or covering the horse's ears, except for fly masks, are banned.

Q11 – Any concerns?

12) 832.3 Any change in Trainer means the horse may not participate in an Event for a period of 30 days.

Q12 - Do you believe that this rule is workable at ESNZ Endurance events / could we live with it? If no, why not?

13) Mandatory rest periods to become Mandatory Out of Competition Period (MOOCP) 834.2.1 Seem to have removed any additional MOOCP for a first or second consecutive FTQ-GA. Have introduced a 14 days MOOCP for second consecutive FTQ-ME. Have added a further 7 days 'speeding fine' for horses competing at > 22 km/hr.

Q13 – Are you happy with these proposed changes? The removal of additional MOOCP for FTQ-GA seems like a backward step for horse welfare. Any comments?

14) Details about how the system would work for combinations when they are speed-limited while progressing through the CEI qualification system:

a) 834.2.2 When speed limited, details about how to calculate the speed; if you only completed one loop and then were eliminated then your speed is just what it was for that loop or for whatever completed loops there have been. If you don't complete the first loop then no speed will be calculated/recorded.

b) Completion rate – details in rule 837. 837.2.2 The completion rate will be calculated on a rolling three year basis. If Athlete or Horse does not compete over three years then speed cap is the lowest of the speed caps that applied to the Horse's / Athlete's last recorded result. Completion rate is calculated as at the date when Definite Entries for that competition close.

c) 837.3.2 Any competition in which the horse is withdrawn or retired or Finished Not Ranked is not included at all in calculating the completion rate (not in the numerator or denominator).

d) 838 Speed Cap details provided:

- If completion rate <25% then max 14 km/hr
- If 25% to <50% then 16 km/hr
- If 50% to <66% then 18 km/hr
- If ≥ 66% then open speed (once qualified for open speed at that level)

Q14 – Do you disagree with any of these sections about combinations being speed-limited? If yes – why? It seems that this would not affect most competitions in NZ as it is not so common to be riding at >16 km/hr, particularly in the longer CEI rides.

15 - 840 Qualification through the CEI levels – as proposed i.e. 3 x CEI1* at no more than 18 km/hr then can go open speed at 1* or progress to 2*. Then one speed limited 2*, do another 2* (speed depends on completion rate) before you can progress to 3*. First 3* at capped speed, then speed is based on completion rate. Two 3* to progress to 4*.

This was discussed extensively at the Forum. It was felt that this will be very difficult for small nations to have sufficient events to progress through the system. Suggested that, in countries where CEN rides follow CEI rules that Open 80 km (and greater distances) could count towards the qualification system. Or – make it cheaper and easier to put on CEI rides.

Note the transitional provisions - 844.1 Athletes and Horses retain any star level qualification that they had achieved as at 31 December 2019. 844.2.1 If the Athlete or Horse has not previously been registered with FEI (prior to 1 January) then completion rate is calculated from their first competition after 1 January.

Q15 - Do you believe that this rule is workable at ESNZ Endurance events / could we live with it? If no, why not?

16) Appointment of officials – this isn't new however: 849.4 Where a Foreign Official is needed for an event, someone who is resident in that country but in a different time zone can be considered foreign. If the whole reason for Foreign Officials is as a safeguard against cheating and also to share knowledge and learn then how can someone from the same country be considered as good a safeguard as someone from a different country. This helps some of the bigger countries that have multiple time zones (Canada, USA, Australia) but leaves us in a very difficult position in that we have no neighbours across a border and will always require Foreign Officials/Vets for 2* and above. In Australia in summer, some states don't observe Daylight Savings so NSW and QLD are in different time zones. South Australia and Victoria are in different time zones. This doesn't seem fair.

16 – Do you think we should try to get this rule changed so that it might include situations like ours where it is difficult/expensive to get truly foreign officials and vets and that we have similar separation between North and South Island which means travel requires either a flight or a 3 hour ferry crossing?

17) 852.1.4 The FVD and PGJ must be available at the event venue at least until the morning after the event finishes. This is probably a reasonable rule but quite commonly isn't happening at the moment. Likely to cost the event more money and also means that some officials/vets might decline the invitation if they need to be back at work on the Monday.

Q17 – Can we live with this? Is it worth arguing against?

18) Visible Blood: Annex 5 8.7 "If blood is visible on a Horse at any time anywhere on the Field of Play, the horse must be examined by a panel of three veterinarians...." The wording around 'visible blood' seems reasonable as long as vets interpret it that it is only to safeguard horse welfare.

Q18 - Do you believe that this rule is workable at ESNZ Endurance events / could we live with it? If no, why not?

19) Annex 5, 9.6 and 9.7 states that veterinarians must "verbally communicate" their vote directly to a member of the GJ. What about voting slips? Too open to fraud? Should have 2 GJ members review slips anyway. How can it be a secret vote if you have to communicate it verbally to the GJ. Risk of being overheard by the PR or others.

Q19 – Do you agree with this proposed rule where vets must "verbally communicate" their vote directly to a member of the Ground Jury?

20) Annex 6 – Officials required for Events: at all levels you need 1 Veterinary Commission member per 20 entries (in addition to PVC and FVD; though no FVD required for 1*). So – if 60 entries for that day would need PVC, FVD and 3 more on VC. Increases costs, might struggle to have enough vets if we also need more Treatment Vets and a Veterinary Services Manager! Also Note 3 on page 72 – for 3* "at least half of the VC (including PVC and FVD) must be 'foreign'. This would mean at least 2 foreign vets which further increases costs. Also, on any day with a 3* class, we would need 3 Treating Vets once there are more than 30 horses competing on that day (in all classes).

Q20 – Do you agree with this proposed rule change? If no – why not? Perhaps suggest that some of these requirements might be relaxed in National Federations where there is no history of blatant rule-breaking?

21) Annex 7 outlines the procedure for examination of a horse wishing to return to competition following 3 consecutive FTQ-GA. This is conducted at the ride venue by the VC and seems to be a reasonable process. Doesn't require extra cost of an independent veterinary examination and certification which would cost money.

Q21 – Are you happy with the protocol which is proposed for any horse to return to competition after 3 consecutive eliminations for lameness?

Of all the proposed rule changes, please list any that you do not think ESNZ Endurance could live with:

- 1) Expanded Code of Conduct for the Welfare of the Horse.*
- 2) Test events for Championships (WEG/WEC)*
- 3) Limiting combined CEI/CEN classes to events where there are no more than 20 combinations*
- 4) Proposed new minimum weights*
- 5) Minimum distance of any loop to be 20 km*
- 6) Changes to Heart Rate Criteria – 64 bpm within 15 minutes (within 20 minutes at the finish)*
- 7) Changes to Heart Rate criteria – no opportunity for a second HR inspection if HR>68 when more than half-way through a ride*
- 8) Only 3 crew +rider per horse*
- 9) Banning henna, dye and barrier cream*
- 10) New proposed tack rules*
- 11) Anything placed inside or covering a horse's ears*
- 12) Any change in Trainer means the horse can't compete for 30 days*
- 13) Changes to Mandatory Out Of Competition Periods (were MRPs)*
- 14) Details about how limiting speed of combinations would be calculated and applied*
- 15) Qualification through the CEI system*
- 16) Definition of 'foreign' officials – disparity between countries where a different time zone is considered 'foreign'*
- 17) FVD and PGJ must still be present at the ride venue the morning after the Event*
- 18) Visible blood*
- 19) Vets must "verbally communicate" their decision on a vote to a member of the GJ*
- 20) Officials required – numbers of vets required on the Veterinary Commission and Treatment Vets*
- 21) Protocol for examination of a horse wishing to return to competition after 3 consecutive eliminations for lameness.*

FINAL QUESTION / COMMENT – Do you have any further comments about any of the proposed rules in the 78 page pdf document?

We look forward to receiving your submissions.

Jenny Weston

On behalf of the ESNZ Endurance Board